

# BAY BUZZ

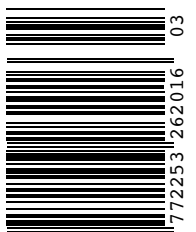
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## Napier Meltdown

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# BAY BUZZ

MAY/JUNE 2017

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## This Month

Napier City Council awash in problems these days. Hohepa, a care-giving jewel in Hawke's Bay's crown. Is Napier Port for sale? Accelerating interest in electric vehicles. Dragon Summit shows off Māori/China commercial prospects. Coming to closure on the dam while other water issues simmer. A plea for end of life choice. Plus a look at the HB housing market, Māori food stars, and more.

Cover photo: Jessica Maxwell  
Above: Waitangi Estuary.  
Photos by Florence Charvin

## Features

### 16 / NAPIER MELTDOWN / Sophie Price

From dog pound to sports field, things go awry for Napier City Council.

### 24 / ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT TIPPING POINT / Keith Newman

Will more models and charging stations speed EV adoption in HB?

### 34 / DROWNING IN WATER ISSUES / Tom Belford

Dam saga coming to an end, but more water challenges await.

### 42 / HOHEPA: EVERY LIFE FULLY LIVED / Bridget Freeman-Rock

Hohepa excels at providing holistic care for the most vulnerable in our society.

### 50 / FLOATING NAPIER PORT / Mark Sweet

Debate begins over how to fund Port's needed expansion.

### 58 / GREAT HAUL OF CHINA / Keith Newman

Economic summit raises the profile of Māori export capability.



35

MAY/JUNE 2017

---

**06 /  
Bee in  
the Know /**  
Lizzie Russell

**16 /  
Ideas &  
Opinions**

66 / DON'T DAM(N) THE ENVIRONMENT /  
Dan Elderkamp

Damming the Mākāroro will destroy precious habitat.

70 / END OF LIFE CHOICE / Dr Libby Smales  
Former Cranford director makes case for assisted dying.

**73 /  
Culture &  
Lifestyle**

73 / A PLACE TO CALL HOME /  
Michal McKay

82 / TRADITION ON A PLATE /  
Michal McKay

86 / FINDING HOME: MICHELE  
BRYANT & JOHNNY BROUGH /  
Lizzie Russell

88 / KEEP ON KIMI ORA /  
Lizzie Russell

96 / LETTER FROM THE COUNTRY /  
Mary Kippenberger

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Napier Sea Wall. Photo: Lizzie Russell



FEATURED  
CONTRIBUTOR:  
LIZZIE RUSSELL

Lizzie Russell is an assistant editor on *BayBuzz* which includes writing the arts articles in our Culture & Lifestyle section plus the short pieces in *Bee In the Know*.

Alongside her *BayBuzz* work, she manages the popular Pecha Kucha Hawke's Bay events and coordinates the biennial Wildflower Sculpture Exhibition. Most of the time however, you'll find her at Tennyson Gallery in Napier, which she took over last winter (formerly it was Statements Gallery and a+e Gallery).

Born and raised in the Bay, Lizzie returned in 2010 after stints in Christchurch, Tokyo and Wellington. She didn't mean to stay long, but says she got hooked on the events and characters who make up the unique local arts community.

Her highlight for this issue? Catching up with artists Michele Bryant and Johnny Brough at their place in Maraekakaho, years after visiting their home and studio in Newtown, Wellington.

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## BAYBUZZ REGULARS



**MICHAL MCKAY**  
Michal McKay has spent most of her working life involved in the world of style. And living in "other" parts of the world. A year ago Havelock North became her home. The arts, interior design, cooking, travel and a new cuddly canine keep the spark in her eye. So does writing about the same.



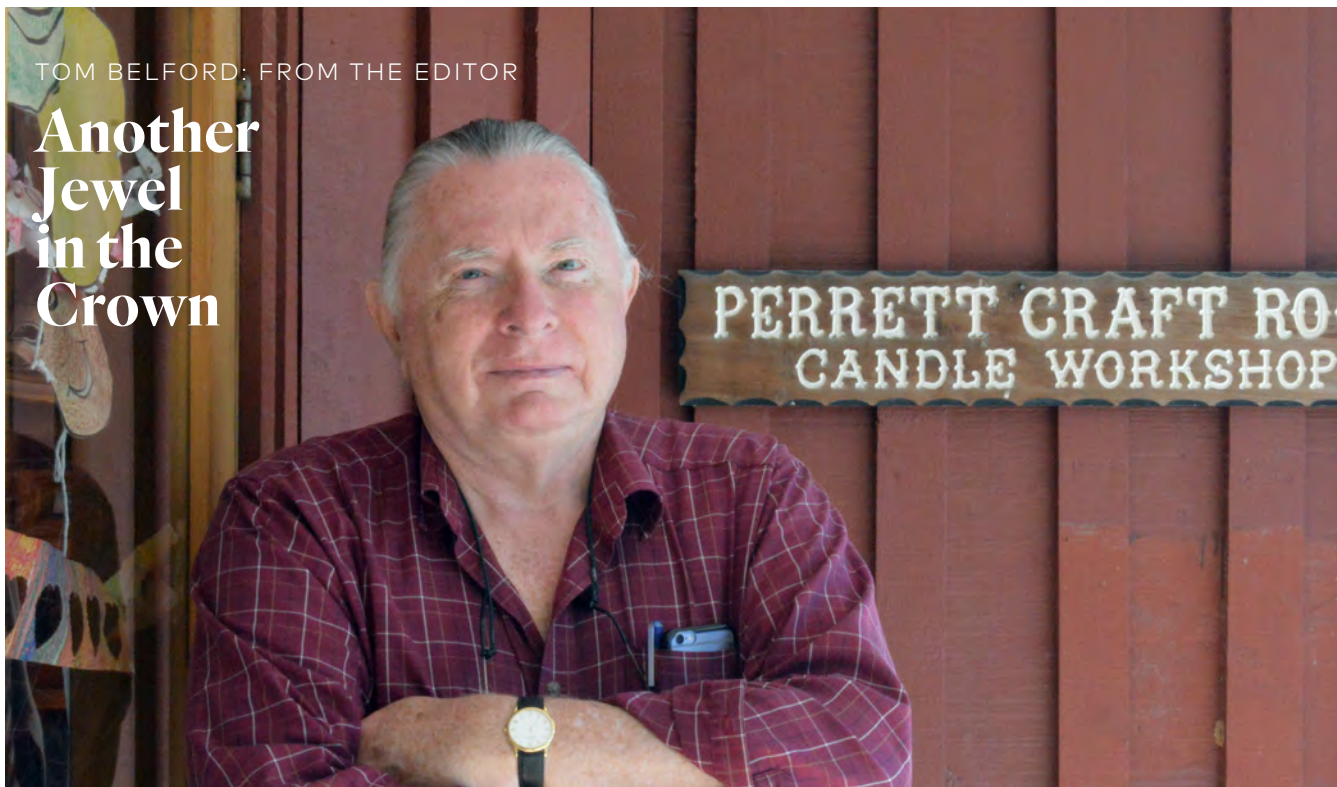
**KEITH NEWMAN**  
Keith is a journo with nearly 40-years' experience across mainstream and trade media. He's won awards for writing about hi-tech, produces Musical Chairs programmes for Radio NZ and has published four books, one on the internet in New Zealand and three others on New Zealand history.



**MANDY WILSON**  
Mandy Wilson manages advertising and store sales for *BayBuzz*. She's worked in print media in the Bay for 20 years or so (wow!). In her leisure you can spot Mandy walking or cycling one of the numerous tracks throughout Hawke's Bay or sipping hot chocolates in any number of cafes. 027 593 5575

TOM BELFORD: FROM THE EDITOR

## Another Jewel in the Crown



ASK A LOCAL TO IDENTIFY A 'JEWEL IN Hawke's Bay's crown', and they're likely to mention a natural feature, like Te Mata Peak, Lake Waikaremoana or maybe Ocean Beach.

If commerce-minded, they might mention Napier Port. If sports-minded, perhaps the Regional Sports Park, Park Island or (until recently!) McLean Park.

All worthy, but I'd like to suggest another candidate: Hohepa.

Not the cheese maker, but the care giver (they're one and the same), providing care unique in New Zealand to the most vulnerable in our society, from young children through to the elderly, with the most serious intellectual disabilities and neurobiological conditions.

The challenges this institution now faces are described in Bridget Freeman-Rock's article, *Hohepa: Every Life Fully Lived*. If you read nothing else in this *BayBuzz*, read her article.

Of course there is much more on offer in this edition. I'm afraid it's a pretty serious read this time.

Our cover story by Sophie Price, *Napier Meltdown*, describes the apparent meltdown of the Napier City Council's leadership team, mayor Bill Dalton and chief executive Wayne Jack. \$500,000 into a velodrome few seem to want, sewage into the Ahuriri Estuary, a grossly mismanaged dog pound under investigation, a stadium field suddenly in need of a \$2 million refurbishment, and a pile of formal employee complaints against management. All tolerated by a council showing almost no visible concern.

Maybe there's another side to this accumulation of bad news. If so, you'll need to find it elsewhere. Dalton and Jack refused to interview with *BayBuzz*, instead responding

briefly to written questions.

My own focus in *Drowning in Water Issues* is an overview on water ... the issue we can't escape. It challenges our region in so many ways – starting with whether to proceed with the Ruataniwha dam, the 800 pound gorilla nine regional councillors will confront soon. My final assessment of the dam, taking into account our recent 'cup of tea', is offered here. Along with CHB farmer and dam critic Dan Elderkamp's opinion on the scheme's environmental impacts.

But I also update you on a range of other water issues – the challenge of implementing the new regime's intention to restore water quality in the Tukituki catchment, Hastings' plans to ensure safe drinking water in the future, water bottling, Napier's need to come to grips with ongoing pollution of the Ahuriri Estuary, CHB's need to clean up its wastewater discharges into the Tukituki, and a variety of other 'boils' afflicting our region's environment, like Lake Tūtira, the Karamū Stream and offshore oil & gas exploration.

Paying for improvements needed in our region's water management is high on the regional council's agenda, and brings into sharp relief HBRC's significant dependence on dividends from the wholly-owned Napier Port. To remain competitive, the Port requires huge investment in the near-term, perhaps in the realm of \$150 million. How that financing might be generated, and the implications for port ownership, is examined by Mark Sweet in *Floating Napier Port*.

Moving from cargo to cars, Keith Newman's second installment on electric vehicles, *EVs at Tipping Point*, looks at the future of Hawke's Bay's electric highway.

Finally, moving far away from the

environment, Dr Libby Smales urges us in *End of Life Choice* to support the option of assisted dying, a choice polls suggest most New Zealanders want, but which politicians seem determined to deny us.

In April, charges of assisting someone's suicide were brought against the former chairperson of Wellington's branch of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, who could face 14 years in jail if convicted.

End of Life Choice Bill sponsor David Seymour commented on the charges: "The current law forces euthanasia underground, where there are no safeguards. Ill people are faced with the choice of committing amateur suicide or implicating loved ones in an illegal assisted death." Is that what we really want?

As I said, a heap of serious reading this time, but still tempered by our coverage of food, the local housing market, book reviews, the arts and Lizzie's picks of regional events that will entertain you.

Enjoy!

tom@baybuzz.co.nz

Tom is a HB Regional Councillor. His past includes the Carter White House, building Ted Turner's first philanthropic organization, doing heaps of marketing consulting for major nonprofits and corporates. Tom writes an acclaimed blog for professional NGO fundraisers and communicators in North America and Europe.



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BEE IN  
THE KNOW



## Geraldine Travers

Congratulations on a job well done to Geraldine Travers, the recently-retired and longest-serving principal of Hastings Girls High School.

Mrs Travers finished up at the school last

month during her twentieth year at HGHS and is now focussing on her first term as a Hastings District Councillor.

Under her leadership the school went from strength to strength, as she oversaw major technology upgrades and building projects. The school was named New Zealand's top state secondary school by *North and South* magazine, and in 2015 Mrs Travers was made a Member of the

New Zealand Order of Merit for services to education.

Former students recall Mrs Travers' fairness, frankness, enthusiasm and focus on good manners, all qualities that should serve her well in her burgeoning political career.

HGHS's new principal is Catherine Bentley who was previously deputy principal at Woodford House.

Photo: Florence Charvin

6 • BAYBUZZ • MAY/JUNE 2017

# HAWKE'S BAY WELLNESS INDEX

Jobs on Seek.co.nz  
24 April 2017

**324**

DOWN 55 FROM FEBRUARY

Homes For Sale 24 April 2017  
(REALESTATE.CO.NZ)

**711**

DOWN 97 FROM FEBRUARY

Lamb price at Stortford,  
average, per head

**\$101.60**

19 APRIL 2017

Homes Sold  
in March 2017 (REINZ)

**317**

UP 76 FROM FEBRUARY 2017

Burglaries  
January 2017

**516**

UP 147 FROM JAN 2016

Assaults  
(Family violence indicator)

**426**

IN JAN 2017 (UP 82 FROM JAN 2016)

HB Hospital Emergency  
Department presentations  
21 February to 21 April 2017

**7,351**

(UP 84 FROM SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR)

Napier Port Cargo, Tonnes, February 2017 - March 2017

**433,369**

(UP 17% FROM SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR)

Illicit Drug Offences  
in February 2017

**65**

UP 24 FROM FEB 2016

Visitors to MTG, March 2017,  
including FREE children

**3,612**

Visitor nights, commercial & private,  
year over year ending February 2017

**+3.0%**

Mini-jaffas given away  
by Pipi in March 2017

**1,870**

Bay Espresso coffee sold  
March 2017, kg

**2,585**

Gigabytes of data downloaded, in  
March 2017 on average, by NOW  
residential customers

**147<sup>GB</sup>**

## HOT & NOT

### What's Hot

Clifton County Cricket  
Electric  
Rain  
Jim Scotland  
Mahia rockets  
Foreign investors  
Resilient soils  
Wairoa orchards



### What's Not

McLean Park  
Petrol  
Cyclone  
Stuart Nash  
Kim Jong-un rockets  
Foreign owners  
Hastings sprawl  
CHB orchards

*Problems started when Cyclone Cook came ashore*



BEE  
IN THE  
KNOW

# Back off Beast



*Te Matau a Māui* heads out to challenge Amazon Warrior. Photo: Al Mackie

## TE MATAU A MĀUI CONFRONTS THE AMAZON WARRIOR

Before the Greenpeace vessel *Taitu* took to the seas to intercept the oil exploration ship *Amazon Warrior* in April, it was local waka *Te Matau a Māui* which voyaged out to the controversial ship known as ‘The Beast’ on a protest mission. The 22-metre waka *Te Matau a Māui* left Napier on April 1 on a mission to deliver a “face-to-face” message to the *Amazon Warrior*, the

world’s largest seismic blasting ship, as it carried out prospecting work off the East Coast for Statoil and Chevron.

Without breaching a 500-metre exclusion zone in place around the ship, the waka intercepted the ship and delivered the message by radio that it was not welcome in local waters on the morning of April 3. The waka and crew handled a windy voyage home to Napier, arriving early on April 4.

“Te Matau a Māui, the people of Te Ikaroa-Rāwhiti will not stand by and allow ‘The Beast’ and its masters to violate

our waters without direct intervention and the assertion of our rights as secured through generations of occupation of this coastline and ocean,” said spokesperson for *Te Matau a Māui*, Raihania Tipoki.

“The New Zealand Government continues to open our waters to international interests at the cost to our lands and peoples and we cannot allow this to continue.”

The public were asked to support *Te Matau a Māui* sail to the *Amazon Warrior* through a Givealittle page which raised over \$5,800.



## Fresh Medicine for EIT

Infant and indigenous health innovator David Tipene-Leach is EIT's newly-appointed Professor of Māori and Indigenous Research.

Professor Tipene-Leach will work with staff and students and collaborating universities on research projects and teach a postgraduate programme in Māori health.

The tertiary sector is not new for Professor Tipene-Leach, having taught as a senior lecturer in Māori health at the University of Auckland's Medical School from 1987 to 2001. His academic research interests over that 13-year period included long term conditions and the prevention of SIDS (cot death).

After leaving Auckland, his work with the Kaiti Community Health Centre in Gisborne for Ngāti Porou Hauora led to East Coast diabetes prevention research with the University of Otago, and then pioneering work in preventing Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI)

with the development of the wahakura, a woven flax bassinet, and further research around sudden infant death. The subsequent Safe Sleep programme, which includes the wahakura's 'little sister' – the plastic Pēpi-Pod – has been credited with decreasing infant mortality by 30% in the last six years.

Professor Tipene-Leach has served on the Advisory Committee on Primary Health Care, the Alcohol Advisory Council, the National Child and Youth Mortality Committee, the Health Bay Transitional Primary Health Organisation Board and Hawke's Bay District Health Board's Clinical Council, and was the founding chairman of Te Ora, the Māori Medical Practitioners Association.

For the last four years, he has served as chairman of He Toa Takitini, leading the Heretaunga Tamatea Treaty of Waitangi claim through to last September's signing of the Deed of Settlement – a resolution that will be worth \$125 million to the iwi.

"Moving out of clinical practice is a huge change and I will miss patient care," says Professor Tipene-Leach, who, for the last ten years, was a general medical practitioner with Hauora Heretaunga at Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga.

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## Happy as a lark

A new report out of Europe shows that people living close to trees and green spaces are less likely to be obese, inactive, or dependent on anti-depressants.

A team of eleven researchers at the Institute for European Environmental Policy spent a year reviewing more than 200 academic studies for the report, which is the most wide-ranging look yet into the dynamics and connections between health, nature and wellbeing.

Commissioned by Friends of the Earth Europe, the study showed many examples of correlations between easy, regular access to nature and better health. Middle-aged Scottish men with homes in deprived but verdant areas were found to have a 16% lower death rate compared to their counterparts in more urban areas. Pregnant women in Bradford, UK living in greener environments recorded lower blood pressures and gave birth to larger babies. In Spain, people living within 300 metres of green spaces reported better self-perceived physical and mental health.

“We all need nature in our lives,” says Robbie Blake, a nature campaigner for Friends of the Earth Europe.

“It gives us freedom and helps us live healthily; yet deprived communities are routinely cut off from nature in their surroundings and it is suffocating for their wellbeing.”

# THE BIG GREASY

**If our Food edition (BayBuzz #33) pointed to any praiseworthy trends, it was our growing interest in good, fresh food.**

But new research from Nielsen throws a spanner in our leafy green works, with data showing New Zealanders still LOVE their fast food.

Nielsen’s Consumer and Media Insights survey reveals that in March, as many as 80% of New Zealanders ate fast food and

27% indulged more than five times.

Our collective favourite is still fish & chips, with 1.7 million Kiwis indulging in a month – an increase of 11% over two years.

The fact that the humble neighbourhood chippie is able to hold on to its lead is impressive, given the amount spent on advertising by the second and third most popular choices – McDonald’s and KFC.

### NEW ZEALAND’S TOP TEN FAST FOOD OPTIONS:

### % OF CONSUMERS WHO BOUGHT OR ATE IN MARCH 2017

### % GROWTH VERSUS TWO YEARS AGO

NEW ZEALAND’S TOP TEN FAST FOOD OPTIONS:	% OF CONSUMERS WHO BOUGHT OR ATE IN MARCH 2017	% GROWTH VERSUS TWO YEARS AGO
1. Fish & Chips	42%	+11%
2. McDonald’s	39%	+6%
3. KFC	23%	+13%
4. Sushi	22%	+27%
5. Chinese	22%	+3%
6. Subway	20%	+6%
7. Domino’s	19%	+3%
8. Burger King	18%	-7%
9. Indian	18%	+20%
10. Pizza Hut	14%	+9%

McDonald’s spent \$51 million in two years on advertising, which contributed to a 6% increase in its consumer base, and KFC spent the same, 85% of which was in television, leading to a 13% increase in their consumers.

Indian, sushi and Domino’s are enjoying substantial growth, while Burger King is the only one in the top 10 to be losing ground, with growth slipping by 7%.



Photo: Florence Charvin

## We have a winner

Congratulations to Michael and Judy Cox of Taradale, winners of the *BayBuzz* On

Your Plate competition which ran alongside the January-February Food Issue.

Michael and Judy are the happy recipients of 80 gourmet meals delivered directly to them at home, from Hawke's Bay food company, On Your Plate

operated by Paul Greaney and Kate Lester (above, right).

Thanks to all our new subscribers for entering. We hope you've been enjoying your cash vouchers at Pipi, Total Food Equipment, Chantal or Hohepa.

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Look before you leap New Zealand: OECD report critical of freshwater pollution

# 100% PURE BULL?

## OECD CRITIQUES NZ ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

The OECD's hard-hitting *Environmental Performance Review of New Zealand 2017*, released recently, concludes: "New Zealand's growth model, largely based on exporting primary products, has started to show its environmental limits, with increased greenhouse gas emissions, diffuse freshwater pollution and threats to biodiversity."

"The Review confirms that the country is currently on the wrong economic track," said Environmental Defence Society policy director Raewyn Peart.

"At the same time Government has reduced spending on environmental protection, which now comprises only 1% of its total budget, and is funding less environmental research.

"The Review highlights the need for New Zealand to shift towards a low-carbon greener economy, with

reduced reliance on agriculture and the use of natural resources. Put simply, the OECD indicates that we need to decouple growth from natural resource use, and this will likely require reduced agricultural output.

"The risks of not achieving this transition are also set out in the Review. New Zealand will be in a weaker position to defend its 'green' reputation, and in the OECD's view, our ability to do so will be increasingly essential for future competitiveness and attractiveness in the global market-place."

The report makes some 50 recommendations for the improvement of New Zealand's environmental management, covering freshwater, urban and rural development, air quality, waste, bird protection, transport, emissions trading and eco-innovation and 'green growth'.

"The Review identifies a number of areas

where we are hitting environmental limits and need to improve governance and management," said EDS ceo Gary Taylor.

"It makes a number of recommendations for improving urban development including greater use of spatial planning, removing barriers to road pricing and diversifying transport modes away from heavy reliance on cars."

In the rural environment, the Review notes that Government's financial and other support for irrigation and intensive agriculture, ahead of operational rules being in place to protect water quality and quantity, will likely only further increase pressures on water quality.

And of potential interest here in Hawke's Bay, the Review recommends, "Resource rentals for water extraction and pollution charges should be explored..."

You can read the full report at [eds.org.nz](http://eds.org.nz).



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- I've paid online

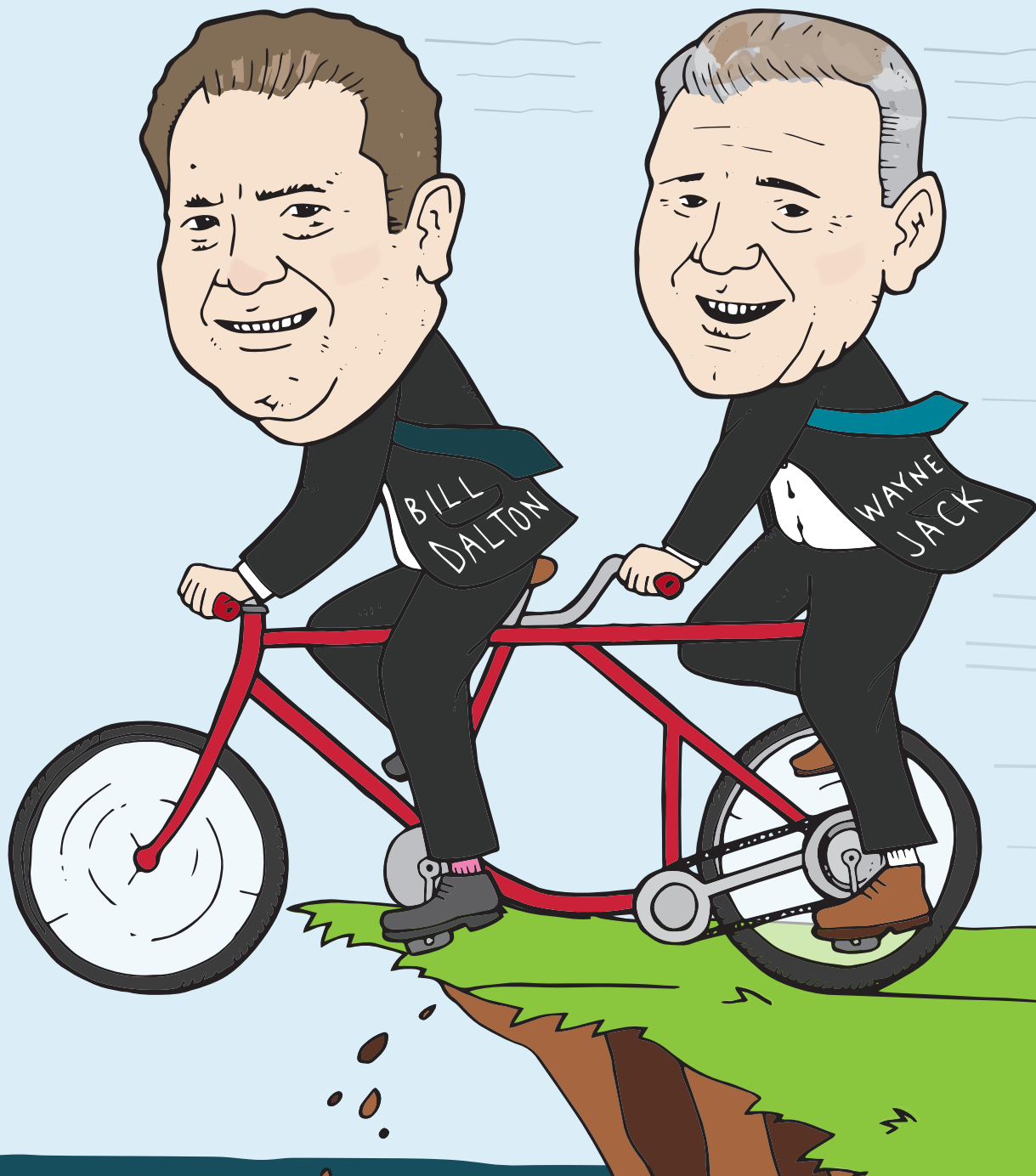
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**If someone said only twelve months ago that the art deco palace that is Napier City Council would be crashing down around its would-be king – chief executive Wayne Jack – no one would believe it.**

SOPHIE PRICE



# Napier Meltdown

FOR YEARS UNDER HIS WATCH, to an outside observer the authority was taking the tourist town from strength to strength. Almost nil council debt, good tourism numbers and low unemployment – the city claimed to be the jewel of Hawke’s Bay.

However, in hindsight – cracks in the stucco façade began to appear almost four years ago – cracks that could eventually become structurally damaging.

In 2013 the council officially opened the \$18 million MTG – a building ratepayers are still paying for. The same year it sold off the art deco buses, for which it paid more than \$1 million of ratepayers’ money

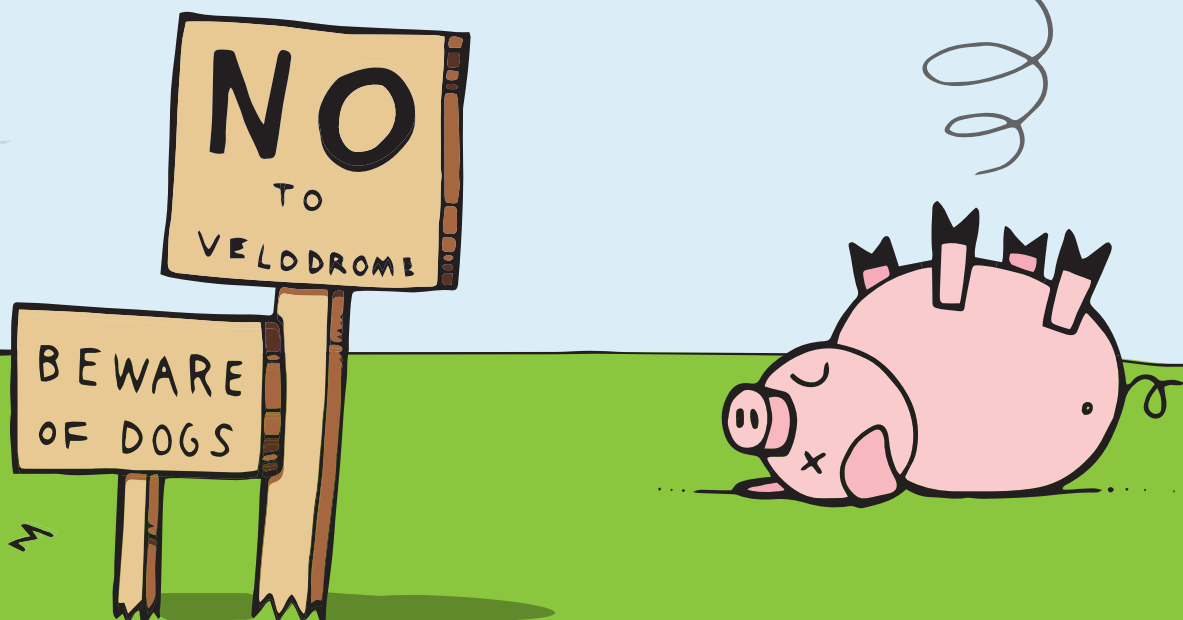
several years previously. And then last year, it voted to spend \$500,000 on investigating a \$15 million velodrome.

In the middle of all this, NCC publically rejected claims made by the Local Government Commission during the amalgamation debate that it was in far worse financial shape than it appeared.

The LCC report said Napier had under-invested in roading and water services and, that in order to get these up to scratch with the rest of the region, NCC would need to go into deficit by \$45 million. Jack said the LCC report was “riddled with inaccurate information”, was out by \$500 million and called for it to be retracted. The then-

commission chair Basil Morrison refused this as the report’s authors - MWH - based their findings on information provided by the council and from publically available information.

Taken as individual items, no one would think twice about them – past newspaper articles run on them – today’s fish and chip wrapping. However, with ratepayers still propping up the MTG to the tune of \$12,500 a month, the buses sold off to a private party for less than 5 per cent of what was paid for them and the proposed Multi-use Sports Facility [aka velodrome] now estimated at \$22.5 million, questions arise.





**We did try to sort out the issues behind closed doors, asking the mayor for a meeting, but he dismissed that. We learnt from dealing with Hastings council that the only way to get any traction on an issue is by getting it into the public arena.”**

JESSICA MAXWELL,  
WATCHDOG!

### **Going to the dogs**

In August last year, a small group called WATCHDOG! entered the picture – with a bite far worse than their bark.

WATCHDOG! chair Jessica Maxwell first made headlines when she took on Hastings District Council about the poor state of its dog pound. At the time Mayor Lawrence Yule worked with his acting chief executive John O’Shaughnessy to commission an independent report into what was happening at the facility, which led to major changes.

This time however – after one month of getting nowhere trying to work with council directly, WATCHDOG! went public, placing ads in the local media focusing on a legal letter about the pound to a journalist. On 20 September 2016 Fairfax Media broke a story stating that WATCHDOG! was calling for an independent review of the pound claiming

staff concerns from as far back as May had gone unaddressed. This claim was rebuffed by Jack, who said at the time there was no need for an independent review as the concerns were being dealt with.

This chain of events resulted in an independent investigation launched by the Ministry of Primary Industries, which began with an audit of the pound. This first part concluded with a report released in January, 2017. The second part of MPI’s investigation into allegations of breaches of the Animal Welfare Act is [at time of publication] still ongoing.

However, it has since been revealed that former animal control officer Wayne Butcher first raised concerns about the pound and its team leader, Alex Pollock, with council’s planning manager Richard Munneke back in November 2015. Feeling he was not being heard by Munneke, Butcher took the matter

to the council’s human resources department. From this, independent HR company Grow were commissioned to investigate the matter. In December 2015, Grow investigator Lynnette Blackburn said Butcher’s concerns about Pollock required further investigation.

As things had not improved at the pound, four animal control officers (ACOs) went to lawyer GW Calver, who penned a letter to Jack. Calver said the ACOs, including Butcher, approached him “with serious concerns about the present situation at the animal control division of the council”. Furthermore he said “there have been a number of complaints made by one or other of the ACOs subsequent to Mr Pollock’s appointment as team leader.” Calver wrote that the ACOs were worried that Pollock was not “leading them by example”, that his behaviour was allegedly “intimidatory”, “undermining”, and that he purportedly



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**“I duly declined these offers on the basis of my morals and principals. I therefore cannot accept what I consider ‘hush’ money from yourself that, I strongly believe, is money that belongs to the Napier ratepayers.”**

WAYNE BUTCHER, FORMER ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

was playing staff members off against one another.

“I would be grateful if you would take decisive steps to protect their health and safety of Animal Control staff and to ensure that relationships with the department are drastically improved.”

This letter found its way to WATCHDOG!, who then approached Dalton in August 2016 to try and deal with the matter internally – one month before the story broke on the front page of a national newspaper. “We did try to sort out the issues behind closed doors, asking the mayor for a meeting,” said Maxwell, citing an email to this effect. “But he dismissed that. We learnt from dealing with Hastings council that the only way to get any traction on an issue is by getting it into the public arena.” So, under the leadership of Maxwell, WATCHDOG! approached the media, with the story appearing on the front page of the Dom Post and a full page advert appearing in a local weekly.

Both items drew swift reaction from the council, with Jack penning an unsent letter to the Dom Post’s editor and a complaint laid against WATCHDOG! with the Advertising Standards Authority. In his letter Jack said

the news article had “put an end to the contented atmosphere we had spent months building”. Jack explained that as a result of the article Butcher had been offered special leave in order to cope with the “visible distress he is in”. “He feels his reputation at council – and with the public he interfaces with every day - is damaged, that he is viewed as a ‘narc’ and he is shaken and anxious.” Butcher disputed this in an email saying: “I do not agree with the contents [of the letter] and do not believe it is true and correct. I do not give my permission for this letter to be sent”. The complaint to the ASA was not upheld.

On September 29 Jack invited Butcher to mediation via a letter to discuss, amongst other things, the Calver letter, which Jack believed Butcher had “some involvement” in disclosing. Around this time the council made Butcher the first of three record of settlements to end his employment with the authority – which Butcher did not accept.

Over the next week, Butcher was offered two more settlements of increasing amounts, which Butcher turned down as he wanted to give evidence to the MPI investigator – evidence he was advised he could give by both Jack and Calver. “I can

confirm that these terms [of Butcher’s record of settlement] do not limit you from disclosing information to the Ministry of Primary Industries at their lawful request,” Jack said in an email to Butcher on October 28. Butcher was subsequently suspended because Jack alleged he “supplied confidential information to a third party”. While this third party has never been disclosed, it is commonly understood to be the MPI investigator.

On October 31, Butcher resigned via email. “I duly declined these offers on the basis of my morals and principals. I therefore cannot accept what I consider ‘hush’ money from yourself that, I strongly believe, is money that belongs to the Napier ratepayers.” Jack, who accepted Butcher’s resignation, wrote to Butcher’s union representative on November 1 about the matter.

“In a rather perplexing manner Mr Butcher has today provided me with an open letter of resignation referring to our without prejudice discussion and falsely claiming that the exit package was ‘hush’ money. I am concerned about the incorrect perception he seems to have developed in regards to our discussions and the purposes.”



**“Inevitably, due to the sheer volume of projects being undertaken, oversights will occur. We will continue to work towards greater efficiency as we strive to improve the amenity value of the City.”**

BILL DALTON,  
NAPIER MAYOR

With Butcher now gone and the first part of the MPI investigation complete, NCC felt confident enough to issue a press release stating the ministry found no breaches of the animal welfare code and that “shortfalls” identified by the report were taken for immediate action by the council.

However, when the report was released to the media under the Official Information Act, although it said the pound was predominantly well run, it found one critical non-compliance, three major non-compliances and two minor non-compliances. In an email sent out to councillors on 26 January, 2017, Jack said: “in terms of the report the content of it and its context this is a matter of interpretation, and in this case, semantics – one person’s ‘non compliance’ is another’s ‘shortfall’”. Jack said while there was nothing inaccurate in the NCC press release, he agreed the timing of the release was poor.

Since the release of the report, two more pound staff have resigned – Pollock and the new kennel attendant – a position created out of the MPI investigation. The attendant only served three months before resigning. Despite this Jack said the facility is in “great shape” with a committed director “leading the team from the ground up”. He said: “vast improvements have been made in our animal control area.”

**Troubles multiply**

While uncovering the above is commendable, WATCHDOG! has done more than that. By championing the welfare of the animals under the care of the council, this group has exposed a seemingly troubled culture at the council that extends beyond the issues at the pound.

Since ‘poundgate’ NCC has faced criticism over its handling of McLean Park – which it is now spending \$2 million to fix (\$1.1 million more than the original budget), questions as to why the refurbished conference centre makes no reference to the war memorial it once stood for, why sewage was released into Ahuriri Estuary and why the costs of the proposed multi-sport facility (MSF) have increased by almost \$8 million from when the project was first put to the public.

[Editor note: Dalton and Jack refused to be interviewed on these matters, and replied with written responses to questions *BayBuzz* submitted.]

Jack said the initial funding for McLean Park was allocated for the purposes of refurbishing the park. “The issue that was brought to light by the experiences of the abandoned One Day International match related to subsurface drainage which was not an issue that Council were aware of during the Annual Plan process.”

In reference to the conference centre, which has been at the heart of another debate

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Questions can be sent to:  
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**In midst of all of this, WATCHDOG! has called for Jack's resignation. The chief executive's contract is up for renewal in September – almost two years since “poundgate” began. No doubt WATCHDOG! will be watching.**

surrounding council decisions, Dalton said it was decided, following consultation with the RSAs, to remove the memorial, put it in safe keeping and subsequently reinstall it in a more appropriate place. “I am sure those fallen heroes would applaud this positive decision,” he said.

On the wastewater issue – which is being investigated by Hawke's Bay Regional Council – Jack said all correct protocols were followed leading up to the discharge. He clarified that wastewater was not discharged directly into the estuary but rather into the stormwater drains, and that this discharge was related to excess inflow and infiltration associated with older parts of the city's piped wastewater network. “These are not issues that can be resolved overnight - however a long term programme of investigation and physical works will be developed with the objective of minimising these issues,” he said.

In a statement released by Dalton and councillors Faye White, Tony Jeffery, Keith Price and Kirsten Wise, they say Napier is currently going through a period of growth not seen for many years. “Inevitably, due to the sheer volume of projects being undertaken, oversights will occur. We will continue to work towards greater efficiency as we strive to improve the amenity value of the City.” No mention was made from either councillors or Jack about the MSF in their statements for this article.

Staffing issues beyond the pound are wide reaching and seemingly go back to as far as February 2015, when the NCC settled an unfair dismissal case with its former economic development manager Ron Massey. Three complaints were laid against Massey and at the time he claimed that the dismissal was “predetermined” and “unjustified”. Jack admitted to the Employment Relations Authority that Massey's suspension the year before [2014] was based on “hearsay”, but refuted claims there was an agenda to push him out the door.

The following year (2016) Jack steered the council restructure – replacing 78 old jobs with 78 new jobs. At the time NCC's Staff Association said the realignment led to key managers in the three waters, roads and design leaving council. “The implications of the loss of so many experienced staff is alarming,” the association said at the time. Revealing Jack's \$29,000 pay increase, the association said he had reduced the morale of the organisation to “an all-time low” – an assertion rejected by the chief executive.

One of these managers, Scott Estcourt, is currently before the ERA claiming to be unjustifiably dismissed from a position where his role of “significant seniority” was disestablished and he was offered a new support role position with much lower status – an assertion rejected by the council. Estcourt told the ERA that he felt bullied,

was upset, and if offered an equivalent position he would have taken it. According to media reports, this is the second personal grievance he has filed against the council. Two more cases against the council are heading to the ERA in the coming months, with at least 12 resignations directly related to last year's realignment.

Despite these reports, Jack said staff morale is good. “Considering our realignment is still fairly recent, we are finding there's an energetic and progressive spirit around the Council buildings. The views expressed in the media by the Staff Association - 112 members of our workforce of around 700, including casuals - are in no way a reflection on NCC spirit as a whole and should be taken within the context of the ongoing negotiations NCC is continuing, in good faith, with the Association.”

The stucco façade may have remained intact had Dalton and Jack had taken up WATCHDOG!'s offer of dealing with the pound matter behind closed doors. However, it didn't. “At the end of the day, all WATCHDOG! wants is for impounded dogs or other animals to be treated humanely. That is all, nothing more, nothing less,” Maxwell said.

In the midst of all of this, WATCHDOG! has called for Jack's resignation. The chief executive's contract is up for renewal in September – almost two years since “poundgate” began. No doubt WATCHDOG! will be watching.



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If Hawke's Bay is to lift its reputation from being the region with the third lowest uptake of electric vehicles, some serious myth busting will be needed around battery capacity, charging infrastructure, performance and availability.

KEITH NEWMAN



# Electric Vehicles at tipping point

**Despite exponential growth in global sales and the promise of 44 new models being released in New Zealand over the next three years, electric vehicles (EVs) are almost invisible in Hawke's Bay.**

WHILE BUYING NEW remains prohibitive for many buyers, entry level is nowhere near as challenging as it was a couple of years back, with short range EVs selling on TradeMe for as low as \$10,000 and about 300 Nissan Leafs for around \$20,000.

There are currently more than 3,000 EV registrations, although those numbers are skewed by nearly 300 Norwegian-made Loyds Paxsters delivery vehicles put on the road by NZ Post between June and December 2016.

The NZ Transport Authority (NZTA), says new plug-in hybrids dominated light EV registrations when they first came to market early in 2014, but used battery electrics are now the biggest sellers.

While 517 EVs were registered in the first three months of 2017, suggesting a blip toward mainstream acceptance, a quick scan of Hawke's Bay car yards might have you believing otherwise.

According to NZTA, Hawke's Bay has the third lowest adoption across all regions, with hybrids comprising over 50% of the meagre 26 or so vehicles registered as at February 2017.

Tom Belford, chairman of Hawke's Bay Regional Council's EV Workgroup is confident EVs are heading into prime time but wants an awareness boost with his council taking an advocacy role with local authorities and fleet purchasers, electricity and charge station providers, car dealers and other stakeholders.

He says the EV proposition needs to be made clearer, and is concerned few if any are in the showrooms, with little opportunity for

drivers "to get behind the wheel and satisfy themselves that it's not a toy".

The EV Workgroup wants to ensure there's an adequate region-wide network of charging stations and is proposing an HBRC-hosted web portal of resources, including availability and lifetime cost of ownership comparisons.

"We have a mandate to address energy issues and have begun to take a leadership role convening all the players who need to be involved," says Belford.

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**Because there are fewer moving parts, maintenance costs are lower; there's no clutch or gears, no spark plugs or need for engine oil. They accelerate quickly and smoothly and climb hills easier than petrol cars and use no energy when standing still.**

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## **Multiplying effect**

Steven Greenwood, used vehicle sales manager with Central Motors Group in Taupō, is convinced the market for EVs is "going to be huge" and likely to comprise half the cars on its yard within two years.

In February, the company, one of the nation's four main EV resellers, sold 18 EVs and 15 petrol cars, 90% outside Taupō including Hawke's Bay buyers; in March most of its 25 EVs on TradeMe sold before arriving in the country.

"Six months ago people had no idea EVs were a viable option ....There's a multiplying effect — once people see them around it becomes normalised," says Greenwood.

While Transport Minister Simon Bridges boasts we're "exceeding all targets" with 1,513

EVs registered in 2016 compared to Australia's 220, there's still a long way to go to achieve the goal of doubling year on year to 64,000 EV registrations by the end of 2021.

Greater Wellington Regional Council has taken the challenge seriously. Low range EVs suited for 70% of daily trips must be evaluated for all purchases with management approval needed to buy petrol vehicles.

It's purchased four EVs among its fleet of 150 cars and vans with more on the way as leases expire or petrol vehicles are moved on.

A survey of territorial local authorities (TLAs) in June 2016 showed there were 4,000 vehicles on the books but only 20 were EVs or plug-in hybrids, with little appetite for change. Since the launch of Greater Wellington's new strategy and business case, 19 councils are now considering EVs for their fleet.

## **Proposition shifting**

Wellington EV consultant Sigurd Magnusson, who helped develop the strategy, says payback on investment already stacks up, although over the next decade as production volumes increase it'll become cheaper still to build electric cars than fuel cars.

On average New Zealand drivers travel 28 kilometres per day or within a 125 kilometre range. "Assuming you commute 40 kilometres a day, you would probably need about 8 units of electricity (kWh) to recharge, which at a low overnight rate of 11 cents per kWh would be 88 cents a day."

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency (EECA) calculates; with the cost equivalent of 30 cents a litre or seven times cheaper than petrol, EVs offer an average saving of "a few thousand dollars a year".

Magnusson lays out the case for EVs. Because there are fewer moving parts, maintenance costs are lower; there's no clutch or gears, no spark plugs or need for engine oil. They accelerate quickly and smoothly and climb hills easier than petrol cars and use no energy when standing still.

Regular hard acceleration, driving over hilly terrain, constant high speeds, use of air conditioning or heaters, towing a trailer and battery age can deplete the charge. However,



Steven Greenwood (far right) of EV Central says 90% of EV sales in New Zealand are secondhand imports.

travelling down hills or braking; known as regenerative braking, helps recharge.

The Government has exempted light EVs from road user charges (RUCs) of around \$620 a year until 2022 or whenever light vehicles make up two percent of the fleet. From 2016 heavy vehicles also became exempt.

Currently full electrics and plug-in hybrids pay about \$100 more than petrol cars in registration, including an ACC levy. From July, EV licencing fees will become lower than any other road vehicle.

To get a warrant of fitness (WOF) all you need do is keep an eye on the tyres, the pollen filter and brake fluid.

### Parallel purchasing

Steven Greenwood of EV Central says 90% of EV sales in New Zealand are secondhand imports, leveraging subsidies offered by the Japanese and UK governments.

These 'plug-in grants' – the equivalent of about \$NZ10,000 when vehicles are registered for the first time – are effectively a rebate to dealers in those countries to keep street prices down.

EV Central can't sell electric cars as new because it's not a franchise, but it can parallel import "demonstrator vehicles with next to no miles on the clock". Without this flow-on effect from subsidies, Greenwood suggests the EV market in New Zealand wouldn't exist.

The only people buying new are well-heeled individuals and companies like Air New Zealand which recently purchased 30 i3 BMWs at \$80-\$90,000 each – the equivalent

parallel import would be around \$55,000.

Renault Zoe 5-door hatchbacks are \$75,000 new. Greenwood recently purchased 30 from the UK to resell for \$40,000; even with the lower-landed price he concedes Zoes are "still way too dear".

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**The only people buying new are well-heeled individuals and companies like Air New Zealand which recently purchased 30 i3 BMWs at \$80-\$90,000 each – the equivalent parallel import would be around \$55,000.**

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The Northland District Council has taken six of the Zoes. It was first in the country to install a fast charger, and in partnership with Northpower has built a strong EV adoption community in Whangarei.

HBRC's Belford believes the case for EV lifetime operating costs is already "very compelling" and only going to get better. "Certainly, for executive cars or runabouts those operating costs are clearly favourable. I don't think you need other incentives,

although I'm open to hearing the case."

He says there is a public good element as it lessens the carbon footprint. "We have subsidies for cleaner wood burners why not cleaner cars?"

Maybe HBRC can provide incentives for installing home charge units, enabling a 6-8 hour battery top up. "Maybe Hastings and Napier councils can stipulate as part of building consents that every new home needs an EV charger?" He expects the EV Workgroup will look at a host of options from expanding public charge station coverage to promoting bulk purchasing incentives for fleet operators.

### Fast charging network

Range anxiety has been one of the main concerns for EV customers; the fear of running out of oomph before reaching your destination.

For many buyers, hybrid petrol or diesel electric vehicles – about 50% of the current fleet – eliminate that fear, although some models only last 20-50 kilometres on battery power.

A 120 to 160 kilometre range is standard across most EVs runabouts today; the next generation rolling out from later this year will more than double that capacity, comfortably untethering them for longer journeys.

Greenwood suggests most 'next generation' buyers will be current owners upgrading because of the smooth ride and savings.

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# Fully electric vehicles currently available in New Zealand

	Seats	Electric Range km	Battery kWh	Power kW	Fast Charge	Cost \$000 used /new	Number in NZ
<b>NISSAN LEAF</b> 	5	Gen 1 117 Gen 2 135 or 172	24 24 or 30	80	Yes	\$15/45	846 Imports only
<b>TESLA MODEL S</b> 	5 +2 kids	337 or 506	60 or 100	568	Yes	\$109	49
<b>MITSUBISHI i-MIEV</b> <b>PEUGEOT iON</b> 	4	100	60	49	Yes	\$12+	43 Imports only
<b>NISSAN e-NV200</b> 	2/5/7	121	24	80	Yes	\$35+	25 Imports only
<b>RENAULT KANGOO</b> 	2 or 5	80-12	22	44	No	\$75	31
<b>VW e-GOLF</b> 	5	200	36	85	Yes	\$60-70	5
<b>RENAULT ZOE</b> 	5	115-170 230-340	22 41	65	No	\$27/75k	4
<b>TESLA MOTORS MODEL X</b> 	7	465	100	568	Yes	\$136k+	3

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change much from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

The Renault Zoe will drive 300km before needing a recharge and the new Hyundai Ioniq and Nissan Leaf last 200-250 kilometre before well-overdue comfort, coffee and top-up stop.

Regardless, a reliable public infrastructure of fast charge stations, capable of boosting batteries by 80% in 20 minutes, is essential for driver confidence.

NZTA guidance documents published this year encourage investors, local authorities and others to get involved in rolling out public charging to “help reassure drivers that EVs are the way of the future and here to stay”.

The New Zealand standard is a multi-plug approach for both European and Japanese vehicles with users registering credit card details online to get a ChargeNet proximity key to wave in front of the charger. New EV road markings have just been approved for charge stations to complement official signs.

By the end of March there were about 50 fast chargers across the country. Charge.net.nz is establishing about 100 fast chargers in cities and every 80 kilometres along major state highways by the end of 2017.

Several other players are getting in on the game. Z Energy is building its own network; Spark is upgrading its phone box network with slow chargers, as are hotels, motels and camp grounds; charging units are appearing at mall and supermarket carparks.

Power companies Vector and Unison are partnering with local authorities to help seed the market with branded rapid charging outlets. Unison has stations in Hastings and Napier, Rotorua, one pending in Taupō, and in Waipukurau alongside Centralines.

As part of its ‘Electric Thermal Highway’ Unison will have two stations along the 140 kilometre Napier-Taupō Rd by June, with funding assistance from Government’s \$3.5 million Low Emission



**“We’re doing our bit to break the chicken and egg cycle because we believe in the long-term value. We’ll continue to review charge rates, usage and structure.”**

NIGEL PURDY, UNISON CUSTOMER SOLUTIONS MANAGER

Vehicles Contestable Fund.

It had road tested the drive, discovering only the later models of Nissan Leaf could make it from one side to the other. A Hyundai Ioniq with a larger battery could just make it. The new stations at key locations at Rangitaiki and Te Pohue, will make the trek feasible for the existing small

battery fleet, with higher capacity vehicles less dependent.

Unison is now fielding calls from tourist spots, cafes and other outlets wanting advice on the types of chargers suited for their premises.

“It’s important to keep the discussion going and encourage suppliers of vehicles to make them available here,” says Unison customer solutions manager, Nigel Purdy.

Unison’s rapid charge stations cost over \$40,000 each plus installation, and require a 50kw supply, an investment that’s unlikely to turn a profit any time soon.

“We’re doing our bit to break the chicken and egg cycle because we believe in the long-term value. We’ll continue to review charge rates, usage and structure,” says Purdy, although no additional stations are planned in Hawke’s Bay for the “next year or so”.

Consultant Sigurd Magnusson says a full service network will require a trade-off between frequently used and less popular stations, and while there might be queues

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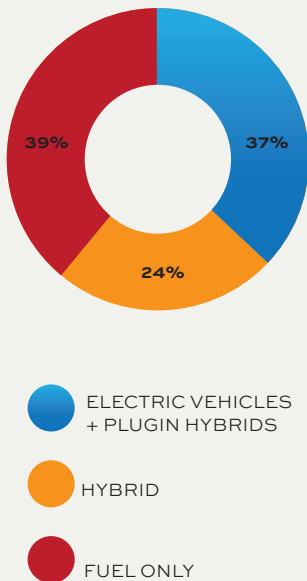
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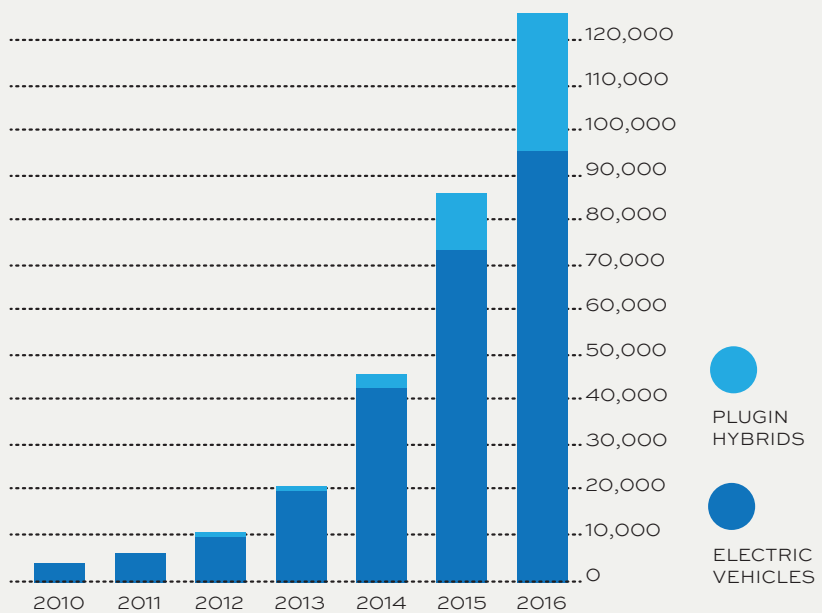
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# Norway: strong EV policy, and an organised owner association

NORWAY CAR SALES 2016



NORWAY ELECTRIC VEHICLE NUMBERS



at some outlets, that'll be addressed as the market evolves. "Capacity follows coverage and it's a good problem to have."

One smart solution is the Plugshare smartphone app, showing all charge stations and their availability.

### Planning obstacles

A major hurdle for fleet purchases, suggests Greenwood, is the high cost of new EVs and the fact that policies and procedures aren't geared for secondhand buying.

Magnusson says the Greater Wellington decision to "flip the default" toward EVs

is "a sensible approach". The issue was forced because its Nissan Leaf worked so well, but wasn't available, while new and "comparative vehicles cost two or three times as much".

He says that approach should be emulated across the public service and by private fleet managers.

Magnusson says local authorities could review dozens of policies to support EV uptake. For example, the building code could require two EV charging spaces for every 100 car parks in new retail areas or apartment complexes. "No one is doing that yet in New Zealand, but

it's common overseas."

Rather than becoming a consenting nightmare it could become a requirement and, like disabled car parks, build up over time.

One obstacle to EV uptake may be New Zealand's love affair with petrol power. The national fleet of passenger and commercial vehicles is around 4 million with vehicle ownership per 1000 people higher than Australia, Japan, the UK and the US ... and growing at around 4% a year.

Steven Greenwood, the 29-year-old EV salesman who's been in the motor industry all his life, is a recent convert. "I used to

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have a 400hp drift car and raced go-karts. I've driven seriously fast cars, but none respond even like a Nissan Leaf."

He says the Tesla and i3 range are even better "but wait until the i-Pace Jag and Bentley start coming out, they'll destroy any combustion engine in performance".

And as for return on investment? "We live 8 kilometres out of town and my wife was driving a Falcon, dropping the kids off to school and doing the groceries. When we bought an EV we saved \$70 a week. You try and save that anywhere else?"

### Short on incentives

International research, according to Sigurd Magnusson, states the two most important milestones to transitioning are a reliable network of charging stations and being able to have a test drive.

Another may well be the level of public incentives. The US, Europe and China state that by 2025, 22% of cars on the road must be EVs. Norway and Holland want all vehicle sales to be electric from 2025 and many developed countries mandate low emission zones where petrol cars pay entry fees.

Norway charges a purchase tax based on emissions and weight and discounts electric by \$10,000. There's no sales tax, they can use bus lanes with free use of toll roads, urban street parking and charging stations. Within four years that encouraged 120,000 vehicles (80% fully EV) and 7,000 charging points.

Critics in New Zealand suggest the Government's \$1 million annual spending over five years to promote EVs and contestable funding to support innovative projects, including public charging, doesn't go far enough. The latest Low Emission Vehicles Contestable Fund was oversubscribed, with only 15 of 80 applicants getting a slice of the pie.

Non-spreadsheet factors such as reducing carbon emissions and greenhouse gases are likely to encourage conscience buying, but it will require more than car sales marketing to attain the tipping point for private and fleet EVs, while purchase prices remain so high and fuel cost relatively affordable.

Says councillor Belford, "Whether consumers buy for conscience or car-life savings, it's time to hit the accelerator."

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Unison is pleased to sponsor robust examination of energy issues in Hawke's Bay. This reporting is prepared by BayBuzz. Any editorial views expressed are those of the BayBuzz team.



A Hastings District Council parking officer charges a council EV

## Inspiration lacking for fleet upgrades

HAWKE'S BAY FLEET OWNERS REMAIN CAUTIOUS, if not adverse, to electric vehicle commitments, preferring to wait for mature technology, additional charging infrastructure and more convincing government incentives.

The Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB) has a watching brief on EVs and the Government's EV programme, attends workshops and will engage "when the time is right," says spokesperson Jane Tonga.

For now, the cost is "prohibitive" although there's hope "future government collective procurement offers will provide more feasible options".

HBDHB has 139 cars for staff travel, plus a couple of trucks and four vans. The preferred option is 1.8 litre hatchback EVs either through leasing or an "all of Government" procurement process.

Its fleet, mostly leased on a bulk purchase arrangement, may be reviewed if EVs prove economical and range limitations and on-site charging are addressed. So far, it's invested in a hybrid truck.

Affordability and capability remain obstacles for Hastings City Council. It's prepared to pay a premium for the benefits, but EVs remain too costly compared to combustion engine options, says business services manager Regan Smith.

It's putting pressure on the Government to provide better deals by including EVs in its central buying scheme "when Elon Musk and others start moving from the premium market".

HDC's parking team uses a Nissan Leaf to patrol the Hastings CBD, Flaxmere and Havelock North and it'll consider more if they're fit for purpose and cost of ownership stacks up.

The case hasn't yet been made for utilities or bigger cars, "although we will be looking at town cars and pool cars to save us fuel and

emissions," says Smith.

EIT invested in a Prius hybrid nearly a decade ago and has since added the smaller Prius C hybrid and a Toyota Corolla hybrid.

Corporate services director, Victor Saywell says EIT isn't convinced further investment is warranted yet. A lot of driving is longer distance, "between our Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay campuses or further afield and so is not well suited for EVs".

Vans still have a limited suitability and range and "lower fuel costs don't yet offset the much higher ownership costs".

Drivers also need to factor in "planning journeys and refuelling... ensuring the vehicle is ready and fuelled on time for the next driver booked to use it".

While hybrids provide flexibility, a heavily-used EV fleet would have to be "more financially sustainable than it currently is [with] further technology improvements around range of travel and charging time".

For EIT to install a public refuelling station, Saywell says it "would need good use to justify the investment", when home charging would be more convenient for most students and staff.

The regional council (HBRC) has two electric-petrol hybrid vans, and is considering its own fast charge station while reviewing the cost-benefit of replacing its hybrid vehicles with plug-in EVs when they are due for replacement.

However, senior planner Rina Douglas believes current market offerings "do not meet most council on and off-road needs".

As technology develops and electric buses become economically viable, she says HBRC has the option to "incentivise" its third party public transport network providers to move to EV power.

# The bold & the beautiful

Andy Glover, head chef at Ormlie, combines a discipline for precision, a belief in good food and a twist of humour to create, what some foodies have described as "bold and beautiful".

Ormlie has certainly been on a journey over the last 2 years, culminating in an experience you won't forget. The grounds are meticulous, the interiors a mixture of old and new. You will be surprised as you tingle with excitement and enjoy the feeling of being invited into a glamorous home of the past with a butler service and private chef!



The Lodge has a great history dating back to 1899. Built as a wedding present for Sir William Nelson's daughter Gertrude, Ormlie has transformed into a boutique hotel and will be the perfect venue for any occasion this winter. Celebrated wines, an impressive array of spirits, beer and ciders partner perfectly with a roaring fire, the new winter menu and European style service by Nobert and his team. For those who stay the night, breakfast is complimentary, as are the green fees at the Napier Golf course, if you fancy a spot of golf, as Gertrude was known to in her day.

If you're thinking of a special occasion - wedding, meeting, event or dinner party and need a special place, Ormlie is your perfect location.

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# DROWNING IN WATER ISSUES

TOM BELFORD

It's hard to choose where to begin in writing an update on the multitude of water issues confronting Hawke's Bay. Every part of the region is grappling with challenges involving water quality or supply, and the land use issues that affect our waterways, aquifers and marine environment.

The Hawke's Bay Regional Council plays the significant role in managing these issues, but that role is based principally upon its authority to regulate activities – from farming practices to municipal wastewater disposal – that have demonstrable “effects” on the environment. HBRC does not have the authority, for example, to set or enforce drinking water standards, operate wastewater treatment plants, or charge for commercial uses of water, like water bottling.

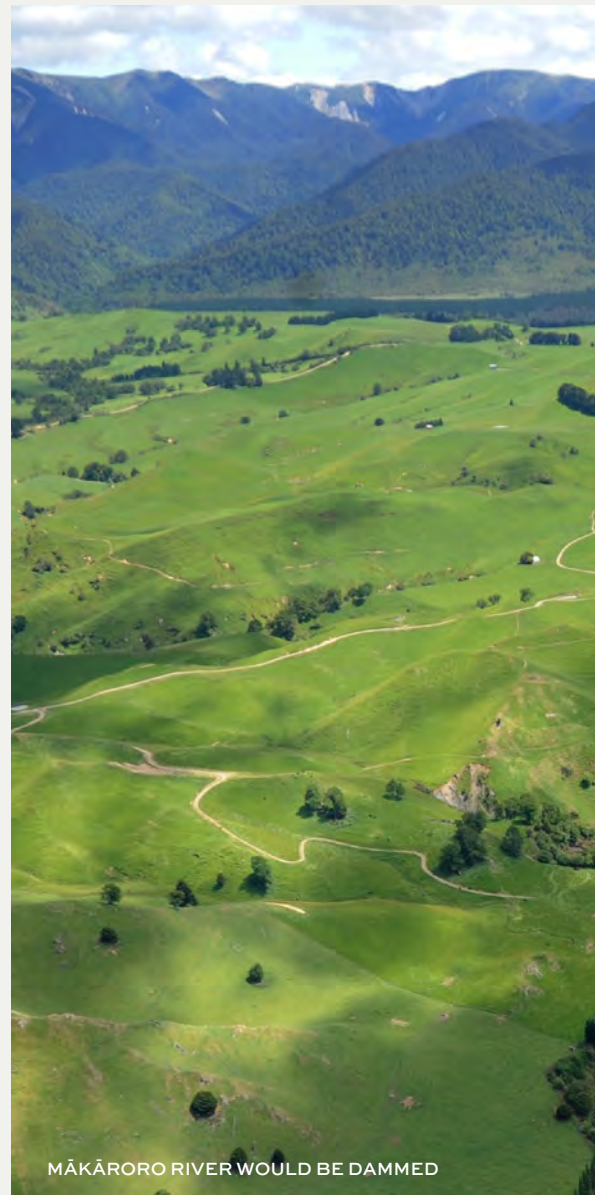
Given its regulatory role, the regional council often finds itself at odds with the region's territorial authorities,

as has been dramatised by the contretemps over the Havelock North gastro outbreak, CHB's wastewater discharges into the Tukituki, and the Napier City Council's failure to deal with stormwater and industrial discharges into the Ahuriri Estuary.

For its part, the general public seems somewhat fickle as to whether it regards enforcement efforts in such controversial matters as justified protection of the environment or wasteful bickering amongst councils. And ambivalent about how much it will pay for water quality ... a matter this article will return to.

So with all the public and private sector players and all the issues at play (many interconnected) across so many locales, it's understandably difficult to keep score as to whether progress is being made ... and if not, why not?

Nevertheless, here's an attempt at an overview.



MĀKĀRORO RIVER WOULD BE DAMMED

## The dam

**Of course the 800-pound gorilla in the room these days is the proposed Ruataniwha dam, as a final decision on whether to proceed looms before the regional council.**

The council's ‘cup of tea’ delivered several hundred pages of fresh analyses for councillors – and intrepid members of the public – to digest. But the fundamental calculation has remained the same – weighing the nature and scale of the environmental, financial and other risks the project poses, as seen by skeptics, against the promised benefits and opportunities, as seen by proponents.

As BayBuzz goes to press in late April, councillors have yet to complete their assessment of the review material. Much of this material is scheduled to be publicly released as of 5 May; but no formal process for public comment has been planned.



However it is agreed that on 31 May, at the monthly HBRC meeting, some sort of ‘decision’ will be made. That decision could be a definitive vote to proceed (pending Court approval of DoC’s authority to swap needed land) or kill or shelve the project, a decision to alter the conditions required to be met prior to any final council approval to proceed, or simply a decision to digest further and/or await the Court decision.

Place your bets!

Each councillor will have a unique assessment of the RWSS review. My own assessment, in briefest terms, is as follows:

**1.** In essence, the RWSS scheme is a response to previous regional councils having over-allocated water takes awarded in 226 consents in the Tukituki catchment, exacerbating two ecologically- and amenity-damaging conditions for the Tuki: substantial increases in nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) entering the river, and diminished flows.

**2.** In theory, the over-allocation can be ‘fixed’ by pulling back consent levels (out

of some 45 million now consented); by building a high-capacity dam, whose cost-justification requires very significant farming intensification, bringing a further escalation of nutrient loss into waterways and aquifers; or by otherwise augmenting and improving water use.

**3.** Farmers’ ability to manage their existing nutrients that already stuff the river – let alone higher levels – is entirely untested. As is the new Plan Change 6 regulatory regime under which HBRC would attempt to manage the 1,100 farmers in the catchment, who are expected to embrace best farming practices.

**4.** Additionally, expert advice has not confirmed that so-called ‘flushing flows’ promised from the dam would significantly improve water quality, especially in the lower reaches of the Tuki.

**5.** These uncertainties pose a huge risk to the environmental integrity of the catchment, at a time when the latest government freshwater standards require us to “maintain and improve” water quality, not worsen it. Is this environmental risk worth

taking for some other benefit?

**6.** Answering that question requires assessment of the financial risk to ratepayers and the claimed economic benefits of providing more irrigation water to 186 farmers who have signed the potential scheme’s water user agreements (as against another roughly 200 possible prospects who have declined scheme water).

**7.** At present, 42.8 million cubes of dam water have been committed. However, according to Deloitte, around 62 million cubes must be sold for the scheme to meet all its financial obligations to lenders and then begin to yield a return to HBRC. There remains considerable disagreement as to if and when this volume of water might be committed; however, the latest financial projections indicate that the scheme would need to borrow against its projected income until Year 30 after start-up before it had sufficient cash flow to pay the council’s (i.e., ratepayers’) return on investment.

**8.** Moreover, the cost of the dam (presently sitting around \$292 million) is still not resolved, and actually cannot



SEDIMENT FILLS TUKI AT TIME OF CYCLONE



AND CONTINUES 10 DAYS LATER



ELABORATE WATER TREATMENT FOR HAVELOCK BORE 3

be until final design is undertaken and then peer reviewed, taking into account the geotechnical risks involved, by an independent panel yet to be formed.

9. The reliability of projected economic benefits (GDP growth, jobs) is entirely dependent upon a host of variables, not the least of which involve predictions that higher-value production (in fact, much higher than presently the case in CHB) will be delivered in the future from irrigated areas. The current scenario rests upon modeled increases in orcharding and viticulture that practitioners intimately familiar with growing conditions in CHB dismiss as implausible.

10. And although the predicted economic yield is highly uncertain, what is *not* uncertain is that hundreds of millions of dollars in interest payments – on monies borrowed both by HBRIC to fund the dam and primary distribution, and by farmers to meet on-farm systems change and irrigation costs – will flow out of Hawke’s Bay and our regional economy. A banker’s delight.

Behind these brief ten points are scores of claims, assumptions and predictions that I and other councillors must pick our way through.

Put all together, for me the scheme poses much higher risks than benefits. In my view, the first obligation of the regional council is to protect the environmental integrity of the Tukituki catchment, not protect and subsidize economic gain for those who benefit from past over-allocation of a limited resource.

As we all look to a decision on the matter, are there five councillors who have a negative assessment and would oppose the dam? Most likely we have some who oppose, some who support, and some ‘leaners’. Stay tuned!

## Beyond the dam

**The most significant water issues beyond the dam are: continued non-compliant wastewater disposal into the Tuki from CHB’s treatment system, safe drinking water from municipal systems in Hastings/Havelock North (and more recently Napier), water quality and security of supply across the Heretaunga Plains, and increasing deterioration of the Ahuriri Estuary.**

### CHB wastewater

The CHB wastewater issue has dragged out for ten years, from the point when the Environment Court agreed with two local environmentalists that more stringent effluent limits from the CHB treatment systems were required to improve water quality in the Tuki.

Fast forward to today and the problem remains, due to footdragging by the CHB District Council, questionable choice of new treatment system and technology by that council, and until recently, regional council acquiescence to this melodrama.

Finally, last November HBRC laid three charges against CHBDC for non-compliance. Two of these (related to Waipukurau treatment) were subsequently dropped; then in March CHBDC pleaded guilty to the charge that the Waipawa plant was non-compliant with respect to E.coli discharges. The case is adjourned to 8 June. Improvements have been made at CHB’s

treatment plants in terms of reducing phosphorous discharges into the Tuki. And now the focus has become the Papanui Stream, entering the Tuki downstream of the plants, which contributes as much as 40% of the phosphorous in the lower Tukituki River. Feedlots, the Otane wastewater treatment, and farming practices could all be contributing to the problem, which Plan Change 6 must address.

Clearly, water quality in the Tukituki must be dealt with on a whole-of-catchment basis.

### Havelock North drinking water

With an estimated \$3.5 million now spent by HBRC, the Hastings Council and the HB District Health Board on their various investigations into the August 2016 gastro outbreak and the ongoing government inquiry, where do matters stand?

In a word: unresolved.

HDC of course has taken steps to provide safe drinking water to Havelock North, reopening Havelock Bore 3 after installing filters, UV treatment and chlorination – a level of treatment normally used for supplies fed by surface water. The water supply is tested daily for E.coli and weekly for protozoa. Hastings, Flaxmere and Pakipaki supply is also chlorinated.

Looking ahead, Hastings has proposed \$12 million in its 2017-18 Annual Plan to pay for possible additional treatment, including UV treatment at other bores, possible new bores, improvement of distribution capacity, and additional science, safety testing and monitoring work. This would lift HDC’s domestic water rate by \$29 to a total rate of \$257 per year.

While all this is underway, official findings on the causes of and fault for the

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CHB TREATMENT PONDS



KEY MEASURING SITE AT RED BRIDGE  
MEASURES TUKI FLOWS

outbreak await disclosure in the 'Stage 1' report of the government inquiry, which was expected in March but is now scheduled to reach the Attorney-General on 12 May.

Once this report is released, the inquiry will move on to prepare a 'Stage 2' report on the "systemic issues" raised by the incident and provide recommendations for NZ-wide management of water supply – such as clarifying lines of authority and responsibility blurred in current legislation and potentially requiring all municipal systems to chlorinate drinking water. This report is now due 8 December.

Mayor Yule and others have raised concerns regarding the overall health of the Heretaunga aquifer, suggesting that water quality in the groundwater could be an issue

as much as or even more than safety of the water pumping and delivery infrastructure. The implication is that if groundwater quality is unhealthy, that's HBRC's fault as manager of the resource, shifting responsibility (and blame) away from HDC.

Blame games aside, Mayor Yule, Regional Council chair Rex Graham and Ngāti Kahungunu chair Ngahiwi Tomoana in a show of unity have proposed a public forum on Heretaunga water issues on June 1 and 2. An early planning memo says: "The purpose of the water symposium is to explore all the issues and improve the communities overall understanding of water issues facing the Heretaunga Plains." Whether this will provide more light than heat remains to be seen.

In a further display of cooperation, the DHB and the Hastings, Napier and Regional Councils have formed the Water Safety Joint Working Group to address future drinking water issues.

#### TANK

Stepping from the narrow issue of safe drinking water to broader issues of water quality and allocation across the Heretaunga Plains, one moves into the brief of the TANK group, as reported in last edition's BayBuzz article, Water in the TANK (now on the BayBuzz website: [www.baybuzz.co.nz](http://www.baybuzz.co.nz)).

I won't regurgitate the previous article, but do emphasize here again the huge amount of work – both by the HBRC



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STORMWATER AND INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER CONTAMINATE AHURIRI ESTUARY

research staff and consultants and by the 30+ stakeholders representing all affected interests – going into understanding the dynamics of water issues involving the Tutaekurī and Ngaruroro Rivers, the Karamū Stream and the Ahuriri Estuary. The body of work developed in the TANK process can be accessed at: <http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/hawkes-bay/projects/tank/resources/#newstank>.

If you care about water allocation and security on the Heretaunga Plains, water quality and ecosystem improvements across the plains, water use priorities (including water bottling), municipal water supply, recreational use of these waterways, stormwater and industrial wastewater, protection of the Waitangi and Ahuriri

Estuaries, TANK is where the action is. You can sign up for a periodic TANK newsletter here: <http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/hawkes-bay/projects/tank/get-involved>

**Ahuriri Estuary**

This urban water body is regarded as a national treasure given its role as habitat for many native and migratory birds and as a breeding nursery for ocean fish ... not to mention its recreational and kai values.

Nevertheless, thousands of tonnes of sediment stream in annually from surrounding catchments, smothering aquatic food sources. And nearby industrial and urban areas regularly deliver contaminants via their stormwater and wastewater.

Mayor Yule and others have raised concerns regarding the overall health of the Heretaunga aquifer, suggesting that water quality in the groundwater could be an issue as much as or even more than safety of the water pumping and delivery infrastructure. The implication is that if groundwater quality is unhealthy, that’s HBRC’s fault as manager of the resource, shifting responsibility (and blame) away from HDC.

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SEDIMENT IN-FILL SMOTHERS AQUATIC LIFE IN AHURIRI ESTUARY

In the most recent episode, Napier discharged untreated wastewater into the stormwater drains emptying into the estuary, blaming “excess inflow and infiltration associated with older parts of the city’s piped wastewater network.” Even without such (hopefully) irregular events, shellfish gathering in the estuary is regularly banned because of contamination.

As noted above, the TANK process and the plan change it will propose later this year will address long-term protection of the estuary. But there’s nothing to prevent more vigorous clean-up efforts now, alongside Māori stakeholders like Mana Ahuriri. All that’s lacking is serious political will and priority.

### Accelerating the efforts

There are indeed other water issues – protecting our marine environment (including offshore oil & gas exploration), riverbed gravel management, run-off and sediment concerns when major-scale logging gets underway soon in the Wairoa region, and more focused eyesores requiring improvement like Lakes Tūtira, Whatuma and Whakakī.

Addressing all of these situations – as well as impending new freshwater standards from government – will require significantly more resources than the regional council presently has available. The council has identified a series of six ‘hotspots’ where environmental improvement could be accelerated – Lake Tūtira, Ahuriri Estuary, Whakakī Lake & Wairoa River, Lake Whatuma and the Tukituki catchment, Karamū Stream, and our Marine Environment.

HBRC is seeking ratepayer endorsement for an additional \$1.2 million commitment

Some will argue that the regional council over the past 7-8 years could have dedicated the \$20 million spent on advancing the dam – to say nothing of staff energies and focus – far more productively instead to this broader environmental agenda. And that it is with enormous – hutzpah – that HBRC now asks ratepayers to dip into their pockets for \$1.2 million extra in the coming Annual Plan.

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in the 2017-18 Annual Plan to kick-start these efforts, and has applied for \$6.5 million in ‘match funding’ from the government’s Freshwater Improvement Fund.

Arguably, the regional council now in place is more determined than its predecessors to address these water issues. However, the problems have accumulated over many years and won’t be speedily fixed. And they certainly won’t be fixed by some magic wand waved by the council.

The public has signaled that it wants more urgent action brought to bear on a host of Hawke’s Bay water challenges. A key test of that public resolve is endorsing the funding required to get the job done.

Some will argue that the regional council over the past 7-8 years could have dedicated the \$20 million spent on advancing the dam – to say nothing of staff energies and focus – far more productively instead to this broader environmental agenda. And that it is with enormous – hutzpah – that HBRC now asks ratepayers to dip into their pockets for \$1.2 million extra in the coming Annual Plan.

Moreover, arguably allocating an additional \$60 million to the dam represents a huge opportunity cost to the region, given the range of other water and land use challenges we face with greater environmental and economic consequences.

Personally, I share that view ... priorities have been seriously distorted.

But that earlier direction was set by previous councils, not the present one.

Confirmation of a new direction will be settled, or not, in my opinion, by two imminent HBRC decisions – the vote on the dam, and the determination to fund a more ambitious and energetic environmental restoration agenda for Hawke’s Bay.

I – and other councillors as well – would welcome hearing your views on these choices. Here’s where we are:

- 
- Paul Bailey:** [napierbailey@gmail.com](mailto:napierbailey@gmail.com)
  - Rick Barker:** [rickjbarker@gmail.com](mailto:rickjbarker@gmail.com)
  - Peter Beaven:** [pjbeaven@icloud.com](mailto:pjbeaven@icloud.com)
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Luke Blair in the  
Hohepa cheesery.  
Photos: Sarah Cates

# Hohepa: Every Life Fully Lived

BRIDGET FREEMAN-ROCK

**When you think of Hohepa, chances are you think of a small, somewhat quaint, self-contained community that makes cheese and candles. You may have been to Hohepa's country fair, tasted its award-winning artisan cheeses, or stopped off at the roadside shop for fresh organic produce and handcrafts.**

BUT CONTRARY TO PERCEPTION, Hohepa is actually one of the region's most important caregivers and largest employers, with over 400 staff across multiple sites, a turnover upwards of \$20 million, and strong connections to the fabric of Hawke's Bay, and beyond. Yet straining to meet changing needs with dated and threatened infrastructure.

At the core of Hohepa's enterprise is its provision of holistic care for some of the most vulnerable in our society, from young children through to the elderly, with a wide range of intellectual disabilities and neurobiological conditions, and an ever-complex raft of high-end needs and behaviours.

Inspired by the philosophies of Rudolf Steiner, Hohepa was founded in 1957 through the joint initiative of Dame Marjorie Allan and local farming entrepreneur, Sir Lewis Harris. Harris backed what was a forward-thinking and enlightened vision of supported inclusion in a time of institutionalized, psychiatric-oriented mental health care, gifting the

original 21 hectare site at Poraiti and the funds to "make it happen".

## **A transformative model of care**

At the heart of Hohepa's ethos, is the freedom and dignity of the individual, as Alfred Busch, Hohepa's adult services manager, expounds: "Our position is that people should not just participate in life, but contribute – for social inclusion, self-esteem, independence, and even the possibility of earning an income; these are general human values. We believe we should foster as much autonomy, despite disability, as possible; it's part of our human dignity ... Our role is to enable people by developing life skills and social capacity, not simply to deliver a 'system of care'."

Hohepa's legally mandated Special Character is reflected in the individual development plans for each of its 140 service users. "These are based on the insight of body, soul and spirit," Alfred explains. "Body being connected to environment, to health and wellbeing; soul to communication and relationships, to emotions; and spirit connected to autonomy, aspiration and freedom of individuality. That's what makes our service delivery holistic and we work with this in a very practical and integrated way."

## **Clive adult community**

One of the special features of Hohepa is its two operational farms, run on principles of biodynamic agriculture with the Demeter seal of accreditation. Along with a smorgasbord of dairy products made at the Clive cheesery, Hohepa grows its own meat, vegetables and fruit under an internal community-supported agriculture scheme. All surplus not used by Hohepa is sold through the onsite shop, Farmers' Market stall, and to wineries and shops throughout NZ.

"The Farm", as it used to be called at Clive, sits low on the wind-tussled coast, bordered by the Waitangi Estuary and an ever-busy highway. Salinity is an issue, and

Hohepa's new property and sustainability manager, Angela Stead, has been tasked with finding new crops to cope with increasingly "sandy, salty soils" – one of the effects of climate change. Tsunami warnings mean the entire adult residential community has to be evacuated – a big, tricky effort – which means ultimately they will have to relocate.

In the meantime, however, the place thrums to a rhythm of supported activities, special therapies, home-life routines and seasonal celebrations. Most of Hohepa's adult service users are involved from 9am-4pm each weekday in diverse vocational activities. The majority reside in Hohepa's ten community houses in suburban Napier, while forty live in seven onsite facilities at

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**"We don't want a 'normal' life; we want an outrageous and special life for everyone!"**

ALFRED BUSCH

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Clive. Those with very high health needs or extreme behaviours undertake home-based activities; a few are retired.

Touring the onsite workshops, we admire the weft work at the Rose Weavery. Facilitator Jasmine Dubrau says most of the participants have a unique artistic sense and style, and come up with their own systems. Like Candice with her distinctive flair for bold, contemporary colour combinations; she works independently at a large loom, with multiple threaded shuttles, creating simple, funky jackets, blankets, ponchos, cushion covers. Others need more assistance, but all are enabled towards creative autonomy and are manifestly proud of their work.

In the warm, bee-scented candle-making



Above: Jayden (13) carving pounamu; top right: Tania Bryant demonstrating the art of making candles; bottom right: Workshop facilitator Jasmine Dubrau with weavers Margaret Douglas (L) and Candice Chung (R).

workshop, we are shown the industry of dipping coloured candles and making freestaters from leftover scraps of wax. As in all the workshops there is a convivial hum of activity, the atmosphere calm and measured.

Outside, we meet the 'estate team', who take care of the grounds, raking leaf-fall and acorns from under mature oaks and wheeling barrows of mulch, as we walk past the hall where music and speech therapy is in progress, dropping into the woodwork room where wooden toys – train sets, trucks – and outdoor furniture are made.

Meaningful contributions to the daily life of the Hohepa community include farm and horticultural activities – growing vegetables, milking, making cheese – and the organisation has partnered with a native tree nursery. But there are also off-site 'community participation' opportunities, with adults working at the SPCA, in coffee shops, resthomes and cinemas, according to interest and ability. Day services coordinator, Jeff Carroll, says they are always looking

**“We want facilities that inspire and instil different standards, that can be adjusted to need and meet functional requirements... safety glass, robust materials, easy-to-clean surfaces - if it's easy to manage the facility, staff are freed up to invest more time with the children, rather than constantly auditing the environment for them.”**

NEIL KIRTON

for participatory opportunities in the wider community and are exploring the possibility of an activities hub in town for easier access and broader engagement.

With a commitment to providing a whole life approach (its longest-term resident has been at Hohepa since its inception), there's now an elder care sector, and Hohepa prides itself on also sustaining an onsite clinic, with two registered nurses and a part-time GP. The nurses at Hohepa are "specialists at generalist practice", Jocelyn Freeman explains, covering a wide range of practice nursing, acute assessment, complementary therapies, advocacy, staff education and palliative care.

While the organisation receives significant government funding until residents are 65 years old, there's a huge disparity between the standard pension benefits they then receive and the resourcing required, with a propensity for increased medical conditions and often early-onset dementia. "But this is their home, and they have a right to remain here."



Clockwise from top left: Santiago DeMarco, director of children's services; Oscar (14) with caregiver Renato Alves from Brazil; Clare, one of Hohepa's herd of short-horn milkers; Roderick Stronach, who began at the Home School when he was seven years old, and nurse Jocelyn Freeman (R) who runs the onsite clinic.

### Poraiti children's community

Hohepa's special school and residential homes for children with extreme high-end needs and behaviours are nestled on the idyllic, north-facing slopes of the Poraiti farm – a former pā site – with views that stretch out across terraced gardens and trees to the Kaweka Ranges.

The school is purpose built, with a conscious aesthetic that embodies Hohepa's values of function and beauty. There is a lot of indoor-outdoor flow with quiet sunny nooks, flowers, trees, as well as contained, low-sensory spaces.

The children, from 6-14 years old, are taught an adapted Steiner school curriculum, with specific learning goals tailored to need. The older students move out of a classroom setting to take up more applied, practical skills with a clear programme and five-year, individualised transition plan for their next life-stage (at age 16-21), whether that be in the adult's community at Clive, supported independent living or back home with family.

Principal Stephen Evans loves his job:

"It's a beautiful gift to unwrap," he enthuses. Learning is reciprocal and "happens for everyone", teachers, teacher aides, children alike. He sees himself as merely the "orchestrator of direction", facilitating the process of discovery and growth through being open and listening, responsive to the individual needs of every child. "One size fits one – we really live that here."

Inside a small classroom a couple of children are working with flashcards and numbers, while in the library, others are reading, looking at pictures, sorting books – as with any school there's attention to numeracy and literacy. But in the space of an hour, we also meet Jayden carving pounamu with mesmerising intent, a young boy with a bucket of weeds he's dug from the garden, hear the laugh and shouts of kids trooping off to play badminton in the hall, and speak with James who is wearing a scarf he has just made himself.

At 3 o'clock, the kids spill out onto the paved entrance – some walk home independently (like Yulisha, who skips

ahead), others accompanied by caregivers, on the path that winds beside citrus groves, hothouses, cattle, hazelnut hedges to the onsite children's homes: St Martin, McGowan, Tobias House...

These are 'homes away from home', catering for between 1-7 children in a colourful domestic environment, with an emphasis on calm, predictable rhythms, good nutrition, rest and exercise. There are trampolines and sandpits in the gardens, artwork on the walls, shared meals. Some children remain here year round – this is their home – others return to their families every holiday.

Poraiti's also home for many of the staff who live on site, and for a host of volunteers and international workers who come from all over the world to experience and learn from Hohepa's 'quiet revolution'.

Santiago DeMarco came to Hohepa as a volunteer 17 years ago from Argentina and, inspired by Hohepa's community model, established (with wife Sandra) a socio-cultural development centre, Aramitan, in the favelas of Sao Paulo. Aramitan's

leadership team travels periodically to Hohepa for mentorship. Reciprocally, for many of our own young people, working at Hohepa can be a “gateway to the world”, opening up professional opportunities internationally for non-profit organisations and Steiner-inspired initiatives.

Santiago has been “on the frontline and in every possible role” at Hohepa Poraiti, living on site with his own family until recently. He worked as a ‘house parent’ (a locus parental managing role, providing continuity of care) at one of the seven children’s homes for 15 years and, now as director of children’s services, has shared guardianship, and in some cases full custody, of Poraiti’s 44 children who come from around New Zealand, through their family’s conscious choice of school, “absolute need”, or through agency referrals.

The children’s community has contracts with the Ministry of Education, which supports the school operation; the Ministry of Health, which funds the residential service; and CYFS, through the Ministry of Social Development. “The demands of compliance are huge,” says Santiago, but Hohepa has a good relationship with the relevant authorities, who are on the whole “immensely supportive of what we do”.

Working with the families is a crucial aspect of Santiago’s role. “We need to rebuild trust and confidence, both for the children, many of whom have had traumatic experiences, and for the families too. We have to heal relationships; it’s like social rehabilitation.”

The ‘Home School’ is completely full, with a growing demand, and it’s clear that it needs to increase its capacity, both through its service provision and physical facilities.

### **Evolving to meet changing needs**

The impetus for Hohepa sixty years ago was a movement for change to the lock-down of people with intellectual disability in

**“If you are on your own as a parent or small family unit having to deal with these complex behaviours and needs, it’s a survival mode. Here you are part of an extended, interdisciplinary team that is on the one hand a community, with the person’s needs and their family at its centre, but which has, on the other hand, a professional approach with comprehensive plans in place for each individual, and specialist training.”**

SANTIAGO DEMARCO

institutions. With de-institutionalisation thirty years ago and society’s integration of moderate ‘special needs’, those with Down’s syndrome, for example, no longer needed to be residentially homed at Hohepa, and the demographic shifted accordingly; instead there was a marked increase in children with autism.

Santiago puts it down to society “essentially ‘freaking out’, not sure how to cope with people who had these socially challenging behaviours and sensory issues.” Interestingly, he says, there is now a lot of information out there about autism spectrum disorders, and strong advocacy by groups like the Autism Association, and as

a result Hohepa is seeing less people with autism coming through their doors.

In recent years, Hohepa has been predominately dealing with issues related to trauma, foetal alcohol syndrome, attachment disorders – these are sensitive issues for families, says Santiago, as there are strong judgements in society and a paucity of understanding and awareness ... “the gap is huge”.

The difference now, is that these newer presentations are symptomatic of a whole societal issue rather than being isolated to genetics, environment, neurobiology, etc, and the spectrum of need and behaviour is far broader and more complex. This is going to require a societal transformation of a much bigger, deep-reaching scale, Santiago believes.

Hohepa is currently in discussion with the new Ministry for Vulnerable Children for how Hohepa can extend its provision and become a pool of resources for families to tap into. They’re exploring the option of alternative services, for example, that are not just residentially-based, such as supporting families practically at home using Hohepa’s resilience and special character values, or supporting children one-on-one in other schools.

“We are challenging ourselves to always be relevant to needs, while remaining true to our values,” says Santiago.

### **Significant challenges**

Hohepa Hawke’s Bay provides an essential service for many of society’s most vulnerable, accommodating those who struggle to be accommodated elsewhere. There are no other children’s school and residential facilities like Poraiti in NZ, and their fully-operational farm-based services for adults are unique. But it’s facing significant challenges, highlighted by a recently-commissioned external review.



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Clockwise from top left: Principal Stephen Evans with student James (18); view across Poraiti's terraced gardens; business manager Neil Kirton; Ryan (15) with teacher aide Graham Spicer in the school library.

Increasing referrals of children with very complex cognitive-behavioural problems are impacting staff (the work with some of these children is intensely demanding), reframing the appropriateness of current residential facilities at Poraiti and the culture of care provided. At the same time, Hohepa has an ageing population and funding gap, with its original cohort (now in their 60s and 70s) requiring intense ongoing care due to higher susceptibility to illness and loss of function.

The site at Clive, threatened by sea-rise, is no longer viable for Hohepa's service provision, and a new site will need to be found for the adult community within 20 years. In the meantime there's maintenance required on existing infrastructure. "Our residents are hard on their living spaces," says Hohepa's business manager Neil Kirton, which need specialist upgrading to accommodate the spectrum of need and behaviour.

An immediate project is the complete rebuild of one of the youth houses at Poraiti, which is leaky beyond repair and needs urgent replacing with a versatile, low-sensory, fit-for-

purpose building that can meet "the extremes of requirements". This will be costly and Hohepa is seeking financial assistance to do so.

When it rebuilt its school facilities ten years ago, Hohepa launched a huge fundraising campaign, raising \$4 million from within Hawke's Bay – the response was "unbelievable", and indicative of the region's support.

"Hohepa has substantial international interest and a world-wide reputation, as well as a profile in the NZ intellectual disability sector," says Neil, "and we want to grow that outreach." To be sustainable long-term, however, Hohepa needs to have "a renewal programme" similar to the pioneering efforts of Hohepa's founders sixty years ago, one that "a new generation can step up to". The payoff, he believes, will be a world-class facility in Hawke's Bay for "a highly recognised, high-needs service."

Hohepa is looking at potential partnership arrangements and sponsorship, and exploring alternative means of funding, alongside bequests and trust funds, such as a bond, or

loan facility with a fair rate of return.

"We want people to consider us if looking at some philanthropic approach," says Neil, "or even on a commercial level. We would love someone to come in and build us a new cow-shed [to replace the "ancient" walk-through dairy] and share the profits with us that arise from the Hohepa cheese brand."

Hohepa drew my mother to Hawke's Bay in the idealistic '70s, and I've borne witness to some of its evolution over the years, albeit from the periphery. Visiting now, I am struck by this renewed mission for social transformation and for the upholding of human dignity and compassion.

I take with me Santiago's metaphor of community-supported care as a social art: "Places like Hohepa are like social sculptures. Our community dynamic forms something tangible, which transforms, in turn, lives and relationships."

If you are interested in helping Hohepa through investment or philanthropy, contact Neil Kirton, 870 0426 (ext. 720), or [business@hawk.hohepa.org.nz](mailto:business@hawk.hohepa.org.nz)

# LIVE HERE GIVE HERE



HAWKE'S BAY  
FOUNDATION



## LIVE HERE

Lyn Williams, a Hawke's Bay Foundation cornerstone donor, reflects on giving back to a region that has been good to him and his family.

"Everyone in the community has the capacity to give. We all need to learn to do our bit and give back to the communities that nourish us.

My years in Hawke's Bay have been very happy and productive ones for me – it's a wonderful place to live and work and I know I am very fortunate. But for many in our community, Hawke's Bay is a really tough place to grow up and get ahead.

So I want to give back, and give back effectively. For me, Hawke's Bay Foundation is the key to making sure my contributions are distributed locally where they'll have the greatest impact. I trust the Foundation's knowledge and expertise to assess community needs. They know who needs what today.

They also understand the importance of building a fund that



*"The grants we receive from Hawke's Bay Foundation are essential for us at Pleroma. Not only financially, but also because the Foundation's support is an endorsement that we are playing an important role in our CHB community. We so appreciate their encouragement and that the Foundation 'has our back' as we help our clients find ways to live more positive, happier and safer lives."*

Rachel Mackay, manager, Pleroma Social Services

will endure over the long term. HBF is about helping the community now, but also creating a powerful capital fund that will go on giving for generations.

I enjoy giving and making a difference and plan to add to my cornerstone donation. We all want to live a good life, and for me, knowing that I'm doing my bit, makes my life much richer in every way.

## GIVE HERE

Pleroma – The Quiet Achievers

Pleroma Social Services has been working at the heart of Central Hawke's Bay for the last 35 years. They are one of the grass-roots organisations receiving funding from Hawke's Bay Foundation.

Pleroma provide social work support to families, individual counselling and programmes for children and youth.

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need to ask for help, difficult to know where to begin, and confusing to know what to do next.

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In 2016 their team of one full-time, and three part-time staff helped over 270 people, from newborns to over-80 year olds.

Pleroma is a vital human resource for all of the CHB community – exactly the kind of organisation we need to foster and support.

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Taine Randell with Summit delegates at Craggy Range



# Floating Napier Port

To sell or not to sell? That is the question.

While the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) approaches a decision on the Ruataniwha dam project, another issue has arisen with the potential to be equally contentious.

To sell, or not sell, shares in Napier Port.

MARK SWEET



CURRENTLY, THROUGH ITS investment company, HBRIC, the Regional Council owns 100% of the port, valued at around \$300 million. Last year the dividend to Council was \$7.9 million, which subsidises the rates of the beneficial owners, the people of Hawke's Bay.

The issue has arisen because the port needs up to \$150 million over the next ten years for expansion. How to fund the expansion has bought up the proposal of selling shares, one of a variety of available options. And here the contention begins. Selling publicly owned assets is politically charged. And it's an election year.

### Politics and business

Member of Parliament for Napier, Stuart Nash, was quick to highlight his stance by erecting billboards. He is unequivocal. "My bottom line is the port has to stay in community ownership."

In Havelock North, Jim Scotland, former chairman of Napier Port and currently director on HBRIC, is a long time advocate of selling port shares. "I'm sure when you speak to him [Nash] he'll admit to you that it's election year and he's using the issue to get votes."

When asked, Nash replies, "Absolutely. I'll make sure this is a major issue. Selling shares in the port is not an option."

Here is the core of the matter.

Both parties agree the port needs funding for expansion.

**“One of the things I found when I came back to Napier was that a lot of decisions were being made behind closed doors, and the first thing the public heard about them was when they read the decision in the paper.”**

STUART NASH

“They need a new container wharf for the new generation of ships,” says Scotland. “We have to spend the money,” Nash concurs. “We need the port to be as efficient as possible and the \$100 million investment has to happen. The question isn't should we, it's how do we, fund the expansion of the port.”

The potent difference between the two parties is whether funding should include the sale of port shares to the private sector.

### First impressions

From his billboards and media releases, it's easy to get the impression Stuart Nash is ideologically opposed to the sale of all publicly-owned assets.

He says he's not.

“If the port was moribund, not making much money, and didn't have much of a future, and the only way to raise money for expansion was from the private sector, I'd be supportive,” he says. “But this port is performing really well, the management team have done a really good job of smoothing out the seasonal highs, and the growth projections are impressive.”

“My view is there are enough examples of councils selling assets to raise short term capital to finance expansions, and they turn around later and regret that decision.”

Nash is also sentimental. “What worries me is in thirty years, when my kids are my age, they'll say, ‘Shivers, Dad, see all these private investors are getting great dividends from the port. Why did you let that happen?’”

### Lasting achievements

“Custodian of the assets” is how Jim Scotland sees his responsibility as a company director.

Formally chief executive of HBF Dalgety, Scotland “made his way in the agri-business as a professional director” after “Brierley Wrightson bought us out in 1985”. He sat on the boards of Seeka Kiwifruit Industries, HortResearch, Plant and Food Research, Hawke's Bay Airport, and many private companies.

A highlight in Scotland's career is his chairmanship of Napier Port 2007-2012. During his tenure profits grew steadily, and

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the value of assets more than doubled, as he oversaw expansion to meet the demand of exporters.

Also, “A main focus when I was chairman was to make sure the shipping lines kept coming to Napier ... all bar one are still coming ... one of the reasons being they make more money out of chilled cargo than dry cargo.”

No one is more familiar with the complexities of operating Napier Port.

“The big issue is seasonal demand,” says Scotland. “The problem is the port has to set up all the infrastructure, all the capital, and all the people, to service the peak – February, March, April.” He points out that “The port will do a record number of containers this month [March] and if you annualised that figure over a year, it would be doing over 400,000 containers”, which is nearly double 2016 container movements.

“The capital intensification is all about the peak. To service the peak they have to have two container berths. The major question is who pays.”

When Scotland was port chairman, capital for expansion “was raised through retained profits and bank loans”, but current needs exceed the port’s capacity to borrow in that manner.

Furthermore, as a director of HBRIC, Scotland is mindful that the investment company’s Statement of Intent requires: ‘to improve the diversification and return of HBRC’s investments to fund the organisation’s strategic agenda without

**“The big issue is seasonal demand. The problem is the port has to set up all the infrastructure, all the capital, and all the people, to service the peak – February, March, April ... To service the peak they have to have two container berths.”**

JIM SCOTLAND

increasing general rates.’

There’s pressure on HBRIC to find solutions to the funding demands, for both Napier Port and other infrastructure investments.

Funding pressure, however, is not the only reason Scotland advocates partial sale of port shares. “I’ve been talking to the regional council for many years about the risks associated with owning 100% of the port.”

Scotland has a fundraising model where HBRC retains control, reduces some of its risk, gets a cash bonus, and provides for port expansion.

He’s pragmatic. If shares are to be sold he wants the best money for value, which is the open market for private investors. And

he points out that HBRC’s Long Term Plan requires that “any sale of port shares has to be subject to consultation. That’s the time we should hear all points of view from all sides of the discussion.”

**Man the barricades**

Aiding the discussion is the reason Stuart Nash gives for getting the hoardings up.

“I say this about my hoardings, and at the street corner meetings. No one is saying at this point in time that we are going to sell the port. No one is suggesting the whole of the port is for sale. What is being talked about is that a share of the port may be sold to finance development. What are your views on this?”

Born and educated in Napier, Stuart Nash returned in 2007 as a member of parliament, first on the Labour Party List, then as the elected representative (2014).

He says, “One of the things I found when I came back to Napier was that a lot of decisions were being made behind closed doors, and the first thing the public heard about them was when they read the decision in the paper.”

From the outset, he says he wanted to “get the issues out there and have the debate. We should include everyone not just those sitting on councils. Many people in the community have an opinion and I think the politicians have a mandate to listen to them.”

Of course, it’s election season, and Nash is using the port issue to get attention.

But his wider message may resonate with many in Hawke's Bay exasperated by local authority mismanagement, especially concerning transparency and public consultation. "I can't influence the council but I can influence people to put pressure on council."

Nash is clear about his strategy. "We're going to hold a public meeting on the 23rd of June. However, the signs will come down and the meeting will be cancelled if the chair of the Regional Council comes out and says, we've considered this and decided no share in the port will be sold and the community have 100% ownership."

The implied threat, and closure of discussion – that no port shares should be sold – runs contrary to Nash's assertion, "We should get the issues out there and have the debate." If he were sincere, Nash would facilitate open discussion of all points of view.

### Economics 101

"People don't like me thinking these ideas," says Jim Scotland. He's been stopped in the street by strangers accusing, "You're the guy who wants to sell the port."

Indeed he does, and reducing the regional council's exposure to risk has been his main reason for advocating releasing capital from the port for other investments. Around 41% of HBRC's wealth is vested in the port.

Spreading risk in an investment portfolio is Economics 101.

Further risk comes from natural disasters like an earthquake or tsunami, and Scotland cites the railway network as vulnerable.

"Imagine," he says, "if tomorrow night you hear on the news that KiwiRail is closing the Palmerston to Napier railway line. A decision like that, which we can do absolutely nothing about, would really hurt the port."

If the regional council had the funds, Scotland suggests they consider buying the Napier to Wellington track. "The beneficiary of that is the port [continuance and efficiencies]" and the regional council would get return on their investment from rail user charges.

With the port needing massive capital injection, Scotland's model for funding, and reducing risk, deserves to be considered.

"There needs to be two stages to the transaction," he says. "There needs to be a sell down of the regional council share in the port. That money goes to the regional council. And there's an issue of new capital by the port. That money stays with the port."

Scotland's model, "for arguments sake," would see the regional council sell 15% of their shares, worth around \$45 million, and the port issue 18% new capital worth around \$54 million. "The new port capital provides the extra equity they need in order to

borrow the additional \$100 million or so."

He wants Napier Port shares (33%) listed on the Stock Exchange and freely tradeable, similar to the Port of Tauranga, where the Bay of Plenty Regional Council owns 54% of the shares, and 46% are in public ownership.

Scotland is not concerned about loss of control. "As long as the regional council has more than 50% of the shares, and no fancy shareholder agreement that diminishes their rights, they have control."

### Good for my the port-folio

At one of his street corner meetings, Stuart Nash was asked, "When are you going free up some shares in the port. It'd be great for my port-folio."

"Of course I laughed," he says, "but taken seriously, yes, maybe he could afford to buy shares, but most people can't. How it is at the moment, is everyone has an equal share in the port, but take it to the market, and an Australian infrastructure investor, or a Canadian teachers pension fund, see the return, and buy up big on the stock exchange."

He cites an offshore case where shareholders sued a company for not maximising profits. "Do we want to be fully in charge of our future, or do we want to sell a chunk of it off to the private sector, and lose some control?"

There's an element of fear-mongering



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**“Imagine if tomorrow night you hear on the news that KiwiRail is closing the Palmerston to Napier railway line. A decision like that, which we can do absolutely nothing about, would really hurt the port.”**

JIM SCOTLAND

in Nash’s message, that sale of shares to the private sector is perilous. “We could be opening a can of worms,” he says.

### **So how to fund?**

Nash suggests Napier City Council could buy into the port. “They’ve got reserves and a strong balance sheet. It would be a long term investment with dividends coming into the community.”

And an idea conveyed to him by “a prominent businessman” is “worth considering”.

It is the creation of a new infrastructure company comprising the port, the airport, and Unison. “All three are performing really well,” says Nash, and by amalgamating, “the risk to any one entity is spread over three”.

“Combined they would have an extremely strong balance sheet and the ability to borrow on good terms. If the port needs money, then it has the airport and Unison assets to use as security, as well as its own.”

And what of Jim Scotland’s suggestion HBRC buy the Napier to Wellington railway line? “Wow, that’s a good idea,” says Stuart Nash.

### **Short term pain**

If keeping the port in community ownership is a “bottom line” for Stuart Nash, his options are limited. Napier City Council might be interested but they haven’t got \$100 million.

The port/Unison/airport mega infrastructure company is, as Nash says himself, “pretty left field”.

And he rejects iwi buying into the port. “Ngāti Kahungunu is just another private entity with a set of key stakeholders that the majority of people don’t have access into,” he says.

Scotland views iwi “in the same way I feel about the apple growers”. Some have indicated an interest in buying into the port. “We have to be careful they don’t come along with a feeling of entitlement. If they want to buy a passive investment, that’s fine.” The passive investment would most likely “be a debenture at 6% for 10 years. It’s not a shareholding.”

Scotland supports the notion that, “Users of the port invest in bonds. They are providing money for the port to expand to fit their needs, and showing their faith ...”

His model for how the port could raise \$150 million is to issue \$50 million new capital (shares), borrow \$50 million from the bank, and a \$50m bond issue.

Stuart Nash is “not against issuing bonds because we maintain ownership.” But without capital input, he accepts that, “if the port borrows for expansion the dividend will go down. There might be some short term pain, because the dividend might not be \$7.9 million, but in 10 years time the dividend could be \$15 million.”

The ‘short term pain’ would be borne by Hawke’s Bay property owners, with increased regional council rates compensating for the dividend loss.

Stuart Nash’s hardline on ownership will cost the rate payer.

### **The process**

If HBRC propose a sale of port shares, they are required under the Local Government Act 2002, to follow the Special Consultative Procedure.

Studies would be commissioned and reports written, and after consideration by Council, a Statement of Proposal would be presented for community feedback, inviting submissions. The hearings would be held in full council. The decision will be made by the regional councillors.

But not if Stuart Nash has his way.

“If the regional council make the decision they want to sell a stake in the port, then let’s have a binding referendum, and let the people of Hawke’s Bay decide.” He suggests a referendum could be tagged to the 2019 local authority elections.

Nash is fuelling the issue. He warns, “If the decision is made to sell a stake in the port, before the next local body election, then we would find candidates to challenge those councillors who voted for the sell off.”

Politicising the port issue is not conducive to sound decision making about its future.

Regional councillors are required by the Local Government Act “to seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision.” (s.77 1a) And they are obliged to receive points of view, “with an open mind” and in making a decision, “give due consideration” to submissions. (s.82)

Statements by councillors can indicate a preference or point of view, but any statement which indicates a closed mind or predetermination, is contrary to the act governing the Special Consultative Procedure.

Stuart Nash has painted his stance on his billboards. Napier Port Not for Sale.

Regional councillors are prohibited from being so one sided. They are required to consider all points of view.

And there are many well-informed voices in the community deserving of a fair hearing in an atmosphere of goodwill and respect.



# ARE YOUR TREES GROWING TOO CLOSE TO POWER LINES?

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Dealmaker Ngahiwi Tomoana



# GREAT HAUL OF CHINA

KEITH NEWMAN

**After a decade of hanging out with heavy-hitter Asian businesses, Hawke's Bay's Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated (NKII), its asset holding company and partners are about to reap benefits that will help lift our region's economy.**

FEBRUARY WAS A BIG MONTH for Ngāti Kahungunu; just ahead of hosting 50,000 people at the Matatini kapa haka competitions, it released 1,000 Chinese lanterns into the harbour to welcome some of the superstars of that economy.

The Taniwha Dragon Economic Summit raised the profile of Māori export capability, helped cement inter-tribal relationships and recast the iwi group as having nailed a culture-based formula for brokering Asian trade deals.

It aimed to hit \$100 million in business deals over two days, but ticked off \$138 million, allegedly opening a floodgate of export opportunity and cementing partnerships to expand the region's production capacity, including a \$20 million contract with Tainui for extra fishing quota.

Buoyed by that success, and anticipating regionwide Treaty of Waitangi settlements reaching over \$370 million within two years, Ngāti Kahungunu is beefing up its business strategy.

Having learned from the billion dollar-plus enterprises of other large iwi, it's now

reclaiming its fishing assets, getting into the kiwifruit business, brokering investment in horticultural, agriculture and processing facilities, and pooling resources to meet growing Asian demand.

After a post-Summit visit to China, Japan and Hong King, NKII says demand is now greater than the region can meet, so it's establishing a 'hot desk' to negotiate with suppliers around the country.

## **Time to step up**

Māori business has mostly remained in the background in Hawke's Bay, but Kahungunu Asset Holding Company (KAHC) director, Taine Randell, says the Summit affirmed "this is the right time" to step up as a major influencer and economic force.

"We've done things on a shoestring, but now we're working on where our strengths are in relationships and food producing. We need more capacity and to ramp up the people doing the mahi (work)...We're ready now, we're expanding our operations to be more capable."

Summit organiser and NKII chairman,



Pōwhiri to welcome delegates at Waipatu Marae

Ngahiwi Tomoana, admits some deals were held off until the event, others were accelerated and new relationships “have been coming out of thin air ever since”.

Through the maturing of its high-trust Asian relationships, he believes, “New Zealand business will never be the same again if we hit a few more gongs at the right tone.”

Randell says Tomoana’s decade of leadership, networking and connections has opened the doors. “I don’t think anyone else could have done it. It’s really difficult to get people like Shanghai Fisheries, Pengxin Group and Lei Garden.”

Various iwi were invited to put deals on the table, engaging in an open book exercise. “Here we are, here’s what we do and what we’d like to do ... If something didn’t work for Kahungunu we recommended our cousins from up the road”.

Tomoana says he’s never seen so much enthusiasm for “Māori to Māori, iwi to iwi” working together to create scale to present propositions to overseas investors.

Under discussion are joint arrangements ranging from farms and forests to fish, hotels, health care and retirement facilities, “a massive” 10-year horticulture partnership on Māori land in Wairoa to boost local capacity.

Negotiations are underway with Ngāti Hineuru “just up the [Napier-Taupō] road”... with Wairoa-based Ngāti Pāhauwera,

## Implicit in the strategy was “tackling high tariffs” that might impede the export-focused Maori economy, including kiwifruit, dairy, sheep and cattle, lamb production, fishing and forestry.

northern iwi Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Kahu, plus a number of smaller Māori investors.

“The products flow once relationships grow; that’s anything Hawke’s Bay can supply whether that’s through our ‘can do’ attitude, their IP or infrastructural and other investments,” says Tomoana.

### Pacific relationships

The February Summit also furthered the idea of a Hawaiiki or Pacific trading brand with island nations working more closely together.

A starting point is an invitation from the Cook Islands for Kahungunu to send a

research and development ship to scope out the potential for new fisheries.

The Australian Government has also inquired about support for “a Taniwha-Platypus economic summit” with Aboriginal groups.

Tomoana and KAHC chairman Rangi Manuel left for Summit follow-up meetings in Asia at the end of March to explore other options for the iwi and Hawke’s Bay suppliers.

The week they left, Tomoana, already on the New Zealand China Council, was invited to join the NZ Trade Advisory Board and Prime Minister Bill English launched Trade Agenda 2030 targeting free trade agreements for 90% of our exports by 2030.

Implicit in the strategy was “tackling high tariffs” that might impede the export-focused Māori economy, including kiwifruit, dairy, sheep and cattle, lamb production, fishing and forestry.

The PM had earlier commended Tomoana and NKII for “showing the way” with their culturally-engaging approach, undertaking to include this as part of its imminent free trade refresh with China and other countries.

Tomoana says the PM and his team work at a high level of “meet, greet and eat” and he and his team provide the same at ground level to ensure comfort and confidence about long-term relationships. “I think we’re at the stage now where we can wine, dine and sign.”



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Taine Randell with Summit delegates at Craggy Range

As Trade Minister Todd McClay said at Taniwha Dragon, the New Zealand-China FTA is one of the country's most successful; the two-way target between 2008 and 2015 was \$10 billion and "we did \$20 billion...our target for 2030 is \$30 billion".

Sir Don McKinnon, an original broker of New Zealand-China economic relationships, cited the need to take risks, build on similarities and get beyond transactional relationships to support China's 'one belt, one road' strategy.

He said there were sustainable benefits from the \$42 billion Māori economy and with wise use of settlement money, further investments could be made in agriculture, food production and developing skills.

One valued partner expanding its Hawke's

**Randell says Tomoana's decade of leadership, networking and connections has opened the doors. "I don't think anyone else could have done it. It's really difficult to get people like Shanghai Fisheries, Pengxin Group and Lei Garden."**

Bay connection is Lei Garden, with its high-end restaurant chain throughout Asia, and a long-term vision of strategic cooperation with New Zealand.

As part of its Farmorrow (farm of tomorrow) trials, it is prioritising taste and ways to raise food safety standards, including overcoming the challenges of GM, poor handling, additives and sub-standard practices.

Lei Garden, through a minimum \$25 million investment, has asked Kahungunu to establish a farm, abattoir and processing plant so it can add value to pork, deer and beef meat for the 'heat and eat' market in Hong Kong and elsewhere. It'll bring in scientists and food experts, but train and use local workers.

"They want to procure wine, fruit, organics, vegetables and everything we and others can supply. They are wanting Hawke's Bay to become part of their niche branding," says Tomoana.

Rod McKenzie, Lei Garden New Zealand general manager, says New Zealand has the ideal combination of the right regulatory environment, natural resources and a willingness to help achieve its goals of global food safety.

The connection with Ngāti Kahungunu, the only iwi the company is dealing with, has strengthened since the early trade missions and through the second visit to Hawke's Bay of founder and chairman Chan Shu Kit.

McKenzie says Kahungunu "have taken time to understand our requirements and been working with us on possible solutions ... Lei Garden is still considering many different approaches to New Zealand and assessing the regulatory environment for what we plan to do here."

Taine Randell says Lei Garden "need to go beyond buy and sell, 'kill a sheep and put it in



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a sack' or dealing with the next trader that comes along."

That could include produce from the Kahungunu-owned 3,680 hectare Tautane Station in Herbertville and other big farms and farming trusts, including those in Wairoa, to provide scale.

Some owners will need to move beyond the farm gate with capital and connections so they're more involved in processing and selling, says Randell.

### Opening up China

Ngahiwi Tomoana has been a regular on Chinese trade delegations, often with former PM John Key, and Māori Affairs Minister Pita Sharples and a Māori cultural party.

"We, as Māori, told them we came from here about 5,000 years ago, now we're coming back to reintroduce ourselves...do you want a relationship?"

Tomoana says it's taken a few trips of extending the hand of invitation but now "they're asking Ngāti Kahungunu to be their agents in talking to different sectors."

Randell recalls the moment they hit the sweet spot. "Ngahiwi and Pita had been to Shandong Province often ... this time the governor kicked it off and his people sang *Tutira Mai Nga Iwi* to us ... our kapa haka group responded with one of their songs."

It was clear the two cultures were confident each was in it for the long haul. "We want security of market and they want security of supply and scale."

Part of the challenge at home has been dispelling the myth that Chinese investment means majority shares in businesses, owning the land and employing their own people.

Tomoana says, Taniwha Dragon allayed a lot of anxieties about our xenophobia. "The Chinese have been viewed as pariahs in the investment world in New Zealand. These

heavy hitters now see there's a sector that is encouraging them to do deals."

An understanding was reached about cultural values. "We don't sell land, we don't sell water or fish but they can lease land for 50-100 years and own plant or infrastructure, so its generational."

Tomoana says some deals with the Chinese that involve majority ownership, selling land and the use of Chinese labour are selling New Zealand short. What's needed is better coordination, communication and strategies to avoid wasting energy and effort.

He's witnessed our top city councils and tourism groups tripping over each other in the foyer of an airline company as they tried to do deals on the same day; fishing companies undercutting each other in the waiting room and arguments resulting in cancellation of deals already done.

"This is New Zealand cannibalising itself. I know we like our independence but we need to work more collectively," says Tomoana.

Kahungunu is in the top five iwi building relationships in Asia. "We always trade information before we head out just in case there are opportunities for others."

### Deeper into fishing

Essentially Ngāti Kahungunu, through its asset holding company, is in the fishing business. It started out in 2007 with \$27 million in fishing assets and grew that to \$120 million, paying the iwi an annual dividend.

Randell says they've taken their time, learning from others including South Island iwi Ngāi Tahu, Waikato's Tainui and Auckland's Ngāti Whātua, who are now first port of call when local authorities want to talk about investment.

Employment for locals is a priority of

NKII, along with expanding its executive team; consultants are currently maximising its assets so everything's water tight for what's ahead.

To that end, Kahungunu has purchased the 34 metre, Danish deep-water trawler *Kewa* (guardian of whales; formerly the *Glomfjord*) now being fitted out in Nelson ahead of the May-June hoki season.

That \$3.5 million investment will put Kahungunu back in charge of its own assets, creating about 30 jobs. "It's a big step for us coming outside of the Sealord-type shadow, so we really have to make this work," says Randell.

"We've been very passive, leasing our quota off to the highest bidder and now we're taking much greater control over our destiny."

Bigger companies like "the Talleys, Sandfords and Sealords have taken advantage of the lack of knowledge and played iwi off for the worse."

The new "head, gut and freeze" vessel is capable of the same tonnage as all of Hawke's Bay Seafood's 18 inshore boats and could max out Kahungunu's quota.

The \$20 million deal with Tainui expands its access to crayfish, deep water and inshore fish from 2018. Significant quota support from other iwi will be needed to meet the burgeoning Asian demand as Kahungunu takes the next ambitious step.

Within a year Shanghai Fisheries has agreed to supply a second similarly-sized vessel for Kahungunu to manage and run.

The offer of a much larger vessel was declined. "That's where you start squashing fish in the nets and spoiling them. We want to raise the quality of what's taken from our waters," says Tomoana.

Anyone with Kahungunu quota must use new design mesh nets because they allow "50% more juveniles to escape".

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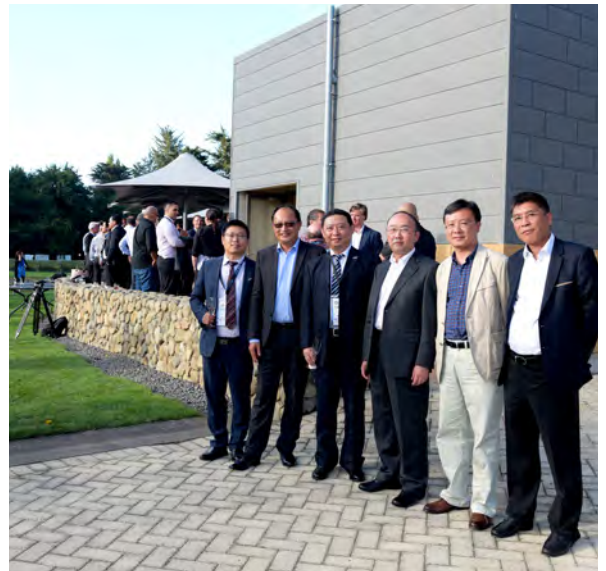
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Clockwise from top left:  
Ngahiwi Tomoana addresses  
the Summit; Meng Foon  
delegates; Lei Gardens group

Companies in China and Japan have now confirmed contracts for as much fish as the iwi and its partners can supply.

Shanghai Fisheries will increase its take, and new partner Hanson Group of Guangzho wants 10 containers a year – potentially valued at \$10-\$20 million – for its restaurants in Shanghai and the west, says Tomoana.

Hanson is also interested in Kahungunu mussel farms. “If we can’t hook them up for that they might like to invest in other Māori enterprises in mussel and salmon farming.”

Tomoana and Rangi Manuel also met with 20-year Japanese partner Nissui, who just agreed on an additional 500 tonne of new hoki.

The latest Japanese customer, Koiyo, heard about the Summit through social media, inquiring about “a huge quantum of fish, fruit and meat”. They’ve just confirmed 500 tonne of hoki a year “and that’s just the start,” says Tomoana.

### Iwi and kiwifruit

One of the deals announced at the Summit will see Kahungunu getting into the kiwifruit business. Tauranga kiwifruit kings, Ngāi Tukairangi Trust, purchased five Fernhill kiwifruit orchards (66 hectares) for \$40.2 million, the largest sale of its kind, with a supplementary \$12 million securing a connection with Kahungunu.

## The latest Japanese customer, Koiyo, heard about the Summit through social media, inquiring about “a huge quantum of fish, fruit and meat”. They’ve just confirmed 500 tonne of hoki a year.

The iwi will find the land for additional Sungold kiwifruit orchards, packhouses and infrastructure “so we can work together,” says Randell.

Ngāi Tukaurangi, the largest Māori shareholder in kiwifruit marketer Zespri, which has China as its largest market, will mentor Kahungunu to gain a footprint in the industry with potential for 300 jobs.

Following the serious blow from the PSA virus a few years ago, the kiwifruit industry is on a major recovery path, with Zespri expecting sales to rise from \$1.9 billion last year to around \$2.3 billion in 2016-17.

Rather than agree on a single corporate management structure, the six local Treaty

of Waitangi claimants had decided to go their own way, but Ngahiwi Tomoana believes the tide is turning.

“From being dependent, everyone wants to be independent, but when reality sets in you realise you need to be co-dependent or inter-dependent and that’s the phase we’re entering into now.”

One of the opportunities “right in our face” is the Napier Port. “If we could pool our resources to get a slice of that, it would be a huge step forward for Māori and Hawke’s Bay. We’re looking at that very seriously.”

The cooperative approach could result in this “most strategic regional asset” providing Ngāti Kahungunu and its constituent hapū (family groups), investors and partners greater “traction to return benefit to our people” through the whole value chain.

Meanwhile, the tried and proven formula of developing trusted relationships in Asia through Māori cultural elements, alongside New Zealand’s famous “we can do anything approach” is proving a winner, promising significant value not only to Māori and iwi but suppliers across the Bay and beyond.

Rather than feeling like a poor cousin in the Hawke’s Bay business community, the Taniwha Dragon Economic Summit was a game changer, providing evidence that Māori can not only contribute but take the lead.

# How to MAXIMISE YOUR CHANCES OF SECURING FUNDING TO BUY PROPERTY



102-166 Taradale Road (Marketed by Bayleys Hawke's Bay)

Growing credit constraints by the banks are a concern within Hawke's Bay's commercial property sector, but industry experts say developers and purchasers can maximise their chances of securing funding by taking greater steps to minimise risk.

Bayleys Hawke's Bay Commercial Manager, Daniel Moffitt, says that while much of the focus on tightened lending requirements has been on apartment developments in Auckland, commercial property investors in regional New Zealand have felt the impacts too. "The major banks are responding with caution to current market conditions, preferring to adopt a stricter approach now rather than continue to supply an already buoyant market with cheap finance and risk undermining financial stability in the wider economy," Mr Moffitt says.

"There is much more emphasis on minimising risk, and the thresholds that need to be met to obtain funding are higher. In a market where lenders are being more selective about the Hawke's Bay projects they finance, it is essential for borrowers in the province to demonstrate to lenders that they are mindful of the banks' changing appetite to risk."

Anecdotal evidence among many developers and investors in Hawke's Bay suggests "new to bank" lending is tight, with banks prioritising lending to existing clients and existing projects over new clients. Maintaining a sound relationship with the banks is therefore important in the current environment. "That isn't to say that it's impossible to obtain funding if you don't have a strong relationship with the bank or that you are guaranteed funding if you do," Mr Moffitt said. "However, being an existing client with a demonstrable history of lending, repayments and asset acquisitions makes it easier to show that you are a trustworthy, prudent borrower with a proven track record." Mr Moffitt says lending institutions now want customers to commit

greater levels of equity to projects. "Essentially, the lenders want more skin in the game from borrowers. While Equity levels of around the 40 percent mark used to be acceptable, now the sweet spot is currently somewhere between 50 percent and 55 percent. While many borrowers are likely to fulfil their equity requirements through the likes of shareholder loans, they need to be mindful to ensure that such arrangements rank behind the bank's security."

"For commercial property developers in the Bay, the main area of concern now is the uncertainty of construction costs and securing a tenant on completion of the building. Key agreements that support a project need to be in place before approaching the banks for finance. With leases, banks will want to verify that the commercial terms are not onerous, and that they are satisfied with the covenant strength of the tenant and any guarantee or other security arrangements."

**"ESSENTIALLY, THE LENDERS WANT MORE SKIN IN THE GAME FROM BORROWERS."**



308 Kennedy Road (Marketed by Bayleys Hawke's Bay)

Mr Moffitt said that a major difficulty for Hawke's Bay developers was that development costs were not usually locked down until they have achieved a pre-determined leasing commitment and ensuing bank funding has been obtained. "An option could be for developers to consider getting a contractor on board earlier in the process so that the development costs in the feasibility study are more accurate," Mr Moffitt said. Meanwhile, for Hawke's Bay investors looking to acquire existing commercial and industrial properties in the region, the main issue now was cash flow serviceability. "The banks may have previously made assumptions based on the rental yield generated from the property, but they now appear to be carrying out much more detailed investigations into loan applications," Mr Moffitt said.

"Presenting the bank with a detailed, long-term maintenance schedule prepared by a building surveyor or similar expert is a great way to demonstrate how the customer intends to manage the risks associated with the investment. Similarly, banks are increasingly focused on property reports confirming that the building subject to purchase achieves an acceptable seismic rating of at least 67 percent of new building standards."

Mr Moffitt said vendors should also be cognoscente of the difficulties potential purchasers may face in raising finance in the current market.

"Before putting a commercial property on the market for sale, it would be advisable for vendors to carry out their own high-level due diligence on their asset and address any major issues which may be identified in the subsequent reporting," he said. "The current tightening of credit conditions could well roll over into next year, so taking steps that show the banks a project is as de-risked as much as possible should remain at the forefront of property developers' and investors' minds."



Photo: Lee Hansen

# Don't Dam(n) the Environment

DAN ELDERKAMP

AS WE APPROACH THE ULTIMATE END of the long drawn-out Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme (RWSS) process, it is imperative that we review the environmental aspects of the dam and what is at stake.

Although a resident of Central Hawke's Bay, I'm also aware that it's not just this district that will be affected, environmentally speaking. The Tukituki also courses through Hastings District, flowing into the Pacific between Clive and Haumoana. So whatever happens in the upper reaches of the Mākāroro, Waipawa and Tukituki Rivers will affect everyone living and recreating along the banks of its entire length, as well as the inshore coastal environment of Hawke's Bay both to the north and south of the river mouth.

**Firstly**, as a long-time member of Forest & Bird, my main concern is the 22 hectare parcel of Ruahine Conservation Park land situated within the dam footprint. This is the land proposed to be 'swapped' for 170 hectares of Smedley Station as 'compensation' for its inundation and destruction. Without this parcel of land becoming available, the dam will not be built in its current location, hence the legal battle between DOC, HBRIC and Forest & Bird.

On the face of it, it sounds like a good deal, but the devil is in the detail. The detail reveals that there is significantly more native bush and fauna habitat within the dam footprint than just the 22 hectares of DOC land. According to HBRIC's own environmental consultants, Kessels Associates: "A total of 185.18 ha of ecologically significant indigenous vegetation and habitats would be flooded by the proposed reservoir, or covered over by associated infrastructure including the dam structure, new access tracks and soil disposal sites."

This fact shows the so-called land 'swap' in a totally different light. In reality what will occur is that every bit of bush within the 450 hectare dam footprint will be destroyed. Adding the Smedley land to the DOC estate will never compensate for this loss.

Additionally, as Forest & Bird asserts, if the land 'swap' is allowed to proceed, it will set a legal precedent for the rest of New Zealand's conservation estate, allowing economic interests to routinely override environmental interests and values. No effective protection from commercial exploitation will remain.

**This is ample proof that for some in NZ, the environment is nothing more than a 'resource' to be exploited for commercial gain. The commercial threat to our environment is in fact much larger than previously thought.**

This is evidenced in the 'Bay Biz' column in *Hawke's Bay Today* (14 Feb 2017) by Chamber of Commerce CEO Wayne Walford, who asserts that the current legal action by Forest & Bird against DOC is "holding up 30 DOC land swaps across New Zealand". To me this was a startling revelation, as I was personally unaware that there were more than two or three, but considering that Mr Walford is a National Party insider, I have no reason to doubt his claim.

This is ample proof that for some in NZ, the environment is nothing more than a 'resource' to be exploited for commercial gain. The commercial threat to our environment is in fact much larger than previously thought. Given that over 85% of New Zealand's native forests have already been destroyed by human activity, this is unconscionable, and no longer acceptable in contemporary society.

**Secondly**, the fauna and flora within the dam footprint are uniquely adapted to their environment. The native fish that inhabit the seven kilometres of the Mākāroro River and its main tributaries along this stretch, Dutch Creek included, will either not survive the inundation, or will be forced upstream in the Mākāroro and tributaries where they will compete with already resident aquatic life for an ever-diminishing food source.

Although it is unlikely, according to Kessels, that there will be localised extinction of native species, there will be a significant reduction in numbers as a result of habitat loss. And considering that 74% of native fish species are already endangered or threatened with extinction, according to

freshwater ecologist and Massey University lecturer Dr Mike Joy (see *Polluted Inheritance*), the building of the dam will make a serious dent in the remaining native fish populations in the upper Mākāroro.

This threat has increased from only 20% endangered or threatened as recently as the early 1990s. Dr Joy writes: "Tellingly, New Zealand now has the highest proportion of threatened and at-risk species in the world. Around one-third (2,788) of all native plants and animals are listed as threatened or 'at risk of extinction', and a further one-third as 'data-deficient'". He notes that the latter tend to be the ones that are rare or can't be found, so the endangered number could be much higher.

**Thirdly**, the pro-dam lobby has attempted to justify the destruction of the habitat within the dam footprint by claiming that the area has been extensively logged and modified, and therefore building the dam will: a) have an insignificant effect on the local environment, and b) will actually improve and enhance the environment, particularly downstream of the dam, through flushing flows and increased minimum flows.

This argument is countered by the fact that within the dam footprint no plants or trees will survive the inundation. Kessels' survey of the area identified pockets of native bush that escaped the loggers, and contain native trees in excess of 300 years old. No amount of mitigatory planting or restoration of other existing pockets of bush will compensate for this for a long, long time ... if ever.

My own experience of dams, encountered during two tramping trips into the Mangahao catchment behind Shannon in 2016, is that large dams and reservoirs are virtual ecological deserts below the waterline. And, like the fluctuating water levels in the Mangahao reservoirs, the Ruataniwha dam water level will rise and fall by up to 25 metres every year, possibly more, depending on irrigation demand. The illusion of a tranquil 'Lake Mākāroro' as a recreational paradise is just that – an illusion. The area between the high and low storage level will be largely lifeless desert, and an ugly visual blot on the landscape.

Regarding flushing flows, scientific evidence indicates that these are effective only and largely within the first five to ten kilometres from source. The modest releases proposed for this dam would not have nearly the same power or endurance of natural flushes brought about by sustained periods of rainfall. Moreover, the flushing flows will only benefit the Mākāroro River downstream from the dam wall, and the section of the Waipawa River downstream from the confluence with the Mākāroro River.

The Waipawa and Tukituki rivers above the confluences, as well as the Mangaonuku, Tukipo, Makāretu, Maharakeke, Mangamahaki, Papanui and numerous other tributary streams

and rivers will not benefit at all from these so-called beneficial flushing flows.

**Fourthly**, allowing the dam to be built will have a significant negative impact on the remaining biodiversity in not only the Mākāroro catchment, but in Hawke's Bay as a whole.

According to Dr Marie Brown et al in their book, *Vanishing Nature*, New Zealand's biodiversity is under serious threat from not only introduced weeds, pests and predators, but also from commercial development projects, including irrigation dams. They further state "Biodiversity loss, like climate change, is a symptom of unsustainable production and consumption systems", of which the Ruataniwha Dam is a prime example.

Considering that the Hawke's Bay Regional Council is a major promoter and supporter of the Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy launched in 2016, it is supremely hypocritical to preach biodiversity and yet be a party to major habitat destruction through its wholly-owned subsidiary, HBRIC.

Additionally, the dam will contribute to global warming through, firstly, the deforestation that will occur within the dam footprint during the construction process, and secondly, the release of methane gas following the filling of the dam by the vast quantities of decomposing vegetable matter below water level.

The economic case for the dam is premised

upon substantial farming intensification. Proponents claim that the Plan Change 6 (PC6) requirements for CHB farmers to complete Farm Environmental Management Plans (FEMPs) will sufficiently rein in added nutrients from intensified farming to prevent further deterioration of the water quality in our rivers, streams and aquifers. This claim is disingenuous at best and a blatant untruth at worst.

According to PC6, an in-stream dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) level of 0.8mg/L must be achieved for the catchment by 31 Dec 2030. Given the overall DIN limit, there is very little headroom for intensification and greater fertiliser use, given that many of the sub-catchments within the dam irrigation area are already over the 0.8mg limit. For example, I farm in the Maharakeke/ Porangahau sub-catchments, where the DIN is already 1.2mg/L – already 50% over! It's obvious that to achieve 0.8mg/L would require a reduction in nitrogen use, rather than intensification.

However, when PC6 nitrogen leaching limits are applied to individual farmers, there is considerable scope for intensified farming, particularly for farmers who have signed up for RWSS water. On my farm, the leaching limit is 22kg N per hectare, but my calculated leaching rate is currently 11kg/hectare. This would give me scope to double my fertiliser use, and still be within limits.

In HBRIC's view farmers who have signed up to the scheme are not subject to the overall DIN limit, and can therefore happily intensify their farming practices as long as they stay within their individual leaching limits, whatever the overall impact on the catchment. I can only conclude that HBRIC and farmer sign-ups to the dam have no intention whatsoever of meeting the DIN limit. Unless the dam is stopped, or the limits are reviewed by some legal means, our environment will continue to deteriorate from further pollution if the dam is built.

In conclusion, Shaun Barnett, former editor of the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand's *FMC Bulletin*, states in their August 2008 edition, referring to the then issue of the Mokihinui hydro dam: "But if we say yes to destroying a whitewater river like the Mokihinui, if we let ourselves become seduced by bribes, what are we inviting? More dams, more wild rivers lost, more acquiescence to the lie that we can continue unabated growth with economic growth and resource consumption ... We can't continue to make bloated demands that are beyond the Earth's capacity to meet. It is time for restraint ... and for saying no."

This quote is just as relevant to the RWSS, and I pray that our Regional Council has the vision and the guts to stand up for the environment, and say "No" to the Ruataniwha dam.



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# End of Life Choice

DR LIBBY SMALES



Photo: Florence Charvin

THE LONG JOURNEY towards compassionate law change in NZ to enable end of life choice and aid in dying has included many good things.

The huge interest; the really good conversations; the multiple polls confirming that this is what most of us want; clear, competent, reassuring research; powerful legal arguments to define how such change may safely be defined; and finally, in response to a petition presented by Maryan Street, a Health Select Committee enquiry.

What most of us – 66%-82% in various polls – are seeking is legislation to allow people living in NZ, experiencing unbearable suffering as they are dying, to be able to choose to access help to end their lives.

Ethan Rimmel, when he was dying of cancer, pointed out it is “not a choice between living and dying, but between different ways of dying.”

Dr Jack Havill sensibly points out that no more people will die, but fewer will suffer.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, now 85 and living with prostate cancer, says: “Dying people should have the right to choose how

and when they leave Mother Earth. I believe that alongside the wonderful palliative care that exists, their choices should include a dignified assisted death. When my time comes, I want the option of an assisted death.”

The actual numbers for whom this is necessary are very small. Reports from Oregon and Washington in the US quote, respectively, 0.39% or 3.9/1000 deaths and 0.32% or 3.2/1000 deaths. Representing about half the people who accessed the legislation, many didn’t need to use it, but describe knowing that they could as priceless.

The Select Committee has received an unprecedented number of submissions, about 22,000. Simon O’Connor, who chairs the committee, has remarked how humbling this experience has been and has distinguished between the ‘personal’ submissions and the generic ones on forms printed out by ‘anti’ organisations. The committee is still working through hearings, but still hopes to report on time in May.

I have read many of the submissions and listened to many people, arguing for and against. It is striking that the ‘anti’ lobby

often talk about fears, ethics, sanctity of life and beliefs in a detached and theoretical way, which makes me wonder how many have ever been exposed to the gritty reality of a truly difficult death.

This is in sharp contrast to the thousands of heart-breaking, gut wrenching experiential stories told by those who have been there with someone they love, and absolutely understand unbearable suffering. Many are still struggling, living within the long shadow such deaths cast over many lives.

In New Zealand, 66%-82% of us want law change, in the latest poll only 12% were firmly against. As one of my elderly patients commented, “Those politicians must be very scared of that 12%!” Interesting comment as it is well understood that fear is often what stops us from doing what we should.

A recent poll in the UK showed that 82% of those polled wanted law change; 44% said they would risk prison and break the law to help a dying person suffering unbearably. And 53% of those polled would think more positively about an MP who supported assisted dying, compared to 10% who would not.

## The reality

We know that while good hospice/palliative care (H/PC) is often adequate, it is not always enough. According to Australian figures, 10%-15% of H/PC patients suffer unbearably while they are dying, about 25% of hospice patients ask for help to end their lives; about 10% need terminal sedation.

H/PC is often good at controlling pain, but that is no longer our greatest fear; which may be an acknowledgement of the competency of H/PC with pain relief, but its inability to deal with suffering. Fears of loss of autonomy, loss of dignity (for example, becoming incontinent or demented), being unable to 'live', and fear of unbearable suffering, worry us more.

Dr Rodney Syme (writing in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, May 2015) describes how Associate Professor Alex Broome spent six months embedded in a Catholic hospice, interviewing doctors, nurses and patients. "He found an atmosphere of tension, with death in the air, a place of unbounded and hopeless bodies. Patients had a sense of impotence; they were subdued within the hospice's ideological frame, with a sense of entrapment. He found among the patients virtually unanimous support for assisted dying, but the hospice was totally opposed."

According to Cardinal Pell, almost 60% of H/PC in Australia is provided by the Catholic Church.

I was, for decades, a hospice doctor. I know well what a profound difference good H/PC can and does make. However, H/PC services in NZ are historically and currently underfunded and under strain. We have an ageing population and increasing numbers of possible medical interventions which may prolong life, but not improve the quality of that life.

There is a national and international shortage of well-trained staff; there are many unfilled vacancies. Quality of care and ease of

access to that care remain variable.

Hospice NZ and some hospice doctors and nurses have taken a vehement 'anti' stance in NZ; however, here as in other countries, many are neutral or pro law change. It is useful to notice that in Belgium aid in dying and H/PC are firmly integrated and work well this way, with no evidence of the incompatibility or ethical conflict that has been suggested.

In Oregon, H/PC have now abandoned their 'anti' attitude and are working towards integration. Compassion and Choice and Dr Linda Ganzini have published extensively about their years of experience, and have repeatedly emphasised that in Oregon as in other jurisdictions where aid in dying is legal, mandatory referral to hospice is part of the process and has resulted in improved funding and better standards of care. When I was discussing these issues with final year medical students in Christchurch last year, they were quite comfortable with the idea of integration, seeing it as safer and easier for patients, their families, medical and nursing staff.

I still have some sympathy with the H/PC position. Once upon a time, I too believed H/PC could fix things so everyone 'died nicely'. That was a long time ago and that belief now looks like arrogance or ignorance; the reality is manifestly different.

I believe that H/PC and those of us who see end of life choice as a good and essential thing have more in common to unite us than we have differences to separate us. We are all human, we all have to face death sometime; we all want that to be peaceful and free from suffering. None of us want to endure or watch an agonising death.

Atul Gawande (*Being Human*) says, "It is heartless not to offer people in unbearable suffering, the opportunity to end their lives."

I applaud the courage and honesty of the New Zealand Nurses Organisation, which has recently revised its position statement:

"As patient advocates, NZNO can no longer take a neutral stance in relation to Assisted Dying (AD). NZNO has chosen to take a principled approach to AD, and to advocate for individuals to have the option or choice of AD. Accordingly our concern is focussed on the impact of legislative changes that may affect the day to day practice of nurses who work with dying people."

Professor Sam Ahmedzai, who spent time in Oregon to see for himself how their legislation works, has long advocated for medics to shift from anti to neutral, acknowledging the obligation to deal with the expressed needs of patients, their families and all those who care for them.

A study of GPs in Waikato discovered that 45% are in favour of law change. Studies have also confirmed that in New Zealand compassionate doctors and nurses are already involved in hastening death for those suffering unbearably. Risky for all involved.

Most of us would like to die peacefully at home; most of us don't. Research from the US has found that about 40% die in hospital and 60% of these hospitalisations include an ICU admission. The authors comment that ICU care at the end of life appears unwanted and futile.

In other words, there as here, the health system is failing to deliver what people need as they approach inevitable and imminent death.

This issue potentially affects each and every one of us.

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.



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## FROM ONE BAY TO ANOTHER ...

*Cahn Nuttall has recently moved to Hawkes Bay from the Bay of Plenty – bringing with him, his young family, two beloved dogs, and his business Trust Estate Services.*

I established *Trust Estate Services* to take the hassle out of organising the right person to do the right job. I saw a major gap for personal, efficient customer service and care for everyday people when renovating their home. We're no tick box business – every job is individually designed to suit.

With 10 years of experience in project management and property maintenance, primarily high-end house painting and decorating, *Trust Estate Services* launched offering a range of home maintenance services. With my team of resourceful, reliable and trusted tradesmen and women, we are able to install, repair, clean and fix almost anything.

I then found a market for deceased estate management – assisting those facing the daunting task of arranging a home and all that it encompasses of a departed loved one. *Trust Estate Services* is able to manage an entire estate; from arranging security of the property, to organising, packing, storing or shipping belongings, cleaning and maintenance, and even liaising with real estate and legal representatives.

But my true passion lies in Home Restorations. New Zealand is full of beautiful historic architecture. One of my many reasons for moving to the Hawkes Bay – I love the history, especially the historic architecture (that and the food – oh the food!). Everywhere you look you see roads of picturesque family homes, unique in their style and proud in their up-keep.

Though charming, many older homes are aged - having been redecorated to suit family after family, trend after trend, but those classic bones still remain. With years of experience in redecorating homes, I will reinstate the handcrafted love that once shone in your home.

I specialise in paint stripping. Most people, when redecorating, simply paint over the layers and layers of old cracked worn paint – leaving a less than desirable finish. With our expert dustless paint removal system, we can restore that beautiful bare timber, trouble-free. Whether exterior weatherboards and windows or interior doors and trims, we can prepare it to a quality standard for your choice of finish to look 100%.

Being well practiced and offering a range of high end specialist paint products our fine gloss spray finishes will complete the decoration. We can also refurbish that stately wooden floor and finish with our range of stains, paints, varnishes or Italian hard wax. We pride ourselves on excellent finishes. I have an eye for detail that's second to none.

Furniture and hardware restoration is a service we also offer. It is always comforting to have a piece of well-loved furniture – handed down from generation to generation – in your home. We can restore most furniture, or upcycle it into something modern and unique. The right piece of furniture can set a room off.

Restoring original hardware, such as handles and tap ware, in your home is that special recognition of the past – a mark of history. No matter the fixture, we'll have a way to make it shine again. I also greatly enjoy sourcing vintage furniture and hardware, so if there is a piece missing in your home, give me a call! Trawling the plentiful treasure shops here in Hawkes Bay is one of my favourite past times.

You'll never find me in the office – partly because I hate sitting still - but mostly because I'm very hands on. I develop long standing relationships with our clients because I'm honest and friendly – and I just want to help. If you have any project around the home on your to-do list, let's talk.

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# A Place to Call Home

MICHAL MCKAY

AN ALMOST DAILY BARRAGE of housing headlines – swinging between crisis and boom – have made real estate the top topic of conversation round any table. So how is this issue affecting the Bay? We asked four property experts for their views.

Their answers may surprise in some cases, confirm in others. But the overall agreement is – Hawke's Bay is buoyant as buyers realise this is the place to find their own slice of heaven.



From top left: architecturally designed homes sell quickly to those who understand their meaning (Peter Holland design); top right: Napier is one of the hotspots - two examples - done up and do up; bottom right: Havelock Hills is hugely popular - Black Barn Road has the ultimate in views; bottom left: the perfect house for those seeking a project - close to The Village.

OF THE VAST AND BEAUTIFUL PANORAMA that is New Zealand, Hawke's Bay has arguably the cream of the crop when it comes to property. From traditional country homesteads to modern luxury apartments, all set in a superb scenic landscape offering anything from lakes, rivers, beaches, rural or urban living – this is the lifestyle of dreams. And, most importantly, without big city build-up.

Over the past eighteen months, however, a definite buyer demographic along with specific trends have emerged, significantly impacting our housing market.

“Aucklanders are flocking,” says Christine Thomas of Harcourts. “Cashed-up retirees and the disaffected who can't afford to live there. Investors are moving and bringing their businesses or aspirations of new start-ups with them. Havelock North is popular and there has been an increase in enquiries from the US, particularly since Trump took office.”

Sotheby's Fraser Holland has a similar view. “Baby boomers are getting out of the larger NZ cities or returning from overseas, and Gen X families are looking for a better balance and quality of life. They get more property for their money and more in scale. Over 50% of our buyers are from out of the region, not only from Auckland but also international buyers. We've seen a significant increase in people wanting a safer, more politically-settled lifestyle from America and the UK and Europe.”

He also notes that couples with young families from Auckland are certainly on the increase. “When they are tired of the struggle with traffic and commuting, they sell up then realise that to buy in the same market is going to be unaffordable. So they look out of Auckland, find a four-bedroom home in Havelock North on a much larger section; reduce their mortgage, if not get rid of it, and absolutely love Hawke's Bay.”

Jill Baddeley from Tremains comments that she has a lot of clients moving back to

their home town to bring up young families or parents moving to join their children and their families. Retirees too, particularly to Havelock North and Hastings for the slower pace and great weather. “Buyers from overseas want a new way of life and a bit of land to call their own. They don't mind being 15 minutes out because they are used to commuting. Also professionals are moving for jobs as well as the lifestyle.”

She also says that the 22-35 year age group wanting to purchase a first home has become a much stronger demographic in the past two years. “The fact they have saved enough and can access their Kiwi Saver account helps with the deposit.”

All say the subject of schools and their proximity is high on the want list.

### Locations

Fraser observes, “Havelock North with its wide range of good schools plays a vital role attracting families from Auckland where zoning can be very restrictive for education

## FINGERS ON THE PULSE



“I am finding people are buying the coastal properties quickly despite the coastal hazard zones. But it appears that the outdoor beach lifestyle is pulling out-of-towners to the Bay. And our locals are also buying in Te Awanga and Haumoana for both holiday homes and permanent residences.”

JILL BADDELEY, TREMANS



“Baby boomers are getting out of the larger NZ cities or returning from overseas, and Gen X families are looking for a better balance and quality of life. They get more property for their money and more in scale. Over 50% of our buyers are from out of the region, not only from Auckland but also international buyers.”

FRASER HOLLAND, SOTHEBY'S



“Aucklanders are flocking. Cashed-up retirees and the disaffected who can't afford to live there. Investors are moving and bringing their businesses or aspirations of new start-ups with them. Havelock North is popular and there has been an increase in enquiries from the US, particularly since Trump took office.”

CHRISTINE THOMAS, HARCOURTS

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From top left: land, largesse and in prime Tuki Tuki Valley; a prime and rare piece of land available in central Havelock North; a typical and much sought-after lifestyle block; luxury and land that's actually affordable.

needs and wants. In fact, Havelock North is certainly the most talked up suburb of choice which I think is due to a combination of factors – the country surround, Tuki Valley has branded itself well over the years; it is a higher socio-economic compared to other suburbs and not only the great range of schools but also the Village Hub is immensely attractive. And there are a larger number of more modern, bigger homes. On the Napier side, Ahuriri and Westshore are the hot spots. And coastal properties with views have increased in value at a faster rate recently.”

Christine has noticed that out-of-town buyers who are used to long commutes to work are not put off by properties a little further out. “The Kahuranaki area is one of the region’s best kept secrets with many properties enjoying glorious views over the Tukituki River and back to Te Mata Peak, Mt Kahuranaki and Mt Erin. It’s within 15 to 20 minutes drive to Havelock North and an easy drive to Waimarama and Ocean beaches. And the hills behind Havelock

North have never been so popular. Lifestyle properties in areas such as Whakapirau Rd and the hills above State Highway 50 – the west of the province – still offer great value for money. Many have fabulous views, great architectural features and often a stylish swimming pool. All within twenty minutes of Hastings and Taradale.”

As Jill comments, “you can get a long way in 15 minutes on the open road. It is the distance that should be considered, not the time. I am finding people are buying the coastal properties quickly despite the coastal hazard zones. But it appears that the outdoor beach lifestyle is pulling out-of-towners to the Bay. And our locals are also buying in Te Awanga and Haumoana for both holiday homes and permanent residences.”

#### Needs vs wants

Facades aside, all endorse that internally great indoor-outdoor flow is top priority. As are fabulous views, a north facing aspect

and a generous kitchen with scullery – open plan preferably – is seen as the social hub of the home. In real estate the saying goes, “kitchens sell houses” but it has to be a good one, or the possibilities of a do-up recognised as easily achievable. Bathrooms too are on most clients’ hit lists – usually two; with the word “bath” being the operative word. As these two rooms are the most expensive to modernize, most buyers go for a home with these already done. The general view is that some may want to renovate and make it their own so long as the location is good, there is enough land and schools are near.

Interestingly, Jill has noticed that it is not the needs so much as the wants that have changed significantly in the past eighteen months. “We as a society now want more. When I was growing up a family of five was content with one bathroom and a separate toilet, but today that family would require two bathrooms and two toilets, if not three. Plus two living areas and a study along with a



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Top: a perfect example of a new build with the optimum in open plan living and pale natural wood usage; bottom right: a Simon Clarkson design which ticks all the boxes - indoor/outdoor flow, great views and north facing; bottom left: a high stud gabled roof and open plan interior with timber finish so popular in newly built homes.

bedroom for each child. But of course as we get older our needs are less, so it depends on what stage buyers are at that determines the want list.

And there is no particular swing for an interior designer home as opposed to those who want to do up themselves. If colours and carpet are pleasing they can influence." Architectural homes appeal to those who not only appreciate design and form, but also the architect – "John Scott and Peter Holland homes sell very quickly to those who understand the meaning behind them," she remarks.

The general consensus too is that though initially a home in a new development (of which there are many) around the Bay may not be first preference, the fact is that the perfect home in the perfect location at the perfect price is probably not easily procurable. So buyers compromise. "And new homes are attractive ... full stop," says Fraser. "Warm, insulated and eco-friendly with double glazing – all features every buyer desires. Single level

too. They are specially appealing for retiree buyers who want low maintenance."

Jill adds that with the amount of sales in new homes they can't keep up with demand. New specs, double glazing (top of the list), multiple bathrooms and larger sections make them sought after by all generations. Purchasers seem happy to landscape their own properties, but laying lawns is a big concern in new builds. Gardens come lower on the list of wants, though many buyers of established properties do prefer a planned landscape.

That said, Brendan Williams, whose company Vortex Design and Build specialises in new builds, unsurprisingly says there has been a dramatic increase in building.

"In the fifteen years we have been based in the Bay it is the busiest time we have had." A fact he puts down quite simply to a lack of available good quality housing due to "a lot of people moving to the Bay. The resulting big increase in population has put definite pressure on the property market. Especially lately. Prices have gone

up and the choice has reduced. And for those moving from the bigger cities – a new home rather than buying an existing one is becoming an increasingly popular option. There is no particular demographic, but they look to build because of over-pricing in the existing range of homes for sale."

He notes that land is at a premium and developers have complete control; high prices are the result. "Great indoor-outdoor flow continues to be the national obsession, specially with our wonderful climate," Brendan explains, confirming that some things are paramount across the board, new or old.

Of course, with a new build, the scope to have more of what has been on the 'dream' list for home owners is a lot wider. And Brendan observes that there is a variety of trends in style and aesthetics. "It's more about quality, comfort and energy efficiency. In terms of the look, we've seen a decline in mono-pitched roofs and a resurgence of gable-formed homes. Multi-clad builds are



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## A BUILDER'S VIEW



“Single level, whether a new build or a purchase, has hit the high popularity stakes. But with the land reaching premium availability, often the smaller sections are dictating multi-level builds and do offer a good option. This question of land availability is also opening up the possibilities of subdividing, it means desirable land usually close to a centre can be built on and an extra section sold on, which has the added plus of often funding the original build.”

BRENDAN WILLIAMS, VORTEX DESIGN AND BUILD

on the rise and darker colours are being used to provide contrast and a dramatic effect for an enhanced streetscape design. Colour steel is the most popular roofing option because its durable and clean.”

“And the same cladding can be used for both interior and exterior. Large sculleries are a standard part of the modern kitchen. Four bedrooms, two living areas, a media room and an office too. Internal garages are practical and offer storage space as is roof space in the garage being quite common.”

“Single level, whether a new build or a purchase, has hit the high popularity stakes. But with the land reaching premium availability, often the smaller sections are dictating multi-level builds and do offer a good option. This question of land availability is also opening up the possibilities of subdividing,” notes Brendan, “it means desirable land usually close to a centre can be built on and an extra section sold on, which has the added plus of often funding the original build.”

Naturally with a new home - the scope is wide for choice of colours and finishes for exteriors and interiors. And Brendan says black, white and grey exteriors are top of the list. Natural, coloured, raw finish and engineered stone for bathrooms are favourites and are found in slabs or tiles of rust, blackened and washed concrete and coloured marble of deep inky purple and lime yellow. Timber look tiles are commonly used for floors and shower walls with vanity units incorporating timber with seamless finishes in dark walnut and chestnut shades.

“Fresh elegance is the preference so textured pale timbers with a lot of metals such as rose gold, copper, pewter, brass and now even rust are not only in basic hardware and plumbing but also in tiles, wallpapers and paints to impart that glamorous yet rustic tone. And recently I've seen a trend

to coloured and laser-printed glass walls, splash backs and mirrors.”

The hike in prices has been high. “Many examples of homes bought within the last four years are being resold with a 20% increase in value,” comments Fraser. And Christine says, “right now there is a shortage of both houses and sections specially in Havelock North, fuelling high prices. So of course sellers are asking more, especially in the hot spots like Havelock North, Taradale and Napier. Increased asking prices have been supported in the Hastings District Council's area by the increases in Rateable Values last October across much of the province. But already agents are regularly seeing property selling for up to 20% more than these new RVs.”

New build, established homestead, lifestyle block or minimal land upkeep – irrespective, there is definitely pressure on the Hastings District Council to release new green field sites for homes. Specially for the fringe, unproductive or hilly land on the urban edges which is unsuitable for horticulture. And there is also pressure being put on infrastructure in the province with new buyers demanding fibre, high speed internet, reliable and sustainable water supplies and tar-sealed roads.

But though some of these factors may be shorter in supply than we would wish, the market in the Bay is hot. And the increase of no-price marketing is a strong indication of this with Tender being the preference. All concur that such a sales method allows due diligence to be completed with a better chance of being unconditional before submitting an offer. And it's private.

So, predictions are that the region will remain a seller's market despite the seasonal change and the 20% value increase over the past four years. It looks as if the Bay is set to reign as the region of choice for anyone wanting a place to call home.



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Left: natural look modernity in a new build with outdoor living; top right: the fresh elegant look with texture and the priority indoor-outdoor flow; bottom right: gabled roof, outdoor living and views as far as the eye can see.

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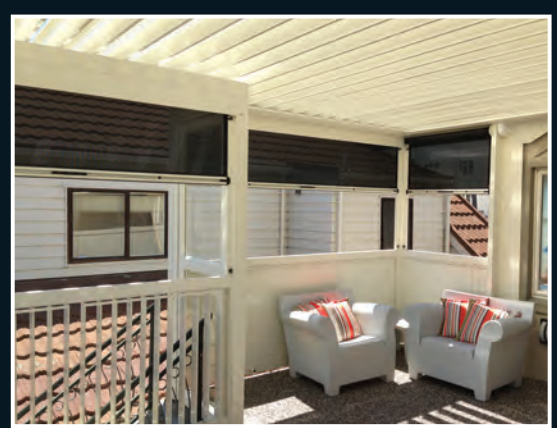
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Photo: Tim Whittaker

# Tradition on a Plate

MICHAL MCKAY

Gatherings of the whānau around a table groaning with mouth-watering kai were Monique and Henry Heke's heritage. Now they're sharing their love of food in a television programme infused with their signature style of warmth, humour and profound Māori knowledge.

IN POLYNESIAN LORE, food is the lynchpin of social life: an opportunity to gather friends and family together while indulging in traditional fare. A custom which not only provides nourishment for the body and the spirit, but also acts as a constant reminder of cultural roots to be cherished and nurtured.

This was Monique and Henry Heke's rich heritage. Both were brought up in big Māori families where home cooking was the hook that brought everyone together on a regular basis. But more importantly, mealtimes provided them with a knowledge of good nutritional food at a very early age ... with a strong Māori influence.

"We had a very traditional family routine at mealtimes," says Henry. "As good Catholics it was fish and chips on Friday, a roast on Sunday – but all homemade. Mum made bread, and such bread you could not match. She has sweet hands. We didn't have KFC in New Plymouth (his home town) and Monique's mother, Yvonne, made fried bread even she can't match to this day." Probably a debatable point if you try Monique's take on that traditional staple of Fry Bread with butter and jam. Irresistible! He recalls that when he went to boarding school (Frances Douglas Memorial College) he'd stock up on flat bread hot out of his family oven, wrapped in a tea towel to bring

**Henry attributes his culinary abilities entirely to his mother. "She was a single parent and worked as a kitchen hand and a cook ... I used to help her cook when I was really young. And it was exciting watching her."**

back to the hostel.

With such memories of their childhood, it is scarcely surprising that both – who have been together now for some twenty years – are natural cooks. Henry laughingly admits that he wooed Monique through her family by cooking for them. "I'd come bearing gifts of food and would cook up a storm in the kitchen – meatballs (recognised by her family as the best ever), chicken paprika and pies." It is to her credit that Monique simply smiles at this bravura, not letting on that she too was a pretty dab hand in the kitchen probably until the whole family was convinced they were meant for each other.

The magic they made in the kitchen became well known. "Well, we can't cook for one or two; there's always a big pot on the stove. Food is really the story of our lives," they agree. As regular stallholders at the Hawke's Bay Farmers' Market their delicacies gained recognition. So when word spread one Sunday that the MKR (*My Kitchen Rules*) crew were around searching for talent in a "Battle for the regions" series, it was a natural that they should be approached.

The story of how it happened differs according to who is doing the telling. Henry is convinced that friends and family suggested they should sign up. However, Monique claims (and knowing the couple, it's probably the more likely version) that Henry noticed them as he'd seen they were scouting on Facebook and went over for a chit-chat. The result? They were signed. And went on to become the much loved runners-up.

Their rhythm then – anticipating each other's every move ... making split second decisions with a flick of the eye – won the audiences. It also garnered interest from other television channels and after a series of 'maybes', which included cooking for producer Cindy Lucas (who now produces their show), currently they are holding great ratings as they create family fare for Māori Television in *Tradition on a*

*Plate*, all based on a hunting and gathering philosophy which is entirely attributed to their own upbringing steeped in the tradition of Māori recipes.

Henry attributes his culinary abilities entirely to his mother. “She was a single parent and worked as a kitchen hand and a cook. My sister was much more of an academic, but I loved the kitchen. And she taught me from an early age. I used to help her cook when I was really young. And it was exciting watching her.”

They both agree that the fact everyone sat down at the table for meals was the foundation of their own love for gathering friends and family and entertaining a lot. It is also the theme of their current show in which their whānau are all involved. Their two daughters – Keita, 9, and Mahina Rangī, 5 – are old kitchen hands. “Keita makes the best pancakes,” says Monique proudly. They are in the show as are parents, uncles, aunts, cousins and anyone else who happens to be around. They hunt and gather the ingredients, so this is no supermarket stalwart. Everything is from scratch.

And their easy humorous repartee, which switches from te reo Māori to English on a regular basis, makes for real viewer appeal. Whilst explaining the intricacies of producing traditional Māori fare in a manner which can’t help but entice anyone to try the recipe, they demonstrate techniques and describe ingredient backgrounds with a real warmth and passion gleaned from their vast and unique cooking background.

The dishes – based on traditional recipes, but given a more contemporary twist – are simple and easy, but as Henry puts it, “Monique Heke’s them up. She makes food sound so amazingly delicious yet easy to do. She’s wonderful at roasting and baking,

## Henry laughingly admits that he wooed Monique through her family by cooking for them. “I’d come bearing gifts of food and would cook up a storm in the kitchen – meatballs (recognised by her family as the best ever), chicken paprika and pies.”

salads and desserts. I’m most comfortable al fresco – smoking fish, in front of the barbeque. Technically we’re not skilled. This is about really scrumptious food that has a story. A traditional Māori story, and this to a large extent has been lost. So if we can encourage a younger generation to watch and teach them, we can revitalise these old family recipes by giving them a fresh new approach.”

Ko Iwi Poaka, pork bones and watercress, was a staple in the 70s, but given the Heke touch this traditional dish is sure to become a must on any cook’s agenda today. And their Ka Pai Kahawai with Karengo Teasers and Creamy Riwai Mash which opened the first episode was enough to seduce any palate. And send viewers racing to the website to find the recipe.

Pig and deer hunting, crayfish trawling, gathering mussels and paua, mutton birds and watercress are spearheads to each segment. Everything has been filmed in Hawke’s Bay. “Well it’s such a great growing

region, we were adamant that we had to film here. We have some 52 wineries, so the marriage between food and wine is pretty well unique to the Bay. And we would also like to see Hastings develop a real food culture. It’s happening. Artisan food is very popular and we have the most wonderful French bakery,” Henry comments.

The series has been shot in their own kitchen in Flaxmere, which was purpose built for them by Kitchen Studio in Hastings. “They were fabulous and allowed us to have a lot of input.” Henry approached them. “We really had to have a new kitchen for this show. Even though we entertain a lot, to do television we needed a smoothly running and practical operation. With grandparents, children, whānau in general participating, it was crucial everything be in its right place.” He also credits Holly Bacon for their huge support and enthusiasm. “That’s a company that’s been going for over 100 years in Hastings. I am in awe.”

Both still work full-time for Te Puni Kokiri and are quick to give credit to “very supportive bosses who wanted to see us succeed”. Despite their immensely busy schedule, they are keen to develop their own brand. A second series is hopefully in the offing, as is a book.

But most of all they are very aware of the responsibility they have as representatives of their family and Māoridom. “So we don’t want to fail,” says Henry. With their genuine and delightful approach to reviving a cultural tradition – not forgetting their good looks, humour and great food – failure is not in the cards.

*Tradition on a Plate* is on Maori Television Thursdays at 7:30pm and repeats on Sundays at 5pm. For the recipes, go to [www.maoritelevision.com/tv/shows/tradition-on-plate](http://www.maoritelevision.com/tv/shows/tradition-on-plate)

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It's not the size of the crowd that matters but the perfection of the food. Monique and Henry were invited by the Chairman of Ngati Kahuraunu Iwi Inc., Ngahiwi Tomoana, to cater the powhiri at the Waipatu Marae for the Taniwha Dragon Economic Summit - here they demonstrate their culinary skills.

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# Finding Home: Michele Bryant & Johnny Brough

LIZZIE RUSSELL

A relocated house, views of the Ngaruroro River, a former schoolhouse now studio, and a custom-built courier pick-up shelter are making life work for former Wellington artists Michele Bryant and Johnny Brough.

High on a hill above the river and the rural community of Maraekakaho, the spacious house feels a very long way from their Newtown cottage, but for Michele, the return to Hawke's Bay and its nostalgic familiarity has been a driving force in her work since the couple and their two children arrived in early 2015.

Michele grew up on the family farm in Kereru and left for university in Wellington twenty years ago. Her work became well-known during the early 2000s, an exciting time for artists as the internet took hold, and an exciting time in Wellington as Peter Jackson and Weta Workshops made their mark on international film.

Michele's printmaking work has long been preoccupied with coming and going, travel and belonging. The airplane motif is perhaps her most recognisable.

Her recent series of relief prints – *To Live in the Country* – provide a window to Michele's memory of a childhood spent surrounded by old country homes, farming characters and the simple aesthetic of stenciled signs and stamps. Another series is based on the comic books of Michele's youth, either handed down from older cousins, or bought on those special trips to town.

The house Johnny and Michele relocated to their block of land from a bit further up the valley is one of those sprawling weatherboard homes Michele remembers from childhood. And being back here in rural Hawke's Bay has highlighted the fact that here, people spend more time in their homes, as they did back then too. In Wellington, Michele says, more of life seems to be lived in communal spaces, in the city. So the domestic setting here has become a more immediate inspiration for her work.

For Johnny, there have been changes to his oil painting practice too. The weather seems like an obvious difference between Wellington and Hawke's Bay.

But what that really means is long balmy evenings and the insects that come with them.

"The temperatures in summer make it tricky for the paints and printing oils, and I've started including moths in my paintings, as they're here anyway."

Johnny's atmospheric paintings of suitcases, bags and trunks convey a mood and a sense of mystery, so the bright, broad light of the Bay has taken some getting used to too. He's countered it with a confined space within the sprawling ex-classroom the couple have turned into their studio behind the house.

Johnny works part time as technician on Ideaschool's Screen Production programme at EIT, which is a fair way removed from his former career with Weta in Wellington.

Michele and Johnny met while working on *Lord of the Rings* in 1998. She was working on armour components in the costume department. His work at Weta was wide-ranging over the years, but his main job was in paint finishing, or as he puts it, "Making the non-authentic look authentic."

They were exciting times, as the industry was developing in part based on the techniques the Weta team were creating.

During *The Last Samurai* (the last film they worked on together) Johnny started painting part-time in the Newtown house after hours. It stuck, and the paintings started to find an audience. The compartmentalising of art work and other work which he developed then is serving him now with his EIT role.

Michele and Johnny now have gallery representation around the country, something that is easy to maintain they say, now that they've erected a parcel shelter at the bottom of the hill for the courier.

There are still regular trips back to Wellington, and later in the year they're heading to Spain and Italy to visit galleries and seek out artistic inspiration.

For a pair of artists preoccupied with travel and return, this spot, with small planes flying low in the valley, seems like a pretty perfect spot to come home to.





Photo: Lizzie Russell



# Keep on Kimi Ora

Top: Kalena Vaiusu, *Ava on the beam*, 2017  
Below: Kavana Ioane, *Sione on his way to swimming*, 2017

Auckland artist and photographer Edith Amituanai has recently spent five weeks working with the students of Kimi Ora Community School in Flaxmere on a project for Hastings City Art Gallery.

*Keep On Kimi Ora* was developed as a collaborative project between the artist, the school and the gallery.

HCAG development coordinator Tryphena Cracknell says the five-week

project involved 25-30 students at Year 7-8 level. By introducing the kids to Edith and her practice, she says, they were able to explore artistic literacy, developing language and skills for critiquing images, as well as learning practical skills of photography.

The work isn't over for the artist or the students, as they are now planning and preparing for an exhibition. Edith's photographs from her time

in Flaxmere will be on show in the Holt Gallery, while a selection of the students' photographs will hang on the foyer walls. The exhibition will also feature an interactive element, with the alcove space to be transformed into a photography studio for visitors to use.

This is the first HCAG artist-in-residence programme. The *Keep On Kimi Ora* exhibition will be on at Hastings City Art Gallery from June 17.



# The Pencil Room



In an airy and light-filled space upstairs on Napier's Hastings Street, a new art school is being formed.

Artist Emily Armstrong arrived in Hawke's Bay in late 2015, bringing with her a wealth of expertise in teaching art at tertiary level, and a desire to create something new in her adopted hometown.

Originally from Mount Maunganui, Emily taught at the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic and Auckland's Whitecliffe College of Arts and Design, while continuing to study and make her own art (she holds a bachelor's degree in abstract painting and a master's in installation art).

The Pencil Room is the result of Emily bringing her varied arts experiences together, and it's now offering classes for both adults and children in what was previously the Hawke's Bay TV studio.

One highlight on the menu is the class for 14-17 year olds, How to Make Art Look GOOD. Taught by local ceramic artist, designer and educator Laura Pearce, the weekly class explores design concepts and teaches students guiding principles to be used in making art from

paintings to graphic designs. This course sounds ideal for keen high school art students looking to give their curriculum art work a boost, and extend themselves beyond the classroom.

The Drawing Club is another of the scheduled offerings, providing time and space each fortnight for artists of all levels to gather in The Pencil Room and work on self-directed drawing and painting projects in a friendly group environment. Emily says she'll provide still-life subject material and organise live drawing models at times too.

The other classes are Let's Get Creative (for 8-12 year olds, with Laura Pearce), Art and Nature (for 7-10 years olds with Emily), and the adults' art class, Introduction to Drawing, also taught by Emily.

So, can a person be taught to draw? Emily says yes.

"I think you can always learn. A big part of learning is coming to accept your own personal style, and that's what art classes can really help with, for all ages."

Check out The Pencil Room on Facebook and get in touch to book classes.

[facebook.com/thepencilroom/](https://facebook.com/thepencilroom/)



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*Ōmarunui*, a series of photographs by prominent New Zealand artist Jono Rotman, has been acquired by the Hawke's Bay Museum Trust for display at MTG Hawke's Bay.

The series of six works reflects the battle of Ōmarunui that took place on 12 October 1866 and consists of five photographs that examine glass plate negatives and one photograph of the obelisk that was erected in 1916 on the battle's 50th commemoration.

"The battle of Ōmarunui was a brutal marker in both our Hawke's Bay and New Zealand history. We were determined to keep these works in the Bay and not see them sold offshore," said HBMT chairman Dr Richard Grant.

Napier City Council, Hastings District Council, Napier Port, the Hawke's Bay Museums Trust,

and the Hawke's Bay Museum Foundation have jointly funded the purchase, and the acquisition has been supported by Rotman's Hawke's Bay gallery, Parlour Projects, and his principal New Zealand gallery, Gow Langsford.

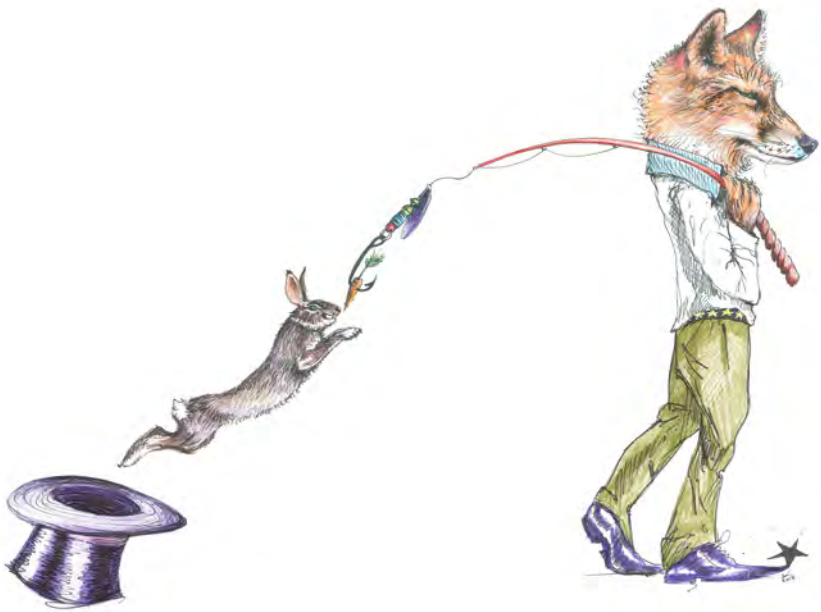
MTG Hawke's Bay director Laura Vodanovich praised the series and the combined effort.

"It is a very significant acquisition for MTG Hawke's Bay and it's a true community effort. This series also starts a conversation about the battle of Ōmarunui, which we hope will lead to ongoing dialogue and artistic response."

Ms Vodanovich said the MTG team are hoping to have *Ōmarunui* on display from September.

The works were first exhibited at Parlour Projects in Hastings in October last year.

# The Hook



Jess Soutar Barron and Bridget Freeman-Rock have responded to the current health and wealth of the Hawke's Bay arts scene with the establishment of a review site, The Hook.

Last year Bridget went to almost all the Hawke's Bay Arts Festival and Fringe in the Stings shows and blogged her reviews of them. Early this year Jess facilitated a panel discussion on what Hawke's Bay needs to have for a thriving arts sector, and one of the points made was that artists and galleries want and need reviews of exhibitions to add to the wider discourse on art right now.

These two experiences led Jess and Bridget to re-skin the old blog site, develop the Hook identity (named for our geographical position in Maui's hook), and pull together a raft of local writers keen to review the range of shows on offer around the region.

"There is great colour and diversity in the tone across The Hook," says Jess.

**"We both really believe in the art of a good, tight review, including some critical response."**

JESS SOUTAR BARRON

"That's healthy, as it shows a wide range of people seeing, interacting with and having conversations about all kinds of art."

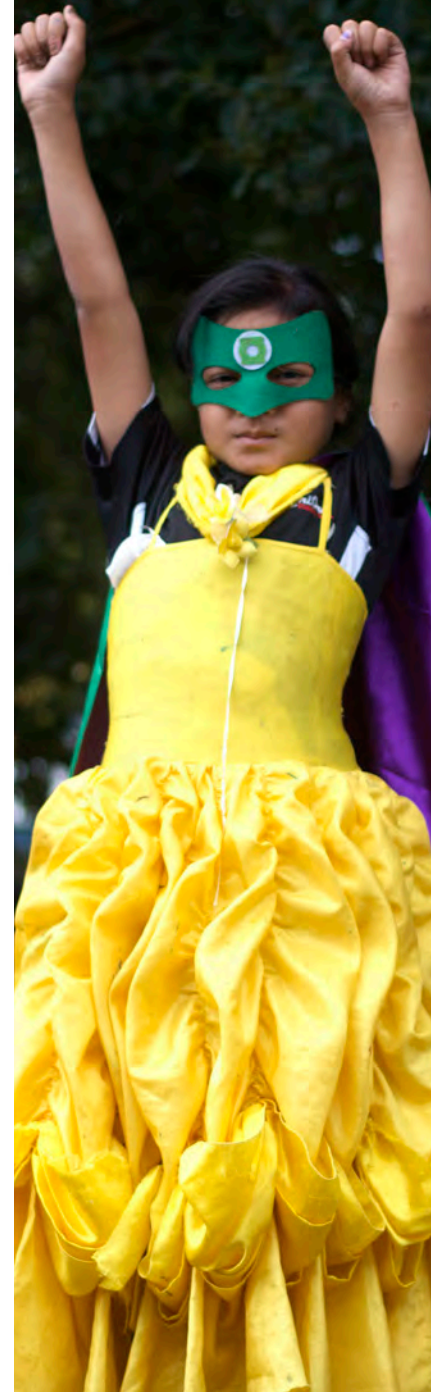
The site is not – and will not become – a "What's On", though Jess says there is definitely scope for that here, and The Hook would partner well with such a site. But right now the review site is single purpose. "We both really believe in the art of a good, tight review, including some critical response."

The Hook is currently looking for more artworks of 'hooks' to include on the site, like this one by Kate White. Artists are invited to send their representations of hooks to [thisisthehooknz@gmail.com](mailto:thisisthehooknz@gmail.com).



You can read reviews at [thehook.nz](http://thehook.nz).

**#keeponkimiora**

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Gabe Mossman is a man on a mission. In January he travelled to Greece, the epicentre of the refugee crisis, and spent three weeks working with Athens refugee charity, Khora House.

It was a humbling and shocking experience for the Havelock North builder, who put his skills to work in 4 degree temperatures and the worst snow Greece had seen in twenty years, alongside volunteer workers and refugees.

He made his way to Khora House with an introduction from his Berlin-based sister, who has been working with the refugee cause in Lesbos and more recently Serbia. While in Athens, Gabe got to work handing out blankets on the streets at night, helping with the Khora children's area, but mostly repairing the single men's squat and building furniture for a common space where the men can socialize and spend their days.

The simple space was a significant help, Gabe says.

"Everyone thinks that it's all fine now because these guys have made

it to Greece. But there's so much depression and anxiety amongst the men. And there are so many of them. These guys have no purpose, nothing to do all day, so even getting them a space to be – outside the two rooms where they sleep – and getting them to assist with it helped."

"The single men are treated the worst, and they have nothing. As soon as we moved the couches and chessboards and tables in, the men were using them. There were even a few smiles."

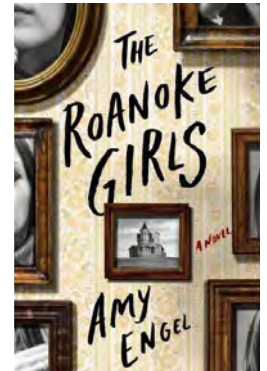
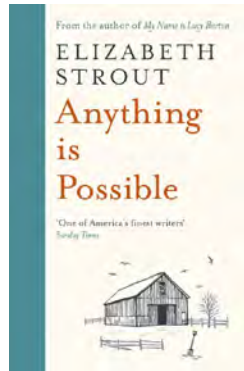
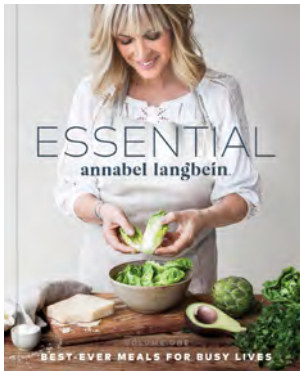
In June Gabe is saddling up to take on the final two legs of a major fundraising cycling event, 'Thighs of Steel' – a sponsored ride from London to Athens. He'll ride two one-week legs of the event, from Milan to Athens and then spend a few weeks working with Khora again.

Even the smallest donations make a difference, Gabe says, so to help out search "Gabe Mossman" on [givealittle.co.nz](http://givealittle.co.nz) to learn more about what he's working towards and to make a contribution.



# Book Reviews

A selection of "Must Reads" from our favourite book sellers.



## Wardini

### The Roanoke Girls by Amy Engel

(Hodder & Stoughton, \$37.99)

Creepy and compelling, *The Roanoke Girls* tells the story of a family in which generations of girls have either died or run away from the family estate in Kansas. As the story unfolds we come to understand the guilt, the fear and the trauma that have led to this.

This is one of those novels in which we find out the family's secret quite early on, but don't have all the pieces until the very end. Our protagonist, Lane, is self-destructive like her mother before her – her actions, and those of the other Roanoke girls, are shocking, but in the context of the narrative, gut churningly understandable. *The Roanoke Girls* is shocking, engrossing, unputdownable.

### The Chinese Proverb by Tina Clough

(Lightpool Publishing, \$34.99)

Napier author Tina Clough has written a pacy, action-packed thriller set to engage many a reader.

A veteran of conflict in Afghanistan, Hunter Grant, happens upon a lost and injured young woman whilst walking in the remote NZ bush. As he nurses her back to health he begins to uncover a story of imprisonment, abuse and crime and finds that he's got himself deeply involved with a woman whose captors will not stop until they've hunted her down.

Hunter Grant is a worthy competitor to Jack Reacher and best of all, he's ours, created with imagination and skill by a Hawke's Bay author.

## Poppies

### Darke by Rick Gekoski

Dr James Darke has expelled himself from the world. He writes compulsively in his 'coming of old age' journal; he eats little, drinks and smokes a lot. Meditating

on what he has lost – the loves of his life, both dead and alive – he tries to console himself with the wisdom of the great thinkers and poets, yet finds nothing but disappointment. But cracks of light appear in his carefully managed darkness. He begins to emerge from his self-imposed exile, drawn by the tender, bruised filaments of love for his daughter and grandson. Rich in ideas and feeling, with scalding prose and ruthless intelligence, and with Darke as an unforgettably vivid protagonist, Rick Gekoski's provocative debut novel faces some of the greatest, most uncomfortable questions about how we choose to live, and how to die.

### Essential Annabel Langbein: Best-Ever Meals for Busy Lives: Vol 1

Annabel's 25th book is a contemporary, authoritative and comprehensive kitchen companion for today's home cook – a treasury of easy but delicious savoury recipes, illustrated with full-colour photography and accompanied by an encyclopedia of tried-and-true cooking tips. Featuring more than 650 recipes, *ESSENTIAL Annabel Langbein* offers something for all tastes, all seasons and all occasions with many new recipes included, inspired by the food she's cooking and eating right now. "My aim is to inspire people to try something new, then empower them to make it their own, changing ingredients to suit the season or their personal tastes, or applying 'springboard' techniques to different cuisines or flavour families."

## Beattie & Forbes

### Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls by Elena Favilli & Francesca Cavallo

This is the book I wanted when I was growing up, fairies and princesses were never really my thing. A luscious-looking hardback, it has the stories of the extraordinary lives of one hundred

remarkable women from all over the world who have been involved in politics, sport, entertainment, science and technology – who went out and made a difference. From Ada Lovelace to Malala, Amelia Earhart to Michelle Obama, these are true fairy tales about heroines who definitely don't need rescuing. What great bedtime stories these make. Beautifully illustrated by 60 global artists, I can see it becoming a 'must have' for all our girls – and it wouldn't be a bad thing for their brothers too.

### Anything is Possible by Elizabeth Strout

Elizabeth Strout's Pulitzer prize-winning *Olive Kitteridge* was a favourite in our shop book club, as was the 2016 Booker Prize long-listed *My Name is Lucy Barton*. So it was with anticipation that I started *Anything is Possible*, and I wasn't disappointed. It tells the story of the inhabitants of rural, dusty Amgash, Illinois, the hometown of a successful writer from New York, Lucy Barton, who has returned to visit the siblings and the small town she escaped from seventeen years ago. The reader is drawn into the lives of those she left behind through a series of linked short stories.

The stories reveal how Lucy's relations and friends are marked by poverty, abuse, deep loneliness, and loveless lives. However, we also see their resilience rewarded with moments of grace, a nod of understanding, friendship offered unexpectedly. And there are lighter humorous moments too. Elizabeth Strout writes so beautifully about small places and ordinary lives; she is able to show their extraordinariness and the complexity of those who live there. I have no doubt that this will be one of our favourites this year.

Correction: In the review of Alex Tylee's book *If I Was A Banana* in our March/April edition, we mistakenly identified *Walking with Gay Friends: a journey of informed compassion* as hers. It is actually by another author with the same name. Apologies for this mistake.

# Buzz around the Bay

## The Cocktail Party

May 12 at the A&P Showgrounds Exhibition Hall  
Support the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust at this glitzy fundraiser which has been running for 26 years. Hosted by the Hastings Karamu Rotary Club, the Cocktail Party includes a well-supported auction with the potential to win 'Best-dressed Lady in Vintage'. Tickets available at [thecocktailparty.co.nz](http://thecocktailparty.co.nz)

## Air New Zealand Hawke's Bay Marathon

May 13  
Whether you're running it, walking it, or heading out to support those brave and impressive athletes, the HB Marathon offers a chance to take in the best of what the Bay has to offer – including the finish at Sileni with all the necessary refreshments. More info available at [hawkesbaymarathon.co.nz](http://hawkesbaymarathon.co.nz)



## Four Flat Whites in Italy

May 18 at Napier Municipal Theatre  
Let Roger Hall's hugely successful 2007 stage hit take you back to Venice, Rome and Tuscany on the later-years OE filled with cracker one liners and a mismatched middle-aged quartet played by Paul Barrett and Lyndee-Jane Rutherford, Phil Grieve and Hilary Norris. Directed by Geraldine Brophy. Tickets available at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

## Sparkle

May 20 at Trinity Hill  
This is the third year for this fundraising spectacular, and this time it's in aid of Family Works East Coast, a vital service dedicated to stopping senseless family violence on the East Coast by supporting vulnerable children and families in our community. Tickets available at [psec.org.nz](http://psec.org.nz)

## Cabaret De Paris

May 30 at Napier Municipal Theatre  
Cabaret De Paris is a stage spectacular celebrating showgirl glamour combined with adagio dancers, aerial pole artistry, comedy circus performers, illusionists and the famous French Cancan Dancers, including former Moulin Rouge star, Marissa Burgess. Tickets available at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)



## Tiki Taane Mahuta

May 22 at Napier Municipal Theatre  
The Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu season of Tiki Taane Mahuta is presented in partnership between Taki Rua and the Aotearoa Aerial Theatre Company. Combining theatre, aerial performance, contemporary dance, kapa haka, mau rākau and hip hop, Tiki Taane Mahuta is one of New Zealand's largest nationally-devised productions and a proud expression of Aotearoa identity. Tickets available at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

## Pecha Kucha

May 30 at Havelock North Function Centre  
Hear tales of passion and stories of substance from members of the community in the international Pecha Kucha 20 slides by 20 seconds format. More info available at [facebook.com/pechakuchahb](http://facebook.com/pechakuchahb)

## Chris Cain Napier Jazz - Special Guest Erna Ferry

June 2 at MTG Century Theatre  
Joe Bonamassa called Chris Cain "A phenomenal player! One of the purist tones I've ever heard." The guitar and vocal legend is in Napier for one night, accompanied by Manawatu's 'Queen of the Blues' Erna Ferry (vocal & harmonic) and an all-star band featuring Richard Te One (drums), Neil Hannan (bass) and Ben Wilcock (keyboard/vocal). Tickets available at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

## Hawke's Bay Better Home and Living Show

May 26 – 27 at Pettigrew Green Arena  
Check out the massive variety of ideas and information that you need to transform your house or garden. The show includes "Ask an Expert" sessions, prizes and show-only specials too. More info available at [homeandgardenshow.co.nz](http://homeandgardenshow.co.nz)



Cabaret De Paris

**Wairoa Māori Film Festival**

June 2 – 5 at Kahungunu Marae, Nuhaka and Gaiety Theatre, Wairoa  
 The 12th annual festival celebrates Māori features and shorts and offers a full weekend of events from the official powhiri to the Bush Cinema closing function at Mōrere Springs. Tickets and full info available at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**Operatunity Presents:**

**From Phantom to Les Mis**

June 8 at Bay City Outreach Centre, Hastings  
 How about a crash course in musical theatre? This is a showcase of modern musicals - *Phantom*, *Les Miserables*, *Evita*, *Miss Saigon*, *Cats* and many more. All concerts start at 11am and include lunch. Tickets available at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**Te Mata Peak Off Road Half Marathon, 12k & 5k Trail Run**

June 11 at Havelock North  
 Starting in an adjoining farm, the course meanders through undulating farmland before continuing on the beautiful trails in Te Mata Park.  
 This run is event three of six in the Hawke's Bay Trail Running Series and offers three distances to suit different abilities. Short: 5-9 km (runners and fast walkers), Medium: 11-15 km (runners and fast walkers), Long: 1/2 marathon (runners only).  
 More info available at [hbtrailrun.co.nz](http://hbtrailrun.co.nz)



Urzila Carlson

**Urzila Carlson – Studies Have Shown**

June 25 at Napier Municipal Theatre  
 You may know her from TV's *Seven Days*, but now you get to experience Urzila Carlson on the stage in her first nationwide comedy tour. Tickets available at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

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MARY KIPPENBERGER

## Letter from the Country

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO HARDEN UP.

It's time for me to at least consider the concept of harden up.

Born a reluctant city girl, green paddocks and open spaces have only been my day-to-day life for 30 years and hardening up takes time.

Back in the day, when we still lived in Napier, I found myself travelling the less improved Napier-Taupō Road en route to a Hamilton conference. There in the middle of the road was a newborn lamb. With no distressed ewe or shepherd's cottage to give me direction, I bundled the lamb into the work car and headed onwards. A quick call to farm-raised Peter secured unthinkable observations and suggestions. What did he know?

Parting with a sizable wad of cash I left (then) Williams & Kettle well-armed to save my new baby.

The four-day conference received an occasional nod from me but my focus remained with my new friend. I would hold him close as he snuggled in. Less the intelligent debate and more the cooing was the order of my days.

Smuggling into the motel was easy. It didn't seem unreasonable to buy him a woolen blanket nor to make him a comfy bed in the shower box. Nearly time for the trip home, and with images of little George joining the children for some backyard gamboling, I said goodnight to him.

In the morning he was dead.

I was distraught but I also had a problem. A dead lamb and a long drive home.

I did what any sensible person would do. I wrapped him up in the complimentary *Waikato Times* and disposed of him in the rubbish bin outside of the nearest dairy.

I walked back to the motel, packed my bags and, as I was about to leave, noticed that my watch was missing. Fruitless hunting led me to the inevitable conclusion. My watch was keeping a dead lamb company. Looking casual I wandered past the now well-patronised rubbish bin. A furtive look



Photo: Danny Priestley

### **I did once suggest to four old girls that they had the choice of either having their heads chopped off or living in the BackBack paddock. They chose the latter.**

around showed no onlookers and I took a dive through empty wrappers and stubbed-out butts until I reached dead lamb gold. No amount of rifling and shaking revealed the treasure and George was re-consigned to his metal grave. Sorry George.

Catapult forward to the present day and I have just come home with ten new battery freed hens. Ten to join the fifteen already in residence. Michael queried whether the old eggless chooks would meet a quick and sensible demise. Oh how we laughed.

I did once suggest to four old girls that they had the choice of either having their heads chopped off or living in the BackBack paddock. They chose the latter. So off we went ... an old dog kennel, some bread, four old chooks and me. Down the drive, through the gate, over the bridge, along the MiddleBack into the Back, through the gate and finally into the BackBack. I settled them in by the river, said I'd pop in from time to time and wished them well.

For four months the new chickens laid eggs and the old chooks chatted amongst themselves. Then one day I went down to

the chook run and there they were, all four old girls sitting outside waiting to be let in. Intrepid travellers deserve to rest where they will. Economically questionable, but emotionally viable.

And now to the harden up bit.

Pukekos. If I hadn't become a belated gardener I would never have known that I needed to hate Pooks. Harsh words, but honestly spoken. Pre-garden years saw me grieving at the sight of Pukeko road kill; last week I inwardly cheered when I saw two downed on our road. My garden is next to our wetlands and I have provided well for a growing Pook population. I don't mind sharing, but they seem to. Biggest nail in their coffins, they kill ducklings.

So let's not talk about them. Let me finish with a grandchild. Emily (six years) looks at me with excitement, "Grandy, Grandy, Rebecca [six years] and I are going to Hoppity, Hoppity classes!" "Hippity, Hoppity?!" I exclaim. "Yes! Hippity, Hoppity!"

And with one sweet sentence Hip Hop will for ever more be Hippity Hoppity for this whānau.

We may not be cool, but we are happy!

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