

# BAY BUZZ

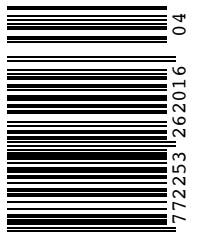
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## Water Champion

FOR OUR MOKOPUNA

HB HOUSING CRISIS / WHO NEEDS FARMING?  
CANDIDATES' ENVIRO-SPEAK / DAM CRACKING?  
CUTTING CARBON / AVOIDING N\*\*\*\*R





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Photo: Florence Charvin

# BAY BUZZ

JULY/AUGUST 2017

## This Month

MP candidates address the environment. Councils grapple with engaging the public. Dam twisting in the wind. How NZ can become carbon neutral. HB's housing crisis hurts our most vulnerable. Is our agri-business economy in danger of obsolescence? Meet HBRC chief executive James Palmer. The dangers of political correctness. Plus a look at acupuncture, the bar with buzz, winning architecture, and more.

Cover photo: Aki Paipper  
by Florence Charvin

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Gerard at Common Room. Photo: Tim Whittaker tim.co.nz



FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR: SARAH CATES

Sarah Cates lives a life of great diversity. Originally from London, she has made Hawke's Bay her home. Some know her as a bossy instructor commanding coordinated aqua-fit moves from a group of over-60s. Others, as a dedicated mother – rearing four vibrant children. Or maybe the photographer, ordering people around, catching a moment of magic. And the writer – times of complete immersion. Sarah has a respect for the honesty

of life and its unpredictable nature. She is a realist, who loves to connect with people and the environment. She believes everyone has a story – sometimes to be captured in words, other times an image. Working for *BayBuzz* has taken Sarah into many different situations, leaving her with deep consuming thoughts, or utter delight. Sarah is always ready for a challenge, and *BayBuzz* is ticking this box!

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.



**BRIDGET FREEMAN-ROCK**  
Bridget Freeman-Rock is Hawke's Bay grown. Lived abroad in Australia and Germany before returning with young family in tow in 2009. She has a fairly eclectic, free-range writing vocation, freelancing as a writer, copy-editor, translator and occasional performance poet.



**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



## The times, they are a-changin'

Photo: Florence Charvin

POLITICS IS IN THE AIR as our parliamentary election season has officially begun. Locally, the only interesting race pits National's Lawrence Yule against Labour's Anna Lorck, with Chris Perley striving to build the Greens' party vote.

In *Wanted: Environment Champion*, reporter Sophie Price interviewed these three, focusing on their environmental views. Not surprisingly, the environment is Chris Perley's 'sweet spot', although he would be the first to insist that environment, economy and social welfare are inextricably linked.

Why, you might ask, no coverage of the Napier race, pitting Labour's Stuart Nash against National's David Elliott? Simple ... dullsville. Incumbent Nash has adroitly pushed every hot button of the Napier electorate over the past three years; he would have to die or be convicted of a felony to be replaced this September.

Another issue deserving of our – and candidate – attention, is housing in Hawke's Bay. Not rural lifestyle blocks or sections for the comfortable and upwardly mobile – they'll manage to survive – but rather basic, healthy, affordable shelter for the lower income members of our community.

Bridget Freeman-Rock thoroughly examines the issue, which she and others term a 'crisis' in our region ... and a bureaucratic travesty for Housing New Zealand. Of the candidates, Lorck would seem to 'own' this issue.

Looking past September to the big picture. As Bob Dylan sings, the times, they are a-changin'.

Dealing with climate change and an aspirational plan for mitigating New Zealand's carbon emissions is Keith Newman's focus

in *A Less-Emissions Mission*. He looks at scenarios presented in the recently-released *Net Zero in New Zealand* report, commissioned by 35 MPs of different political persuasions.

The message of this report: New Zealand will have to wean itself off intensive agriculture, plant vast forests, commit to vehicles and factories powered by 100% renewable electricity, or continue to buy \$billions in carbon credits to cover its backside if we are to meet Paris Agreement climate change commitments by 2050.

If that isn't transformational enough to frighten (or excite) you, be sure to read *Becoming the Detroit of Agriculture* by guest author Dr Rosie Bosworth. She'll take you on a guided tour of the emerging food technologies that aim to replace the animal protein products – beef, sheep, dairy – that underpin so much of our economy.

She provides heaps of evidence that the change is happening much faster than we think. Not convinced? In June, one of our elite Nuffield scholars (our brainiest in agbiz), Nadine Porter, wrote in *NZ Farmers Weekly*:

*"Probably the most significant announcement in recent global food industry news occurred this week when US supermarket chain, Safeways, trumpeted its move into Beyond Meat's alternative plant-based protein across all its stores [1,300] in the meat chillers alongside the real deal ... If it believes in alternative protein you had better believe it is going to be a game changer. Right now, we are on the wrong side of that."*

Adds KMPG's agrizib head Ian Proudfoot: "People don't recognize the impact that structural changes in the agri-food sector globally, driven by innovation and consumer

preferences, will have on our traditional markets. Some have the potential to literally vanish overnight."

He notes that NZ is the only developed nation that relies on growing biological products to pay for schools, roads and hospitals.

I'd like to hear what our MP candidates have to say about that!

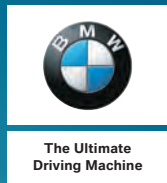
Too heady? Then try my article, *Listening to the People*, getting back to the nitty gritty of annual plan submissions, releasing councillor emails (or not), and stakeholder groups progress on biodiversity, coping with sea rise, and managing water across the Heretaunga Plains. Plus an update on the dam. And, in *The Man with a Plan*, meet James Palmer, the new HBRC chief executive, who will play a critical role in addressing such matters.

All topped off with our full complement of health (acupuncture, this time), arts and lifestyle goodies (think winning architecture, Ya Bon, the Great Wardini and Common Room).

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



Alwyn Corban. Photo: Tim Whittaker [tim.co.nz](http://tim.co.nz)

## Alwyn and Brian Corban

In June, Alwyn and Brian Corban stepped away from Ngatarawa Wines, their family business of nearly four decades. Their trademarks and brand remain locally owned, purchased by Mission Estate Winery.

Alwyn Corban can trace his family's lineage in winemaking over 400 years, reaching back to Lebanon, with the New Zealand presence launched in 1902 by grandfather Assid in Henderson. When

Alwyn was born in 1952, A. A. Corban & Sons was the biggest producer in New Zealand. That business was acquired by Rothmans in 1977, but meantime Alwyn earned a master's degree in winemaking and viticulture at the University of California, Davis.

He founded Ngatarawa with the late Garry Glazebrook in 1981 in the Bridge Pa Triangle area. Says Alwyn: "I had no money, so I borrowed from my grandfather's trust, my father's house was used as security, and uncle Joe supplied the vines." An investment well-made.

Cousin Brian joined as a director and shareholder in 1987 and has served as

chairman since 1998.

Says Michael Henley, chairman of HB Winegrowers: "Alwyn is one of the legends of the Hawke's Bay industry and we cannot thank him enough for all the energy, wisdom and guidance he has provided ... doing all he could to make Hawke's Bay one of the greatest wine regions of the world was of huge value to everyone. We can all only hope he stays involved in the industry in some small way as he still has an amazing amount to offer."

With winemaking running clearly in the blood, no doubt clinking wine glasses will feature in Alwyn's future.

# HAWKE'S BAY WELLNESS INDEX

Jobs on Seek.co.nz  
23 June 2017

**338**

UP 14 FROM APRIL

Homes For Sale 23 June 2017  
(REALESTATE.CO.NZ)

**675**

DOWN 36 FROM APRIL

Lamb price at Stortford,  
average, per head

**\$92.34**

24 JUNE 2017

Homes Sold  
in May 2017 (REINZ)

**242**

DOWN 75 FROM MARCH 2017

Burglaries  
March 2017

**310**

UP 56 FROM MARCH 2016

Assaults  
(Family violence indicator)

**244**

IN MARCH 2017 (UP 43 FROM MARCH 2016)

HB Hospital Emergency  
Department presentations  
22 April to 20 June 2017

**7,542**

(UP 134 FROM SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR)

Napier Port Cargo, Tonnes, April 2017 - May 2017

**498,850**

(UP 20% FROM SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR)

Illicit Drug Offences  
in April 2017

**231**

UP 42 FROM APRIL 2016

Visitors to MTG, May 2017,  
Including FREE children

**1,760**

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

**+3.0%**

Mini-jaffas given away  
by Pipi in May 2017

**1,625**

Bay Espresso coffee sold  
May 2017, kg

**1,551**

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

**154GB**

## What's Hot

Morocco man  
Pedalling  
Crickets  
Boag/Lorck  
Net zero  
Conditions precedent  
Chairman Graham  
Pastures  
End of life choice

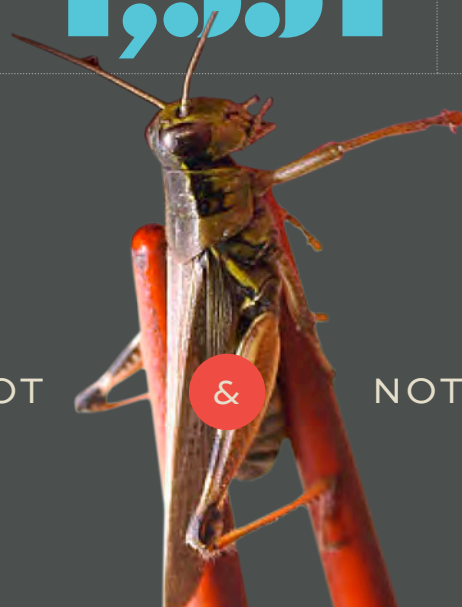
HOT

&

NOT

## What's Not

Ethiopia man  
Hand-cranking  
Beef  
Housing NZ  
Carbon emissions  
Box ticks  
Minister Collins  
Feedlots  
End of life misery





BEE IN  
THE KNOW

BRAIN CASE IS ELONGATED AND  
ARCHAICALLY CHARACTERISTIC  
OF EARLY HUMANS

FACIAL FEATURES  
COMPARATIVE TO  
MODERN HUMAN



ALMOST COMPLETE MANDIBLE  
CONFIRMS DENTAL ASPECT VERY  
SIMILAR TO MODERN HUMANS

## Feeling old?

300,000-YEAR-OLD HOMO SAPIENS FOUND IN JEBEL IRHOUD, MOROCCO

NEW RESEARCH published in June suggests that the earliest known remains of our species have turned up in northwest Africa, and prove we've been around much longer than previously thought.

Fossils of *Homo sapiens* have been unearthed together with stone tools at Jebel Irhoud, an archaeological site in Morocco. They date to some 300,000 years ago. Until now, the oldest human fossils came from much further south, in East Africa and they dated to only around 195,000 years ago.

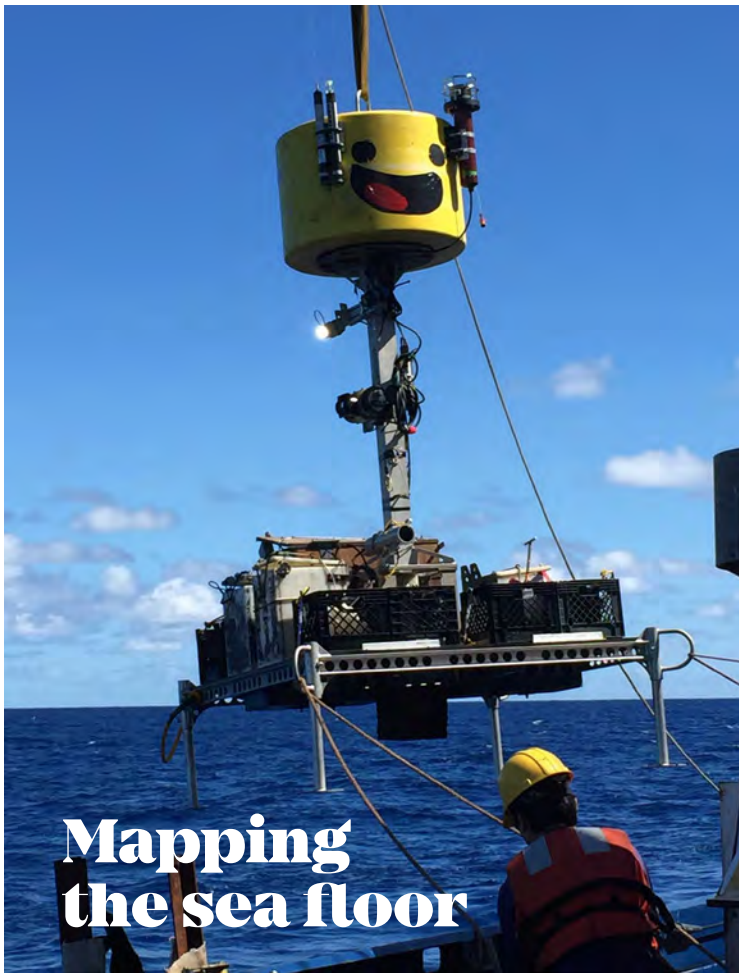
Scientists used cutting-edge thermoluminescence dating to gauge the approximate age of stone tools. Reconstruction of the human fossils and comparison with other hominid fossils indicates they are the remains of humans and not an earlier ancestor or Neanderthals.

"This changes our understanding and hypothesis of our species dispersal across Africa," said Southern Cross University geochronologist Dr Renaud Joannes-Boyau, who worked on

dating the fossils, including 'Irhoud 3' – a section of jawbone from a child, presumed to be between seven and eight years old.

"Irhoud 3 is the oldest *Homo Sapiens* accurately dated, it's the first of our kind."

By this standard, New Zealand is indeed a late bloomer. Kiona (pacific rat) bones, whose owners are assumed to have voyaged with humans, represent the oldest evidence of life on Aotearoa and have been carbon dated to only c.1280-1300.



## Mapping the sea floor

NEW ZEALAND has joined Seabed 2030 – a global initiative to map the ocean floor of the entire world by the year 2030.

The project is a collaboration between the Nippon Foundation in Japan and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), with work to be coordinated by four regional centres around the globe. Here, NIWA, GNS Science, and Land Information New Zealand will jointly manage the South and West Pacific Ocean Regional Data Assembly and Coordination Centre.

This portion covers the Pacific Ocean from South America to Australia, north of latitude 50°S to 10° north of the Equator and the western part of the Northern Pacific Ocean to Japan and includes the world's two deepest trenches – the Mariana and Kermadec Trenches, both of which are more than 10 kilometres deep.

“The topography of the ocean floor is far less known than the surfaces of Mercury, Venus, Mars, and the moons of several planets, including Earth's,” the Nippon Foundation said. Less than 15% of the world's ocean floor is currently adequately mapped.

Knowledge of the shape of the seafloor is crucial for understanding ocean circulation patterns that distribute heat between the tropics and the poles – a key component of Earth's climate system. Detailed measurements of ocean depth are also crucial for modelling tsunami inundation of coastal areas.

“In addition, ocean bathymetry is important for the study of tides, wave action, sediment transport, underwater geohazards, cable routing, fisheries management, resource exploration, military applications, and the establishment of sovereign rights over the seafloor,” the foundation said.

The completed maps will be released on NF-GEBCO Seabed 2030's official website and will also be made available for online resources such as Google Earth and ESRI's Ocean Basemap.

# enlighten

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO DENTISTRY  
WITH **WYNTON PERROTT**

## Lemon water, is it the cure all?

Widely promoted as an immune booster, liver cleanser and digestive aid, the list of health benefits of drinking lemon water seems to get longer everyday.

### But what does lemon water do to our teeth?

When lemon water first enters the mouth it is very acidic. This rapid drop in pH can literally dissolve the enamel on your teeth! Over time, the outer protective enamel layer is eroded away by the acidity exposing the inner dentin layer, which can leave the teeth discoloured and sensitive.

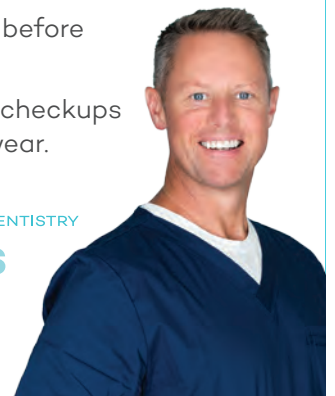
### Can I have the health benefits of lemon water without damaging my teeth?

- Always drink it diluted.
- Always rinse with water afterwards.
- Chew sugar free gum to neutralise acidity.
- Wait at least 1 hour before brushing.
- Have regular dental checkups to monitor enamel wear.

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BEE IN THE KNOW

# It IS Rocket Science

SPACE IS ANOTHER STEP CLOSER to being 'open for business'.

On 25 May, Rocket Lab's Electron rocket lifted-off at 16:20 NZST from its Launch Complex 1 on the Mahia Peninsula and reached space at 16:23 NZST. It was the first orbital-class rocket launched from a private launch site in the world.

Rocket Lab founder and CEO Peter Beck was thrilled with the launch and the three-minute journey into space, despite the fact that the rocket's orbital mission was not completed.

"It was a great flight. We had a great first stage burn, stage separation, second

stage ignition and fairing separation. We didn't quite reach orbit and we'll be investigating why, however reaching space in our first test puts us in an incredibly strong position to accelerate the commercial phase of our programme, deliver our customers to orbit and make space open for business," says Beck.

"I'm immensely proud of our talented team. We're one of a few companies to ever develop a rocket from scratch and we did it in under four years. We've worked tirelessly to get to this point. We've developed everything in-house, built the world's first private orbital launch range,

and we've done it with a small team."

May's launch was the first of three test flights scheduled for this year. Rocket Lab will target getting to orbit on the second test and look to maximise the payload the rocket can carry.

At full production, Rocket Lab expects to launch more than 50 times a year, and is regulated to launch up to 120 times a year.

Rocket Lab's commercial phase will see Electron fly already-signed customers including NASA, Spire, Planet, Moon Express and Spaceflight.

## End of Life Choice Bill: MPs Conscience vote

# 40

**STRONGLY IN FAVOUR**

ACT LEADER DAVID SEYMOUR'S private member's bill, the End of Life Choice Bill has been drawn from Parliament's ballot where it's been sitting since 2015.

Seymour's bill would allow anyone over the age of 18, "of a sound mind" decided on by two qualified medical practitioners, who was suffering in the late stages of a terminal or debilitating illness, to choose the time and method of their death. Further safeguards would also apply to make sure a person was not being coerced into making a decision that was not their own. While euthanasia would be a

# 27

**STRONGLY OPPOSED**

conscience vote – meaning MPs would vote individually, rather than along party lines – it has been seen as a risky area politically. Seymour has said his last assessment – about six months ago – has 40 MPs strongly in favour, 27 strongly opposed and around 50 undecided or holding unknown views.

Conscience vote issues give us unique insight into the heads and hearts of candidates. Tukituki MP candidates Yule and Lorck support end of life choice. Napier's Nash ???, while candidate Elliott says: "I am not pre-disposed in a certain

# 50

**UNDECIDED OR UNKNOWN**

direction. I believe in making an informed decision based on the arguments presented by both sides and if I get to parliament that is my intention."

It's unlikely that the bill will be debated before the September election, so the new intake of MPs will get to decide if it makes it past the first reading.

To read up on this hot button election issue, check out the bill itself at [parliament.nz](http://parliament.nz) or on the site [lifechoice.org.nz](http://lifechoice.org.nz). We also recommend delving back into *BayBuzz* #35 and reading Dr Libby Smales' opinion piece, *End of Life Choice*.



## Success at Māori Business Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to Kahungunu Asset Holding Company (KAHC), who received the Outstanding Māori Business Leadership Award (for organisations) at the recent University of Auckland Aotearoa Māori Business Leaders Awards.

KAHC was set up in 2005 to manage the Tiriti o Waitangi fisheries settlement assets on behalf of Ngāti Kahungunu. Since then it has grown the \$33 million settlement to over \$110 million in market value, and recently formed a joint venture to buy a deep-sea trawler, with plans to develop and export its own branded products.

It's been a busy 2017 so far. KAHC recently held the Taniwha Dragon economic summit, two days before the iwi hosted the hugely popular festival, Te Matatini. The summit, designed to encourage iwi and Chinese business connections, generated \$130 million in new business deals in the region.

Congratulations also to well-known Dannevirke shearing stalwart and prominent businesswoman Mavis Mullins (Rangitāne, Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi, Ngāti Ranginui), who received the Outstanding Māori Business Leaders Award, and in July will be inducted into the

New Zealand Business Hall of Fame.

In her acceptance speech, Mrs Mullins remarked that, "We love the work we do, and we've been born to serve our people. We've been born to serve Aotearoa Inc. and I think we're doing a damn good job of it, but we've got a fair way to go."

Mullins started out in business running the family shearing contracting firm, Paewai Mullins Shearing, with husband Koro. She's since sat on boards including Landcorp, 2degrees Mobile, health boards, Poutama Trust and Taratahi Agricultural Training.



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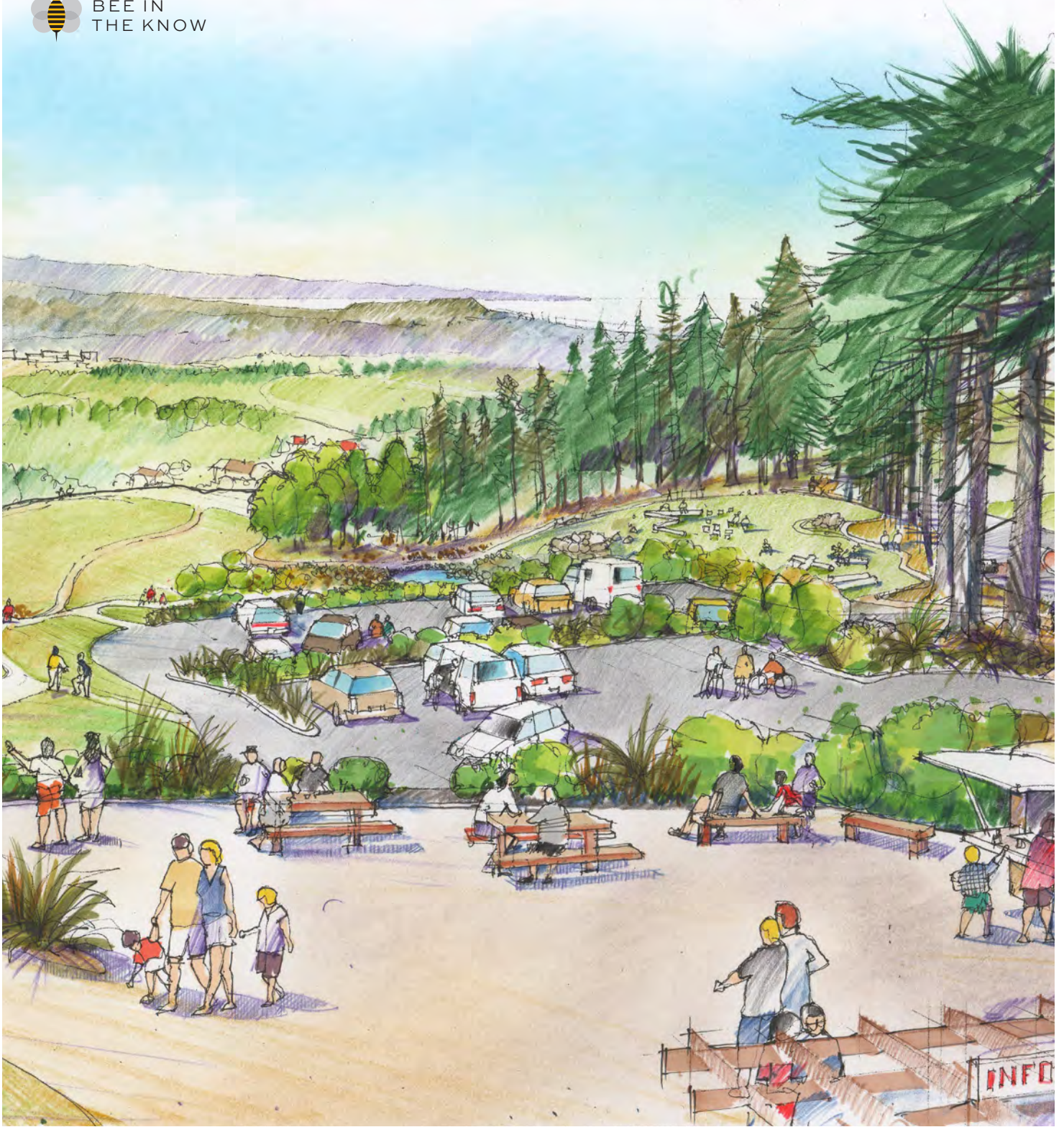
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## Te Mata Peak upgrade on way

MISSIONS UP TE MATA PEAK on foot or on bike are about to get a lot more comfortable with the building of a visitor shelter and information centre, toilet, and car park now set to get underway immediately, after government announced funding for the project in early June.

While the Peak won't be getting the \$4.3 million visitor centre that the Te Mata Park Trust had previously

been working towards, the upgrade will bring long-awaited benefits to the 99-hectare park.

The Te Mata Park project will receive \$380,000 from the government's Regional Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund, designed to help regions invest in infrastructure that will help them cope with increasing tourist numbers.

The Havelock North project was one of 16 around New Zealand to be awarded

funds totalling \$5.2 million.

Work will start immediately on site preparation for the car park, information kiosk and the toilets at the main gates. A bike wash facility and toilet will be built at the Tauroa Road park entrance. Both areas will include drinking water taps. The plan also includes landscaping.

A date for the grand opening is yet to be set.

You can view the Te Mata Park management plan for all the details on the development at [tematapark.co.nz/management-plan-2015-2025](http://tematapark.co.nz/management-plan-2015-2025)



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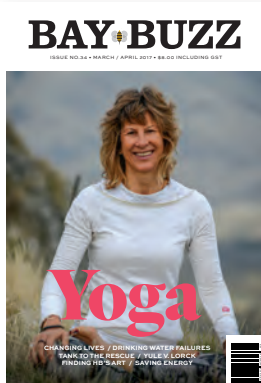
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# Wanted: Environment Champion

STORY: SOPHIE PRICE  
PHOTOS: TIM WHITTAKER



## With a litany of green issues plaguing New Zealand – from climate change to declining biodiversity, not much has been said by either major party on anything but fresh water reform.

### LABOUR'S ENVIRONMENT SPOKESPERSON

David Parker has been outspoken on water issues, calling for swimmable rivers, fewer dairy cows, less nitrogen in our waterways, requiring consents for intensified farming, and tougher enforcement of rules by both regional councils (whose effectiveness in this regard would be overseen by the Audit Office) and directly by EPA. But a visit to the Labour website contains but two 'motherhood and apple pie' sentences related to environmental issues, with no supporting detail.

National's website is totally silent on the environment; however, the government has begun the usual election year tradition of sprinkling dollars designed to look like it cares ... most recently funding a project to recycle tyres. That \$19 million proposal was immediately trashed by recycling experts like the Product Stewardship Council as ignoring best practice and simply providing a taxpayer subsidy to tyre manufacturers. But expect more dollops like this in the months ahead.

As you would expect, the Green Party overflows with environmental policies, perhaps the most provocative of these being a carbon tax and a 'Taonga Levy' – the latter a \$14 to \$18 increase on existing border charges for international visitors – to finance protection of the natural endowment our many visitors put pressure on.

The relative neglect by the two major parties was illustrated further when *BayBuzz* interviewed Tukituki candidates Lawrence Yule and Anna Lorck. Lacking comprehensive environmental policies 'from above', Lorck and Yule were left scrambling, rather than speaking out on issues affecting the Tukituki electorate. Perley contrasted the major party candidates by showing a good grasp on the environmental temperament here in the Bay.

[Giving the candidates a 'second chance', *BayBuzz* invited the candidates to submit brief statements on the environment, which are published verbatim at the end of this article.]

In their interviews, the candidates were vocal about one issue – the dominant issue that has aggravated and energised the Tukituki electorate for the past twelve months ...water. Dirty, swimmable, bottled, dammed, drinkable water.

### Water focus

"The biggest environmental issue facing us is understanding the balance of water

use on the Heretaunga Plains," says Yule. "How much is available for safe high-quality drinking water, how much is available for industry, how much is available for the irrigation sector, and then how much is available for water bottling, which is something that concerns just about everybody. They are worried about it."

Yule says first the community has got to make sure this resource is looked after in a sustainable manner. "When the whole economic hub of this region is based on what's underneath where we sit today we need to be really sure we understand it and to allocate it clearly in a sustainable way." While he would like to address other environmental hot spots such as the Tukituki River, he says potable water is the priority.

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While Lorck agrees with Yule on the priority of water, the Labour hopeful asserts that if it wasn't for the contamination crisis in Havelock North – a traditional National stronghold – fresh water wouldn't even be on the agenda this election.

She believes the Bay is in the best position of anywhere in the country to lead on fresh water quality and safe drinking standards and says Labour is prepared to make the tough decisions to make this happen. "My interest, passion and commitment to water

**“The biggest environmental issue facing us is understanding the balance of water use on the Heretaunga Plains”**

LAWRENCE YULE



is overflowing now,” she says. “So if change is going to happen it has to happen here first.”

Perley says the water issue goes beyond what is merely potable, saying this resource is important because it is the “prime indicator” of what is happening in the rest of the ecosystem. He views last year’s campylobacter outbreak as a wakeup call not only for drinkable water, but for other water-related issues, such as biodiversity in the feeder systems.

“The biggest focus is water and water quality and what is happening with our rivers and streams ... and the cause isn’t just intensive land use like dairying, it’s also things that happen within our cities,” he says. “Good quality water within a sponge landscape that is resilient to drought and resilient to flood and is good for biodiversity. It all goes together and is good for the economy. So water is pretty much the focus.”

**What to do**

So if water is the biggest issue, how do the candidates address it?

Yule’s view is simple. “For 150 years we

have been denuding the land of forest, we have been intensifying production on farm land, we have been importing fertiliser to make stuff grow more, and actually I think we have gone too far. Addressing some of that stuff is going to take time and it is going to take money and it is going to take a concerted effort.”

He argues that while water quality in the Bay and the country has deteriorated over decades, his party realises this and understands that some things, such as investment and land use, must now be done differently.

The National Party candidate says while the environmental lobby may not see this approach as fast or aggressive enough, a balance needs to be sought as the damage that has been done to the waterways goes beyond agricultural practices.

“What I see in environmental policy is a whole lot of criticism in farming practices,” he says. “Yes there can be room for improvement, but actually I don’t think that it is fair to blame the farmers for everything when we haven’t even started to address the urban water issues – from

stormwater, from brake and tyre run off on our roads, from sewage and other things getting into estuaries.”

“Every New Zealander has got a part to play in fixing this and...the National Government is committed to readdressing this balance.”

Perley emphasises the need to refocus on how land is used. “If you want to solve these problems with our aquifer and our streams then you have to go back to land use,” he says. “At the moment, we don’t encourage an integrated patchwork of woodland and pasture and high quality produce and happy cows.”

For Lorck it’s about better regulation. Noting that Kiwis are not pro-regulation, she believes rules are going to have to be tougher if any change is to be made. “We are saying we will regulate, we are going to get tougher on our regional councils,” she says. “Just because you were allowed to pollute rivers last year doesn’t mean you can pollute them next year and if it takes that kind of regulatory action then that is something that we are prepared to do.”

In doing this, she says Labour will put more pressure on the regional councils to “do their job”. Locally, Lorck says the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council has had the rules in place to be able to regulate and be tougher, but “we are yet to see some of those enforced”.

“If we need to get in with a stick we will,” she says. “I don’t think we will see that level of toughness from National.”

### The dam

Of course the dam still looms as a contentious issue for Bay voters.

The National Government has made no secret that it is pro-irrigation, setting aside \$400 million for direct capital investment into large-scale irrigation schemes, with about \$100 million presently slated for the RWSS.

Yule believes one way or another water storage needs to happen, that it is not tenable to go out into the next 20-30 years saying “water storage is too hard”. His Facebook page and campaign ads in the *CHB Mail* tout his support for the Ruataniwha dam. “My point is the issue is not going to go away we are going to get more droughts, we are going to compromise our production and water storage,” he says.

There’s no sign of a position on the dam on candidate Lorck’s website or Facebook page. In conversation, she puts the fate of the project in regional councillors’ hands, indicating that if the project cannot meet

the conditions HBRC has set out, the dam should not proceed and other water storage options should be explored.

Alongside his party, Perley has steadfastly opposed the dam, and labels the government’s \$400m investment “visionless”, saying dams and irrigation encourage intensification, whereupon the economic model becomes one of environmental degradation instead of environmental enhancement, of extraction rather than creation, of quantity over quality.

“The Ruataniwha dam would be an economic and environmental disaster,” said Green Party water spokesperson Catherine Delahunty last year. “At present, all funding to build the dam is coming from the public purse, while the benefits of it will go to private users. Hawke’s Bay Regional Council should call the project off, or risk ending up with a white elephant water scheme that the public foots the bill for. This irrigation scheme will only make the water more polluted; most of the rivers in the Ruataniwha catchment are already polluted and exceed acceptable nitrate levels.”

Says Perley, “If they want to put investment in, why not put \$400 million of investment into high-value batch processed, uniquely marketed and labelled New Zealand products so you can hold price first?”

“Until [politicians] ‘get’ that land enhancement and water enhancement relates to economic enhancement, we will

just keep seeing the problems, we will just keep seeing the ‘Fonterra’ model.”

### Beyond water

Water is not the only environmental issue for New Zealand. From the Resource Management Act’s new ‘360D’ clause to oil and gas development to biodiversity to fisheries protection the list is long.

The RMA’s provision ‘360D’ has been a clause of contention. Labelled the ‘dictator clause’, it gives the Environment minister the power to override decisions made at a local government level.

At the heart of this debate was the vocal GM Free lobby, who successfully got the Māori Party to bargain with the government so our pastures and fields can remain free of anything genetically engineered.

As Hastings mayor, Yule was a part of that lobby – his council one of the first local bodies to declare its district GM free. He believes that the changes made to the RMA clause are a pragmatic balance. “We have got what our district has wanted ... our ability to remain GM free [will] not be overridden by the ‘360D’ clause,” he says, noting that any medical uses of GM will be unaffected.

“I am proud of the fact that this district has said what we wanted, we have managed to articulate that.”

However, at the same time, his party – and especially its environment minister,



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Let's go there

**“When it comes to local communities being able to make decisions that impact on their environment and their economy, then I believe we should have that right to make those decisions.”**

ANNA LORCK



Nick Smith – remains adamantly opposed to regional regulation of GMOs. And as noted in a previous *BayBuzz* interview, all Yule can do if elected is toe the party line.

Lorck, whose public relations company ran the GM Free campaign, says changes made to the clause have not gone far enough. “When it comes to local communities being able to make decisions that impact on their environment and their economy, then I believe we should have that right to make those decisions,” she says. Her position seems at odds with Labour’s environment spokesperson David Parker, who has said: “It’s wrong that councils should control whether you have a release for a GMO.”

### **Environment vs economy**

While he views economic success as a cornerstone of National’s appeal, Yule says it is not “an either/or”, when it comes to the economy or the environment.

“I don’t think they are doing it in any direct attempt to try and compromise the environment, I think they realise that actually some environmental things have

gotten worse and we need to fix them,” he says. “It may not be expressed in a straight policy sense as yet, but a smart political party needs to understand that these are important to New Zealand and I think the National Government does that.”

He notes that when people cannot afford to put food on the table, value issues such as the environment are not as important to them; it is because of National’s sound fiscal management that government has the luxury of now being able to address such matters.

Perley disputes this saying that for the National Party it is indeed an “either/or”; that they see resources as things for free and to take and then pollute because “we are allowed to”.

“That in order to have a strong economy you have got to screw your people and screw the land and that’s their vision,” says Perley.

He argues that New Zealand can have a better environment as well as a better positioned economy.

“You don’t just sort out climate change and water quality, you also go into a better-quality presentation for your products so you end up

with a high-value, diverse business model. Right now, we are moving very much the other way.”

He says for proof of this one only has to look at the crisis that started the rallying cry for clean water – the Havelock North campylobacter outbreak. A mismanaged environment led to people getting sick, which led to the village feeling the economic effects of it still today. “The links are so strong, and that is what I don’t think the National Party gets at all,” he says.

Lorck says that when in government her party has taken a far stronger line on environmental policies than National.

“We are in a good position to move on those things,” she says, noting that any sort of long term change must come from today’s youth. “It is up to the government of the day to actually start listening to the young people and empowering the younger people to have their voice.”

Lorck asserts, “You can bet anything that a Labour-led government will put a lot more focus on the environment than National has in the last nine years.”

# Candidate Statements

## **ANNA LORCK – LABOUR PARTY**

We are taking fresh action to ensure that our rivers and lakes are genuinely swimmable, without trickery. We will set standards and enforce them.

**We will require all rivers and lakes to be clean enough for people to swim in during summer without getting sick, while achieving aquatic ecosystem health.**

Increases in the intensity of land use for livestock will no longer be a permitted activity. This point of control will be used to stop rivers and lakes getting dirtier, without delay.

Within five years water quality should be improving. Even the most grossly polluted rivers and lakes must be cleaned up over a generation. This will also protect aquifers.

All intensively stocked land near

waterways will require fencing within five years with setbacks for riparian planting to filter and absorb silt and nutrients.

We will fund either the Ministry for the Environment or the Environmental Protection Authority to enforce the law by prosecuting breaches of the Resource Management Act through local Crown solicitors, including the right to reclaim costs from the guilty party and the regional council.

Labour has actively supported Hawke's Bay's right to protect the GM Free growing status and we strongly opposed National's 360D clause to override local decision-making powers to protect the region's environment.

We will be releasing more environment policy closer to the election.

## **CHRIS PERLEY – GREEN PARTY**

The Green Party believes that people are a part of our environment. You cannot separate us. Without a healthy environment, we can have neither healthy communities nor healthy local economies.

The environment is not something you "fix after you get the economy right". It provides for community wellbeing. It provides economic diversity as well as the quality, safe and healthy produce desired by discerning markets, who will pay for it.

**Our polluting, low quality model is dumb economics, and shifting away from that increasingly industrial, third-world commodity model is part of the Party's integrated environmental, social and economic vision.**



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A photograph of Chris Perley, a man with grey hair, wearing a grey sweater and blue jeans, sitting in a wheelchair on a grassy bank next to a river. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and a body of water under a clear sky.

**“The biggest focus is water and water quality and what is happening with our rivers and streams ... and the cause isn’t just intensive land use like dairying, it’s also things that happen within our cities.”**

CHRIS PERLEY

It is the reason for our opposition to GMO food, the Ruataniwha dam, intensive farming and oil and gas putting our rivers and aquifers at risk for the short term gain of a few.

Healthy homes, renewable energy and rethinking our transport systems away from motorways and fossil fuel vehicles link future resilience to climate change and fossil fuel limits with building communities and smart enterprise.

Our carbon tax both discourages greenhouse gases and encourages the development of a richer carbon landscape with healthier soils and increased woody and wetland habitat ... which in turn reduces more energy use, increases biodiversity, improves water quality and reduces flood and drought risk.

Our biggest focus over many years is water quality. The Tukituki is one of the Green Party’s 10 priority rivers based on iconic environmental and community values. There is no better indicator of the health of the land, community and economy.

#### **LAWRENCE YULE – NATIONAL PARTY**

**Many people know I am a strong supporter of the environment. I too want people to be able to swim in rivers like I did as a child. The environment and climate are two areas I want to focus on if elected to Parliament.**

The National Party has a strong environmental commitment and has resulted in environmental policy becoming a central plank of National Strategy for New Zealand’s success.

National has also made significant policy and investment decisions to support the environment including:

Climate change: A commitment to a 30% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030. New Zealand is on track to have 90% renewable energy by 2025.

Predator Free 2050: An commitment to eliminate all possums, rats and

stoats by 2050 to support New Zealand’s internationally recognised biodiversity.

Water quality: 90% of all rivers will be swimmable by 2040. This is the first direct head-on attempt to improve water quality by imposing ambitious improvement targets. This is being supported by a \$2billion clean-up fund. Water quality improvement is everyone’s responsibility, including farmers and urban dwellers.

Air Quality: The PM10 Standards are responsible for dramatic improvements in air quality. This has led to a change in fireplaces, bans on open burning during winter months and a major insulation package.

Tyres: A National Environment Standard on tyres. This is supported by a new national tyre collection system, tyre shredding facilities and the ultra high temperature clean burning of the shredded tyres to help produce cement in the Nelson.

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# DAM *of* CARDS II

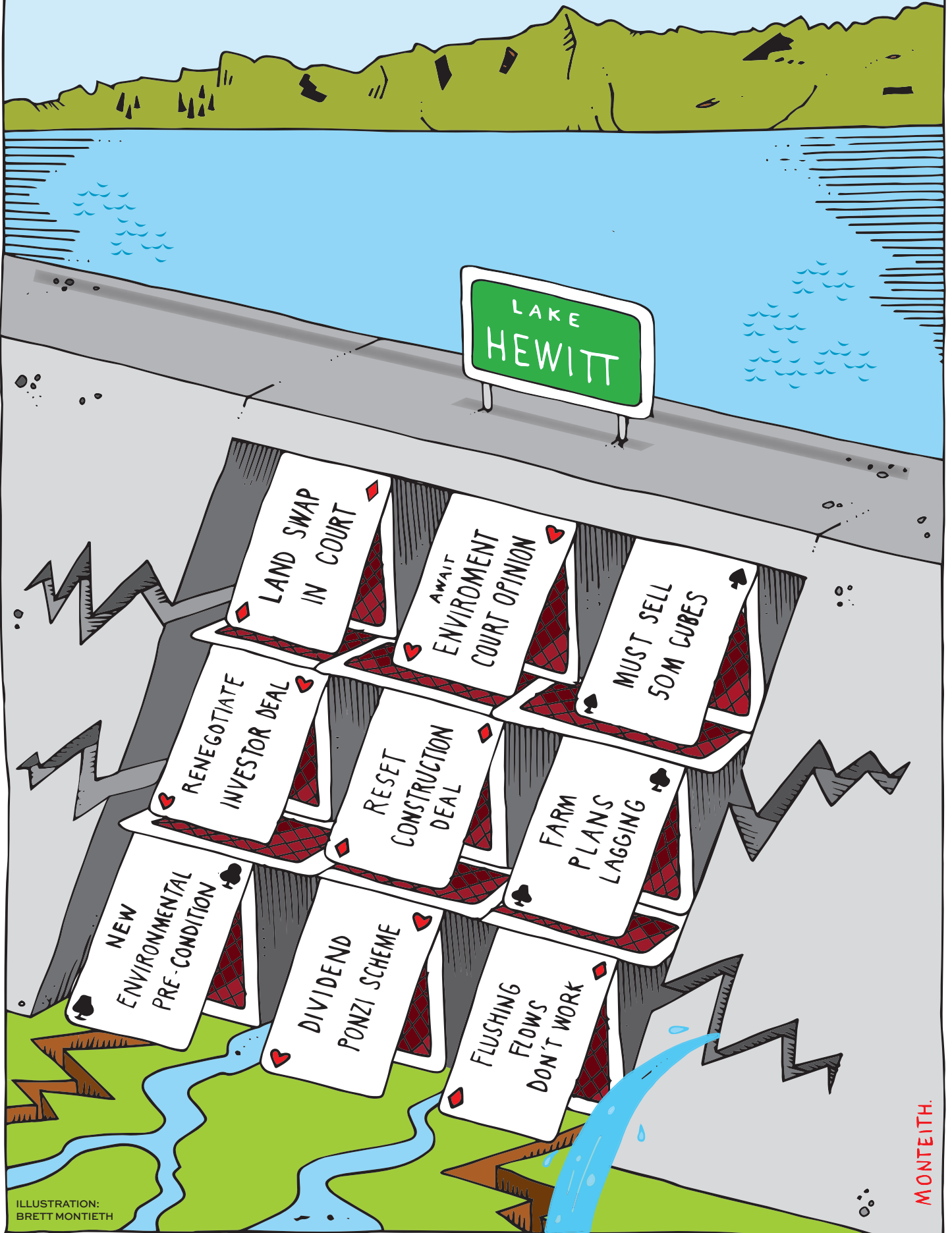


ILLUSTRATION:  
BRETT MONTEITH

MONTEITH.

# Listening to the People

TOM BELFORD

I'M TRYING TO PACE MYSELF through the new season of *House of Cards* on Netflix, trying to watch only one episode per week. This requires major self-discipline, especially when my wife urges binge viewing.

Switching back and forth between President Underwood (aka Kevin Spacey) and President Trump helps fill the incredibility gap, although it's hard to distinguish which is more fantastical – the onscreen president we know is corrupt, or the real-life one who is 'only' under investigation, and who so far is proven guilty only of bad taste, worse ethics, and narcissism of pathological proportion.

How tame politics and issues are by comparison here in "she'll be right" New Zealand!

And even closer at hand, here in Hawke's Bay, where emotions run highest around pay parking, freedom campers, mayoral junkets to California, war memorials, and councillor emails.

Of course citizens are perfectly entitled to sound-off on whatever issues aggrieve them; that's the stuff of democratic politics. And it's the duty of elected officials to listen and respond.

If there's a theme to this article, it's whether and how citizen voices get heard.

## Submissions

Both the Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act specify the occasions on which public consultation must occur, and on those occasions, submissions are the most conventional form of public input. Sometimes this formal process is extremely eye-opening and makes a difference; sometimes it amounts to box-ticking on the part of councils.

At the regional council, submitters at our recent hearing on our pending Annual Plan brought all sorts of concerns to the table.

Some were on 'big' issues, like biodiversity and the proposed million-dollar 'hot spot' rate increase. Others were quite localized in focus, yet reflected issues that could be warnings of serious private wrongdoing and/or systemic council inattention.

For example, one submitter brought video

showing major dumping of what appeared to be industrial waste alongside the lower Tukituki in areas supposedly under council 'lock and key'. He claimed to have complained to council staff about the situation, only to be brushed off. Having brought the matter directly – and visually – to councillors, the dumping is now being investigated.

Another submitter complained of logging slash being pushed across her rural road and into a streambank. Councillors were suitably alarmed and asked if photos were available. They arrived the same evening, proving the saying ... a picture is worth a thousand words.

Lesson to submitters: bring visuals!

---

**The reality is that most people in a small community like Hawke's Bay – where relationships are intricately intertwined – do not wish to be seen publicly rocking the boat, advocating a position, making an official complaint, or reporting miscreants.**

---

Encounters like these are hugely valuable to elected representatives – they test (and sometimes expose) the ineffectiveness of rules, the complacency of staff, the extent of bad behaviour by our fellow citizens, and the consequent need to re-think priorities, policies, attention and resourcing.

## Digital democracy

These formal exchanges, however, are but the tip of the iceberg when it comes to concerned citizens seeking accountable government.

In my experience, the most valuable

exchange between elected representatives and citizens is far more often informal, private and confidential ... and these days more likely to occur in emails and text messages. This is the much vaster 'stuff' of politics and representative government.

The reality is that most people in a small community like Hawke's Bay – where relationships are intricately intertwined – do not wish to be seen publicly rocking the boat, advocating a position, making an official complaint, or reporting miscreants.

But elected officials need to hear from them nonetheless, with the understanding that such communications can occur in privacy and be kept confidential. That's the root principle that has caused several councillors, myself included, to decline releasing such communications to requestors seeking them under the Official Information Act.

---

## HAWKE'S BAY TODAY LGOIMA REQUEST:

"Email communications to, from, and/or between at least 3 of - Rex Graham, Tom Belford, Rick Barker, Peter Beaven, Neil Kirton & Paul Bailey in their capacity as councillors - between 1Nov16 & 30Apr17 - referencing Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme (RWSS), HBRIC Ltd, Andy Pearce, Andrew Newman, Napier Port, and/or "Romans".

---

Consider that the *HB Today* fishing expedition cited above would entail thousands of emails. There's a balance to be struck between unconstrained transparency, personal privacy and 'full and frank' discussion between elected officials, members of the public, and each other. The Act expressly recognizes the need for that balance. There's nothing sinister about it.

As I see it, public accountability is well-served when ratepayers and voters can communicate their concerns and grievances to elected officials in confidence, and when councillors can discuss such matters, also in confidence.



SHEEP GRAZE BANKS OF KARAMŪ STREAM



LOGGING SLASH IN WAIROA STREAM

So far, judging from the support we've received for taking this position, most of the public seems to agree. I'd welcome hearing from anyone who does not.

### Stakeholders – biodiversity

Including the public and interest groups in a more substantial way in decision-making around complex, major choices – water storage, environmental standards, broad strategies for issues like biodiversity and wise energy futures – is a vexing challenge for councils.

On any given issue, who are the key players, what information do they need, how can competing values be heard and served, what is an orderly path to sort through the issues, and what's a trustworthy way to develop consensus (or whatever consensus there is to be had)?

The stakeholder process aimed at selling the proposed Ruataniwha dam was one such example. One whose chief value was to identify lessons in what not to do. Lesson #1: don't bother to set up a faux consultative process when the desired outcome has already been decided.

Learning that lesson, the regional council has embarked on a number of other stakeholder processes that show far more promise for unifying diverse interests to meet significant challenges.

For example, a regional biodiversity strategy, looking ahead to 2050, has been successfully fashioned by a diverse set of interests (about 50 in all) including foresters, farmers, Māori, environmentalists, councils, DoC and others. With the strategy released in March 2016, the process has taken about four years – four years of volunteer meetings around the region to identify concerns and opportunities, 'lubricated' by modest staff support from HBRC, but very much owned by the stakeholders involved.

An Action Plan and structure has been agreed upon to address biodiversity needs over time. The planning group, now chaired

by Charles Daugherty (awarded ONZM for services to conservation and biology), aims to have a Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Foundation in place in early 2018; its aim is to bring together an array of public and private funding partners. In formulating a new Long Term Plan next year, decisions will be made regarding HBRC financial support for the strategy.

So far, this planning process has earned high marks from its diverse stakeholders, and can be looked upon as a very positive model. That said, its next test is to attract the level of multiple-source funding needed to move forward seriously with its Action Plan and begin on-the-ground projects.

### Stakeholders – coastal hazards

The impact of climate change – particularly sea level rise – on our coastal communities and environment is the focus of another major stakeholder process led by the regional council, alongside the Hastings and Napier councils and tangata whenua.

The aim of this process, begun in 2015 and chaired by regional councillor Peter Beaven, has been to: first, educate councils, coastal communities and the broader public about the expected impacts of an inescapable physical change – of uncertain pace and severity – that will take decades to unfold; and second, devise a consensus response that contemplates measures ranging from engineered protections to relocating key infrastructure to potential managed retreat of communities.

Laboring away at this challenge has been a small army of science, engineering, social science and cultural experts, informing two large citizen-stakeholder panels of about 35 members each, one focused on the coast from the Port north to Tangoio, the other from Marine Parade south to Clifton.

As a councillor-observer to the 'southern' group, I am astonished by the scores and scores of hours of study and discussion that unpaid representatives of our communities have dedicated to this process,

including Friday night sessions and all-day workshops.

At this stage, the panels have narrowed down and are weighing options for coping with sea rise in various 'cells' along the coast in the near, mid, and long term, assessing these against environmental, social/cultural and economic criteria. Yet to come is costing the final options and devising a funding strategy that is fair to all ratepayers in the region.

As readers surely appreciate, this is a hugely complex planning project, even for the technical experts, planning consultants and council staffs. Adding citizen participants to the mix – not just as observers to be 'kept informed', but as arbiters of the mitigation options that will be undertaken – could make for an impossibly erratic and contentious process. To date it has not.

A unified, community-endorsed Clifton to Tangoio Coastal Hazards Strategy is a realistic possibility.

### Stakeholders – TANK

A third stakeholder process led by the regional council aims to devise a comprehensive water management regime for the Heretaunga Plains – consisting of the Tutaeke, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū (TANK) catchments.

*BayBuzz* reported on TANK in depth in our March/April edition, so I won't re-cover that ground.

Here I will just comment on the process from a citizen engagement perspective. Given the ecological, cultural and economic stakes involved, it would not be surprising to see the diverse parties – some of whom weathered the Tukituki process – sitting around the table in wary postures.

But the lesson from the failed Tukituki process being applied here is to test the science and the assumptions behind the science in full view, with all participants hopefully able to buy into the implications. No pre-determined outcome is being sold.

I am a councillor-observer to this



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MĀKĀRORO RIVER WOULD BE DAMMED. Photo: Tim Whittaker. tim.co.nz

## Finally, another new condition requires that the land swap needed for the dam reservoir is not blocked by the Supreme Court, which is considering an appeal on the matter by Forest & Bird.

So, looking afresh at the ‘conditions precedent’:

**1.** Does the HBRIC hold ‘workable’ consents for the RWSS? Possibly not, depending on the Environment Court outcome.

**2.** Does HBRIC hold a final signed construction contract for the scheme? No, given delays in project, the contract will still need to be re-confirmed.

**3.** Has adequate volume of water been contracted by farmers? No, the requirement has now been adjusted upward to 50 million cubes (from 40 million), a level that still does not meet most ratepayers’ definition of ‘breakeven’. For example, HBRIC would still need to borrow up to \$80 million additional over 22 years so as to be able to pay the stipulated dividend from the project to HBRIC. What some have called a “Ponzi scheme”.

**4.** Does the scheme have a confirmed institutional investor? Not yet. Councillors have asked HBRIC to re-negotiate terms that are regarded as far too favourable to the investor.

Those conditions have to be met in the face of a new environmental condition.

The newly-added environmental condition requires that an environmental mitigation scheme must be brought forward – applying to all farmers in the Tukituki catchment – that provides convincing evidence that the health of the Tuki will in fact be improved. This evidence must be demonstrated in Farm Environmental Management Plans submitted by a ‘reasonable’ number of farmers in the catchment, including those potentially in the scheme.

Finally, another new condition requires that the land swap needed for the dam reservoir is not blocked by the Supreme Court, which is considering an appeal on the matter by Forest & Bird. If the land swap is nullified, all of the above conditions are moot ... the project would be dead.

Effectively, the case for proceeding with the dam is yet to be made. And no council decision will be made on the project for several months, while the work on conditions described above proceeds.

Stay tuned!

stakeholder process. Here are some take-aways from the science so far:

- environmental mitigations will need to be diverse and uniquely suited to problems that differ in various waterways;
- reducing sediment will be critical;
- ecologically harmful low flows might not be restored by targeted irrigation bans;
- municipal and industrial users have water conservation responsibilities no less than irrigators;
- seawater intrusion into the aquifer does not appear to be an issue;
- augmenting water supply, if needed for ecological reasons while supporting commercial use, might be feasible in a number of ways.

Among the issues still to be traversed are the overall sustainable ‘take’ that is feasible from the aquifer, given projectable water demand and recharge capability; better understanding of some environmental ‘hotspots’; addressing the extent and mitigation of urban stormwater run-off; and fleshing out augmentation options.

But the key point is that all parties are walking through these issues together, with equal access to the underlying information, and full opportunity to challenge anyting.

### The dam

The stakeholder examples described above seem to have integrity and be on the right track. The stakeholder process for the proposed Ruataniwha dam was entirely cosmetic and yielded no consensus whatsoever. Which didn’t matter to dam proponents.

But the result is the impasse the dam proposition has reached, culminating in the recent ‘cup of tea’ review of the project.

One might call the 31 May HBRC meeting a watershed event for the dam. At that meeting, councillors acted on the findings of the review.

In short, the project was effectively put on hold, in recognition that all of the so-called ‘conditions precedent’ needed to be re-addressed, and that a significant new environmental condition was required to ensure – if indeed it’s possible to ensure – that the Tukituki catchment would not in fact be further damaged by proceeding with the dam.

In addition, HBRC decided to join with the Environmental Defence Society and Fish and Game in applying for a declaratory judgment from the Environment Court aimed at clarifying definitively some of the key Plan Change 6 environmental requirements. How these requirements are interpreted could have major bearing on environmental mitigation strategy and the viability of the scheme.



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AKI PAIPPER AND MOKOPUNA ON THE KARAMŪ STREAM. Photo: Florence Charvin

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# Paipper Powerhouse

In each of the stakeholder processes I've described there are incredible volunteers devoting hundreds of hours attempting to improve the environmental health of Hawke's Bay. For example ...

TANK stakeholders would agree that the Karamū stream is a prime 'hotspot' in terms of ecological degradation. On the TANK group, Aki Paipper has been the key voice speaking up for the Karamū. Returning to her home community, Whakatu, after 43 years working abroad, she was appalled at the state of the Karamū.

Over the last ten years, she's been a powerhouse behind efforts to improve the waterway, and has been particularly successful at getting extensive riparian planting completed in the Whakatu reach of the stream, and now heading upstream to Pākōwhai and "around the bend" to the Clive. "Phase 1," she calls it, "because that's

what we could physically do ourselves."

I asked Aki for her assessment of the Karamū and her expectations of TANK in that regard.

"The Karamū suffers from the lot – trees were stripped away, we have industrial pollution, stormwater run-off, intensified farming." She wants to "shapeshift the river to meet the outcomes that are desirable for how we [Māori] see the river."

She's pleased with the planting progress, but is "not happy about the water quality, not happy about the weed growth, the water clarity, the water flow, not happy about the sediment" and the contaminants in it – all issues she sees as TANK concerns.

"If we don't get nutrient control, we don't get stormwater control, and we don't get sediment control, then we're out of control! ... This a build-up over the last 60-70 years ... and we want everything done yesterday."

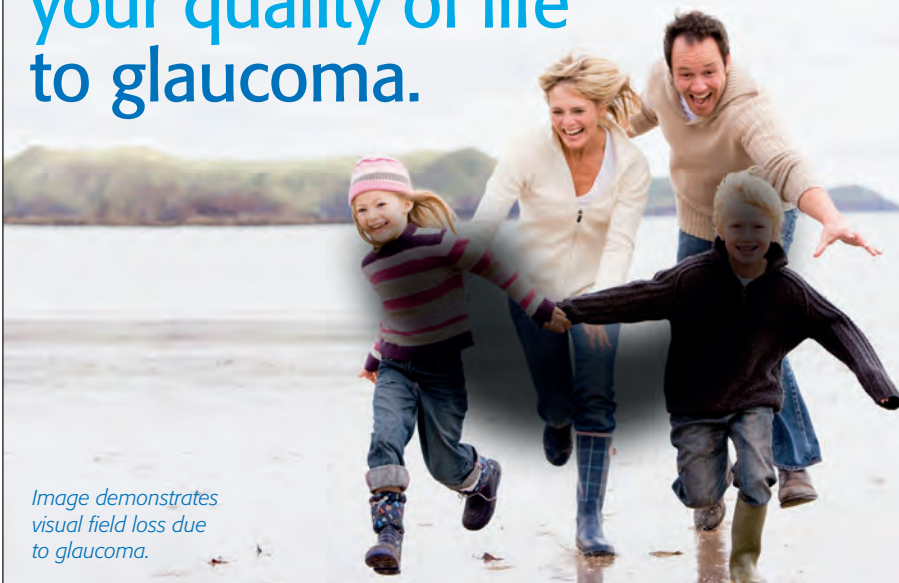
"We're subject to the accidentals.

We've got the accidental sewage spills, the accidental chemical spills, the accidental eel kills ... something's got to shift." Aki noted her frustration that only days before this interview, sheep were feeding along the Karamū banks on council land, "after we've planted our little hearts out".

She wants to see that any water augmentation supported by TANK produces higher flows for the Karamū. Providing a permanent mouth to the sea for the Tutaekuri and Ngaruroro, aligned to benefit the Clive river, is another priority, as sediment now backfills up the less powerful Clive.

Asked her confidence in the TANK process, Aki responds, "We Māori know what the waters can give without beating the hell out of it ...I want to believe that we'll put the awa first. That's why I'm sitting at the table."

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*Image demonstrates visual field loss due to glaucoma.*

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# A LESS- EMISSIONS MISSION

NET ZERO REPORT CHALLENGES  
AGRI-BUSINESS ROOTS



**New Zealand will have to wean itself off intensive agriculture, plant vast forests, commit to vehicles and factories powered by 100% renewable electricity or continue to buy carbon credits to cover its backside if it's to meet Paris Agreement climate change commitments by 2050.**

---

KEITH NEWMAN

THE NET ZERO IN NEW ZEALAND report released in April by UK-based Vivid Economics, tries to unpack the stark implications of what the country has committed to by proposing core scenarios backed by government policy.

Massive changes in land use are recommended, favouring forestry, horticulture, cropping and biofuel production; and dairying will need to deploy undiscovered technologies to limit agricultural greenhouse gases if it's to remain a significant export earner.

Globe-NZ, the local chapter of the international parliamentary climate change group, comprising 35 MPs of different political persuasions, commissioned the report, pitched as a pathway to meeting our zero-emission obligations.

However, the report's recommendations were overshadowed by a briefing paper to Energy Minister Judith Collins on her first day in the job in late May, revealing a plan to pay other countries \$1.4 billion a year or \$14.2 billion over the next decade in carbon credits to offset our emissions.

In other words, the government has agreed on a trade-off using our Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) so we can continue with our high level of emissions, particularly in the agricultural sector, while it figures out other domestic measures.

In the briefing document, officials warned this "significant transfer of wealth overseas" could negatively impact domestic reductions and still leave New Zealand exposed if carbon prices increased beyond 2030.



The ‘pay to pollute’ option flies in the face of the Net Zero recommendations, which urge New Zealand to make drastic changes to industrial, domestic and agricultural processes that contribute to greenhouse gases.

The Net Zero report is designed to help decision-makers restructure New Zealand as a low-emission economy by identifying robust strategies, key trade-offs and possible perverse outcomes for land and energy use.

The options include reducing dairy, beef and sheep numbers by 20-35%, planting up to 1.6 million hectares of extra forests, a massive shift toward electric or bio-energy generation for industrial processes and to “decarbonise freight” through electric vehicles (EVs).

#### **Filtering the filth**

While forestry can absorb about 30% of gross emissions, the Globe-NZ report says we’ll need alternative strategies from 2050 as forests reach maturity, and emissions are released during timber harvests. This will include bio-energy, carbon capture and storage (CCS) and “unforeseen technologies”.

While forestry is pivotal to achieving the net zero trajectory, the report concedes changes in land use may create difficulties for rural economies and mean lost opportunity to reintroduce native habitat.

While the government is currently reviewing the ETS, the Globe-NZ authors recommend a more robust and significantly higher-priced ETS, with exemptions on agriculture removed. Emissions from the farming sector make up nearly half of New Zealand’s greenhouse gases, the highest ratio in the OECD.

It wants strong policies to “unlock energy efficiency potential” in new buildings, transport fleet efficiency, industry heating, and to incentivise farm and forestry owners.

While the report is the first multi-party attempt to quantify the costs, benefits and barriers to reaching zero emissions, or at least to be heading in that direction by the second half of the century, it is non-binding.

Like meat industry commentator Allan Barber says, the government must get buy in from the various sectors for a workable strategy everyone can agree to. “It requires a mandate to continue its work...otherwise Beef + Lamb NZ and Dairy NZ for example, may end up being forced to comply unwillingly with decisions made by others.”

#### **Threat to agri-business**

Prime Minister Bill English quickly downplayed proposals to slash agriculture or reduce animal numbers by up to 35% saying it would destroy New Zealand’s rural communities.

## **The ‘pay to pollute’ option flies in the face of the Net Zero recommendations, which urge New Zealand to make drastic changes to industrial, domestic and agricultural processes that contribute to greenhouse gases.**

He believed the economy was already diversifying significantly and said the government was working with farmers to ensure they were investing to deal with the impact of climate change.

In May it asked the Productivity Commission for a least-cost assessment of moving to a low-carbon economy to achieve reductions of 30% below 2005 emission levels and 11% below 1990 levels by 2030.

Climate Change Minister Paula Bennett said this would enable proper assessment of the economic trade-offs needed although forest planting and further emission reduction would be needed beyond 2030. The commission will report back in June 2018.



MARKET COMMENTARY

# *Adding value* to the sales process in a shifting residential property market

Just like the movies Jaws, The Matrix and Speed II – a follow-up doesn't always yield the same success..... and the evolution of New Zealand's residential property sector following the extraordinary growth of 2014-2016 has certainly prompted some sceptics talking.

Across New Zealand, it is undeniable that the real estate landscape is in a state of flux. Sale volumes are down in the likes of Auckland, yet regions such as Hawke's Bay continue to report record sale prices – and it can all be very confusing to those trying to understand the markets.

The best way to explain these fluctuations is that real estate operates like clockwork. The favourable-market we have experienced in recent times is deemed a 'sellers-market' and sits at the top of the cycle in 12 o'clock position, while the 'buyers-market' at six o'clock indicates an easing of competition and sale prices.

Bayleys has been in the real estate business now for 45 years, and like many estate agencies, has weathered every phase of this cycle – through the sales upswing of 1975 and the mid-1990s, the huge development which characterised the early millennium and the crippling effects of the Global Financial Crisis of 2008/2009. The agency has learnt a thing or two about maximising sales results when the going gets tough for vendors.

The domestic property market in the Hawke's Bay has been riding the wave of nine pm to midnight for at least a couple of years go – values have been high, and demand has fed momentum, yet we find ourselves teetering on the edge of one am and the possibility of the unknown is having

an intimidating effect for some potential vendors. It's true that while effecting a successful residential property sale will become more difficult, real estate salespeople will have to work harder to deliver results as the buyer pool diminishes due to rising credit costs and lending restrictions.

It is clear that times are a changing, and the property clock is ticking away, but change is the catalyst for opportunity. It's an opportunity to improve infrastructure, where developers and local government can come together to mitigate risks and create meaningful projects.

It's an opportunity for individuals to reassess their financial values - perhaps it's time to recycle to profits from the bach and help your children into a home of their own. And it's an opportunity for the professionals qualified to sell real estate to really showcase their skills.

Whatever your real estate motivations, or the economic climate – people will always buy property. It's the skill of your salesperson and the scope of your marketing campaign which will determine success.

The last 18 months of this property cycle has seen demand for some property so high, it has practically sold itself, yet it's the months ahead which will truly test the expertise of real estate sales professionals.

Traditionally, Bayleys has performed ahead of the competition during less buoyant periods in the market - simply because the brand offers the tools, knowledge and skills that others don't.

Rather than compromising on commission, salespeople are trained to add value to each

transaction - by investing in smart, targeted marketing, casting the potential buyer net wider, and ultimately delivering THE best buyer – not just the first buyer.

As one of New Zealand's leading real estate agencies, Bayleys understand that in the absence of value, sellers will look to negotiate. Which is exactly why Bayleys looks to add that value, elevating its service above the competition and finding the buyer prepared to pay just that little but more for your property.

When looking to market your home in the coming months, there are several elements of service which you can demand from your salesperson, firstly, look to engage a local expert, their knowledge of the area along with local networks and neighbourhood ties will certainly yield results – as it's usually about who you know.

Pay attention during their submission presentation, this is their time to showcase their skills and they will not waste it. And finally, don't be afraid to question them – why exactly should you choose them? Good salespeople know what gives them the edge in the market, and they will be only too happy to explain this to you.

While change is an inevitable force, shifting and pulling everything from energy to enterprise, it needn't be frightening because, very simply - there is no perfect time to buy or sell. It's a matter of utilising educated, experienced advice and smart service from professionals you trust. And those who know their value will be confident that they will achieve the very best result for you.



Prize-winning glasshouse at K&L Nurseries near Christchurch burns green waste, eliminating 3,500 tonnes of CO2 emission

Mrs Bennett, says emission reduction efforts by the Global Research Alliance and advisory groups on agriculture, forestry and adaptation, complemented the Globe-NZ report.

Mid-May, Environment Minister Nick Smith announced an 80% “phasing down” of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) used in air conditioning and refrigeration industries over the next 20 years. These, he said, were 15,000 times more potent in their global warming effect than carbon dioxide.

### Challenging scenarios

Globe-NZ puts forward three main scenarios for meeting our climate commitments: Off Track, Innovative and Resourceful, although there’s room for a mix and match.

The low-cost option, tagged ‘Off Track New Zealand’, would mean growing renewable power generation by 75% and electrifying

**Key to its success is a “structural shift away from pastoral agriculture”, with animal numbers reduced by 20–35%, increased horticulture and crop diversification and an additional million hectares of forests.**

85% of the light duty passenger vehicle fleet.

Process and efficiency improvements would be needed in the agricultural sector, such as improving low-performing farms, breeding lower-emission livestock, new feeds, low-cost vaccines, inhibitors to reduce methane and nitrogen emissions and



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reducing fertiliser use.

Under this option livestock numbers remain at current levels with only 'modest' changes in land-use including an additional 0.5 million hectares of forestry.

Most of the proposed advances depend on technology innovation, but the report concludes this scenario "is not sufficiently ambitious" to achieve net zero.

Under 'Innovative New Zealand', further reduction in "emissions intense economic activity" are needed, including EVs for freight, electric heating for high-temperature applications and methane-reducing vaccines.

Key to its success is a "structural shift away from pastoral agriculture", with animal numbers reduced by 20-35%, increased horticulture and crop diversification and an additional million hectares of forests.

The Globe-NZ report claims this shift, depending on technological breakthroughs in agriculture, industrial heat and EV production, will deliver lower emissions, a robust agricultural sector and continued economic growth.

The outcome could be a 70-80% reduction in metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>-e) or an annual drop of 3.3%-4.3% achieving below zero emissions in 2050.

In the 'Resourceful New Zealand' scenario, a significant increase in plantation forests of 1.6 million hectares is mixed with the 'Off Track' option.

While this would provide opportunities for an enhanced forest products industry, the report warns of a difficult transition for rural economies. It could, however, deliver 65-75% reduction in MtCO<sub>2</sub>-e or an annual drop of 2.8-3.9% in greenhouse emissions, achieving net zero by 2050.

Combining two scenarios needs more research but require greater market changes, depending on "optimistic technological outcomes across agriculture and energy;

substantial changes to land-use patterns; and industry closures across aluminium refineries and iron and steel".

A high value is placed on technology advances in all the scenarios raised, although these are mostly still in the labs or waiting to be discovered.

### Who pays and how?

While voluntary compliance will help with the proposed seismic shifts, changing business models, supply chains, greater collaboration, "innovative financing tools", and changes to ETS policy would be required.

The report warns New Zealand is currently lagging behind the world with its ETS pricing and any revised scheme should be accompanied by changes to market and regulatory arrangements.

A tougher ETS, the report suggests, could make New Zealand more internationally competitive, yielding "important dynamic benefits" through the use of "scarce rights to emit greenhouse gases (GHGs) productively".

Policies would need to address the way infrastructure is deployed and facilitate "substantial land use change" with "support to address barriers and market failures".

They should encourage R&D where New Zealand has "expertise, advantages and needs", and stimulate collaborative approaches and experimentation across all sectors.

While New Zealand's high level of renewable hydroelectric and geothermal electricity generation gives it a "competitive advantage", the report says the importance of the pastoral agriculture sector to "the economy and the social fabric of the country creates a huge challenge".

We could, however, leverage our smarts in agricultural R&D to come up with innovative emission reduction measures while other nations are still dealing with industrial and energy generation priorities.

**“We’ve got 100,000-300,000 hectares of erosion prone land in Hawke’s Bay which is highly vulnerable to major storm events and the biggest driver of sediment and phosphorous in our water ways.”**

Regardless, a net zero target will require "higher-value-added and lower-emissions industries such as horticulture and crops" to be part of our changed land use to sustain economic growth.

### Squeezing innovation

The report recognises Paris Agreement goals will bring substantial changes to "global patterns of food consumption and production", potentially meaning reduced loss and waste in the supply chain.

It presumptuously suggests dietary changes from animal products to "plant-based food with equivalent protein content" with a resulting "reduction in over-consumption".

Assuming a trend shift toward veganism, the report proposes this could inform changes in land-use as part of an "internally coherent strategy of building New Zealand's economic resilience in a low-emissions world".

Some of the suggestions thrown up in the wake of the report include exporting edible insects, synthetic milk or lab-grown meat.

While reduction in pastoral animal numbers would have a big impact on emissions "depending on the extent of global action", the report raises concerns about



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“ensuring food security”.

If New Zealand reduced agricultural production, global markets may simply go elsewhere, eliminating any benefits. If production went to “a less emissions-constrained region” the outcome may be worse.

Wider socioeconomic concerns also needed to be considered. Energy prices will likely rise, at least in the short term, raising concerns around “energy poverty and industrial competitiveness”.

While New Zealand’s “flexible, adaptable economy and strong institutions” make it well placed to become a low-emissions economy, changing employment locations, new skills training and compensation for those on low incomes or vulnerable industries must be considered.

If we can’t achieve net zero in a timely fashion, we could continue to purchase carbon credits offshore through “a revitalised international emissions market”. However, over-reliance could threaten the “genuine execution” of internal efforts and our reputation, particularly if we buy from dirty countries like the Ukraine.

The Globe-NZ proposals challenge the very fabric of New Zealand’s primary production economy and would require significant incentives and compensation, including hard evidence of technology breakthroughs, particularly at a time when the government is pushing for dairy intensification.

Allan Barber says the talk about improving farm performance, lower emitting livestock and new feeds is not new, suggesting nothing positive will happen without government and industry leadership.

He says it isn’t enough to adopt far-reaching recommendations or regulations that expect farmers to reduce herd and flock size without compensation; possibly through mass forestry plantations, unless you want thousands of insolvencies, accompanied by a collapse in farm values. Other experts argue that dairy and other pastoral farmers are already finding better profit in lower stocking rates.

If we can afford and survive the changes, New Zealand could attract new low-emissions industries and export emission-reducing technology.

Or we could strike a workable compromise between the two extremes of paying to pollute through the ETS and knuckling down to address the key Net Zero action points.

Its visualised outcomes through reducing livestock and nitrogen generation are improved water quality, stabilised river banks, improved soils, habitats and biodiversity.

In an ideal world of happy endings, we could finally live up to our ‘clean green’ branding, in a renewable energy-powered, insulated Pacific paradise surrounded by trees where everyone drives EVs and eats vegetarian.

As Barber quips, “pigs might fly”.

# FOREST FOR THE TREES



KAWEKA FOREST PARK

Hawke’s Bay Regional Council (HBRC) will firm up its long-term plan (LTP) climate change priorities in July, after it completes a stocktake of where mitigation and adaptation can be undertaken.

High on the agenda will be re-booting an equivalent of the Trees on Farms scheme, dumped when the bottom fell out of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) around 2008.

James Palmer, HBRC’s new chief executive, says the region’s hill country needs planting, not only for “carbon sequestration” but for protection.

“We’ve got 100,000-300,000 hectares of erosion-prone land in Hawke’s Bay which is highly vulnerable to major storm events and the biggest driver of sediment and phosphorous in our waterways.”

The council’s earlier afforestation focus began in 2006 with the purchase of land at Tūtira which it planted in mānuka to show value for carbon credits, protection and honey production.

Policy was developed and funding arranged to pay farmers to plant erosion-prone areas in exchange for carbon credits, effectively mirroring the government Afforestation Grants Scheme. “This was going to be our big intervention,” says Palmer.

Then came the global financial crisis followed by the National Government in 2008 which “gutted the scheme and changed all the policy settings”. The ETS price “fell from \$15 to a matter of cents and confidence in carbon forestry

disappeared overnight”.

Palmer says HBRC resources were diverted into the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme and the policy shelved.

He’s confident there’s sufficient support to restart a new scheme, although the main obstacle will be sheep and beef farmers who fear land will be locked down threatening rural communities. “We have to get over that.”

Palmer wants an assurance from forestry companies that they’ll employ workers from rural communities for carbon forestry and landscape restoration.

He believes Hawke’s Bay should go for species diversity, including fast growing eucalypts, as well as encouraging crops that are good for bio-fuels and fodder.

“We have to match land use with capability and be clear about where dairying and sheep and beef production is sustainable and where forestry is better suited.”

If HBRC gets the mechanisms and incentives right the region could offset a certain amount of emissions “while technology comes through to enable us to change the vehicle fleets and other things”.

Palmer will be challenged in the LTP process to look beyond tree planting to meet a net zero vision for Hawke’s Bay. For instance, HBRC chair Rex Graham wants Hawke’s Bay to be the “California of New Zealand” when it comes to leadership in addressing climate change and carbon emissions. And a number of other councillors would endorse that aspiration.

# Creating Your Perfect Space

A year ago, Ross Hill-Rennie and June Benefield packed up their lives in Auckland and moved to Hawke's Bay to become the new owners of the Tile Shed in Hastings, one of the few independently owned tile retailers in the country.

Leaving the city and setting up a new life in Central Hawke's Bay was an easy decision for the couple.



"I grew up in Waipukurau and still had family here. After our son Logan came along, it was Ross who convinced me that Hawke's Bay was the place we should call home. So, we took the plunge and relocated."

After looking at several business options, Ross and June "fell in love" with the Tile Shed, which was on the market after 14 years run by the previous owners. "With Ross's previous experience in the building industry and my experience with retail and colour consultancy, we knew it was the right business for us," says June.

With thousands of tiles in store and a countless supply at their fingertips, there's plenty for customers to choose from. "We work with importers who have big collections, so if people see something online, in a magazine or on Pinterest for example, we can usually get it, or something very close."

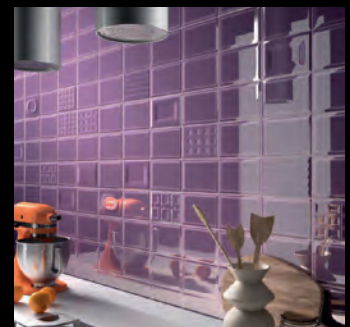
June says the store has been very busy in its first few months of trading and four new staff members have been employed to handle the demand, including Ross's father Noel who manages the storeroom.

The Tile Shed's customers are a mix of people wanting something for their homes, building companies, trade and commercial clients and tilers. While tiles are its core business, the Tile Shed also sells a range of natural stone for floors and walls. Also on the shelves are all the tools a DIY or professional tiler would ever need, including grouts, silicones and adhesives. The Tile Shed is also an agent for Makita power tools and offers tile cutting service and equipment hire service.

"We love tiles and helping people design their spaces. As for what's on trend, 3D and textured along with geometric and patterned tiles are incredibly popular. Moroccan and Spanish designs are very in vogue, with many people not limiting themselves to a splash-back or bath surround, but using them for their whole floor to make a dramatic impact."

"We enjoy being in the Bay and are loving every minute of being the owners of the Tile Shed."

STORY BY SARAH THORNTON





**“So, we have the situation where the government has been pig-headed and sold off our state assets, and is now turning around and having to buy back property, competing on the residential market, while former Housing NZ land remains barren.”**

ANNA LORCK



# Hawke's Bay's Housing Crisis

STORY: BRIDGET FREEMAN-ROCK  
PHOTOS: FLORENCE CHARVIN

I'M ON THE ROAD WITH Labour candidate Anna Lorck in Hastings. "Everywhere I go," she says, "it's housing, housing, housing. I have done nearly 80 street corner meetings now, and there is not a meeting where someone doesn't talk about it."

Over the year ending May 2017, house prices across Hawke's Bay climbed 20%, while rents rose 9.4% (double the national average), fuelled by a lack of listings and vacant residential land, on the one hand, and an influx of out-of-town buyers on the other. To some this reflects our attractiveness as a destination, but for others, it's part of a systemic failure in leadership.

According to the Real Estate Institute of NZ, Hawke's Bay has the lowest housing supply in the country, with no slow-down in demand.

The private market has become inaccessible and unaffordable for many, and with 40+ applicants at rental viewings, skewed against families, the young and unattached, beneficiaries, pensioners, those with 'history', and Māori. Frontline advocates report incidents of flagrant racism and exclusion in an environment where landlords can cherry-pick their tenants.

Compounding the private market squeeze is a shortage of suitable, state-subsidised housing for those with lowest incomes. Numbers on the social housing register have dramatically increased in the last couple of years, with 135 listed in Napier and 104 in Hastings.

These figures represent those with most

urgent need of shelter, a rough indicator of the homeless within the system. Unaccounted for are all those living in garages, overcrowded or substandard houses; we have some of the worst statistics for this (and associated health issues like rheumatic fever and respiratory illness) in the country.

We now have the visibly homeless in our urban centres, people parked up in cars on the beach or dossing down in public spaces. To put people up in motels, backpackers,

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**The private market has become inaccessible and unaffordable for many, and with 40+ applicants at rental viewings, skewed against families, the young and unattached, beneficiaries, pensioners, those with 'history', and Māori.**

---

etc., some \$500,000 was spent in the first quarter of 2017 alone on Emergency Housing Grants in the twin cities, with Napier taking the lion's share.

How has it come to this, and what needs to be done to address the widening gap in housing security?



### Depleted stock

Nationwide, our stock of state houses is at its lowest level, relative to population, since the severe housing shortages of the 1940s, which propelled an ambitious programme of state housing in the 1950s. Under successive governments since the 1980s, however, new state house investment has steadily declined. As of July 2016, more than 4,000 state homes had been either sold or demolished in the five years prior, with Hawke's Bay down 377 state houses – or in MSD parlance, 'social housing places'. In 2011, for instance, 96 state housing

units were demolished in Maraenui; they were "old, rickety" and supposedly didn't meet earthquake standards, but where there were homes, there are now empty plots. "The spin we got from Housing NZ," Napier councillor Maxine Boag explains, "is that they would replace them: a third would be redeveloped by HNZ, a third by other social housing providers and a third by private housing developers. [HNZ] built seven new houses and that was that. Nothing has happened since."

Napier has three registered social housing providers, but at this stage two

have no actual housing available, so that leaves just Housing NZ. "For the government to say, 'We're handing over to other social housing providers', well, there aren't any. The government has divested and there's a vacuum right now."

### A disconnected system

Maraenui Community House, established in March this year by Tu Tangata Maraenui Trust, runs a walk-in centre for addictions, a 'koha shed' with secondhand clothing and household items, and advocacy services, providing a vital hub for people to share



**There's not a lack of houses so much as a lack of common sense, and it's frustrating. "People's needs get chucked up on a data base and then electronically matched," and the human nuance of the situation is often lost.**

MINNIE RATIMA (CENTRE) IN HER WHARE, MARAENUI COMMUNITY HOUSE

stories over cups of tea at the kitchen table. I arrive as someone from a local business is dropping off a bag of sticky buns.

Kahu is celebrating getting a house – it took her six, stressful months living week-to-week in emergency accommodation, trying to hold down two jobs as a caregiver. Her earnings were too high to qualify her for a social housing place, but too low to afford market rents and she had 'history' sitting in the tenancy tribunal. The community house gave her the stability of a base, a 'home' when she didn't have one of her own.

Social housing advocate Minnie Ratima says having a community-owned, community-run centre allows for real engagement and a degree of pride and respect that people don't feel they get from government agencies. "There is no judgement and no rules in this whare, just one expectation: that you practise the principles of manaakitanga."

Minnie says there's not a lack of houses so much as a lack of common sense, and it's frustrating. "People's needs get chucked up on a data base and then electronically matched," and the human nuance of the

situation is often lost. There's little sense of care or appropriateness, she says. Like when 'Hine' fled an abusive relationship with her 10 kids, only to eventually be assigned the house she had moved out from in the first place, next door to her violent ex-partner.

Changes to HNZ's social housing eligibility criteria in 2014 have left people having to prove they're in dire straits to receive support. As a result, says Minnie, many, facing financial stress and housing insecurity, are struggling to hold it together. "Policy has broken up families", and



Maxine and constituents outside council-owned pensioner flats

**“For the government to say, ‘We’re handing over to other social housing providers’, well, there aren’t any. The government has divested and there’s a vacuum right now.”**

MAXINE BOAG



it’s particularly hard on the men, who are more likely to give up and go it alone. Minnie’s seen ‘tough’ men cry with the humiliation they experience trying to find accommodation. “Jail is looking pretty good for people to move in to,” she says wryly. “You get programmes that can lead to jobs, three meals a day and a bed.”

Minnie knows all the empty houses in the area, their histories, and what her people’s needs are on the ground. She says in 2013, she had an agreement with HNZ to refer whānau for housing, and it worked well. But since WINZ took over the referral process there’s been a complete disconnect; housing assessment in Hawke’s Bay is now overseen from an office by one person.

She believes “It needs to go back to community assessments – MSD doesn’t work, the process for applying is so ridiculously complex.”

The specific questions I put to Housing NZ and MSD on the Hawke’s Bay situation result (via an email chain of charming Wellington civil servants) in careful,

bland statements “attributed” to HB area officer for Housing NZ, Andrew Cairns, and to deputy CEO of Housing, MSD, Scott Gallacher. “The relationship between MSD and Housing NZ started off on solid foundations,” they assure me, “and has continually been improving as the inter-agency processes bed in but both agencies believe they can do better.” And: “With both short-term and longer-term policies in play we’re in a good place to make sure we can help those families in need.”

### Homelessness

Eighty percent of Napier’s “homeless” (there are 20 “sleeping rough” at any one time, but numbers are higher when you include those “without shelter”, i.e. living in cars, and “temporary accommodation” such as camping grounds) are Māori, the majority men, average age 50. The number has doubled within the last five years. Most have exhausted Housing NZ resources, private rentals and WINZ emergency support; many struggle with issues such as mental health, addiction, past trauma,

and a general lack of support.

The Napier Cross Sector Group (comprising local council, community and government agencies) has been working to find solutions and wrap-around support. In their submission to the Cross-Party Inquiry into Homelessness last year, they concluded, “the problem ... is likely to continue to grow unless policies change at a national level to support more provision of social housing, there is better coordination between MSD and social housing providers and there is provision for funding to services to support those with complex needs.”

### An ageing population

In a neatly kept cul-de-sac of family state homes, built in the last big wave of state housing in the 1970s, I meet Bob, who’s been served his eviction notice now that his kids are grown and his house deemed surplus to need. He and his wife, both in their 60s, have been “sent through the wringer”, he says. The banks won’t loan them money to buy the house they have lived in for 20+ years (the mortgage repayments would exceed

their weekly income), they can't afford to rent anywhere else, and they've been offered no alternative. The couple next door in their 70s (still working, minimum wage) are also on notice after 30 years of good tenancy – they too can't find anything affordable: "We don't know what we'll do."

Hawke's Bay's ageing population is projected to exponentially increase over the next three decades. Our councils have identified that 3,340 more senior housing places will be needed by 2045, half of which will be in private retirement villages. But for those without assets to sell and who live solely from the pension, there's a need for subsidised 'pensioner flats', and that's already proving a challenge.

Currently, Napier City Council maintains 303 such flats, Hastings City District, 220, and the Masonic Trust, 75 – all built over 30 years ago. But, according to Maxine Boag, who also represents Grey Power, the waitlists are well over a year, and the elderly are finding themselves competing for places with other low-income residents who are no longer eligible for state homes. Unless there's a direct mandate from ratepayers, there is little prospect at this stage of councils building more.

Maxine knows of many elderly living with their (extended) families in overcrowded, indefinite arrangements –

stressful for everyone involved. She says it's "heartbreaking" for staff because they simply can't offer anything.

#### Land held up

When I interview Lawrence Yule in his last weeks as Hastings mayor, he concedes that he doesn't know what the actual shortages of government-housing stock in the area are, but is cognisant of the fact that "over a number of governments, investment in Housing NZ has not kept up."

While he's seen overcrowded houses in Flaxmere first hand and believes issues with quality (cold, mouldy homes) need to be addressed "head on", Yule says, "My sense is there is enough accommodation here ... people shouldn't be homeless." He points to the emergency housing options available, "I have yet to hear of a case that hasn't been helped".

He "accepts that it's become a challenge for people", but doesn't believe there's a housing crisis in Hawke's Bay.

A shortfall in available residential land is contributing to the current bottleneck, explains Yule. Where people might have built a new house, they can't find a section and so buy an existing property – the cycle is "out of sync" and Council "needs to release more land, as quickly as we can."

Yule is confident that the land supply shortage will be relieved by Christmas, with

**The couple next door in their 70s (still working, minimum wage) are also on notice after 30 years of good tenancy – they too can't find anything affordable: "We don't know what we'll do."**

1,560 more sections pending release, some as of July, and many sections, such as the Frimley development, already sold off plan.

Fixing the housing "situation" is "a matter of allocating resource", and Yule is "keen to advance" training and industry engagement to build more affordable homes, like the 'build a bach' concept, which draws on an apprenticeship system. "Apparently it's been a stunning success... and it ticks a whole lot of boxes."

"We have to reconfigure our housing stock, supply more sections and try and put downward pressure on the cost of housing, but I haven't got people constantly calling me about this, and sections are coming on."

"Of course, this might change," he adds quickly, "if I'm elected MP", implying a role that entails more direct advocacy.

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**“Yes, there is a crisis, because we have the wrong people making decisions for us and implementing the wrong policies.”**

MINNIE RATIMA



Minnie Ratima (bottom right) and helpers at Maraenui Community House

### Emergency housing

Local constituents are “constantly calling” Meka Whaitiri’s electoral office in Hastings – up to twelve people a week. And they’re desperate: facing eviction, living in cars, garages, cramped motel units, trapped in a bureaucratic nightmare, or digging deeper and deeper into debt as they try to cover unaffordable rents. The Ikaroa-Rawhiti MP has been vocal on this, writing articles in the local paper, petitioning government: “The council can’t say they don’t know.”

One issue appears to be the out-of-town displaced, who are often prioritised for urgent housing because they have nowhere else to go, ahead of locals in garages and overcrowded houses, who at least have a roof over their head.

Central Hawke’s Bay mayor, Alex Walker, says the demand for social housing in her community (which faces similar housing pressures), is pushing some to move to Hastings and Napier where there are more perceived options. But this removes them

from family and support networks, and “transfers the burden to the cities”. There are also anecdotal reports of Auckland ‘refugees’ moving south.

In June, MSD announced that in addition to securing 30 emergency housing places in Hawke’s Bay, it aims to create 129 short-term places by the end of the year, calculated to benefit 711 local families per annum, providing each with 12 weeks of accommodation and support to “transition” them into more “sustainable” housing. It also intends to purchase 195 social housing places over the next three years.

When I speak with Maxine Boag, her response is wary: “At least there’s some acknowledgement now of the issue, but really, it’s too little, too late, and it’s not going to alleviate the housing crisis. I note that the emphasis is on transitional housing, but where do families go after three months?”

### Community regeneration

Anna Lorck has it on paper that between

2012-2015 alone, 118 state houses were sold in Hastings, Havelock North and Flaxmere, many below government values and to private investors. She sees the irony in the new ‘social housing places’ promised by MSD as part of its “ambitious” Purchasing Strategy for the area.

“So, we have the situation where the government has been pig-headed and sold off our state assets, and is now turning around and having to buy back property, competing on the residential market, while former Housing NZ land remains barren. It’s an absolute shemozzle and it’s going to cost everyone.”

We visit Campbell St, Raureka, which is surrounded by empty, grassy spaces where state houses used to be. “It’s like a ghost town”, says a homeowner living in one of only two houses left occupied in the street; he worries about the equity he’s losing and the sense of isolation. He speaks of kids “filching” palings for firewood from boarded-up state houses at the end of the



[indelible.co.nz](http://indelible.co.nz)



**Research undertaken by Otago University indicates around 20,000 more houses are needed in NZ to house the “severely housing deprived”. The message: if we are serious about addressing homelessness, then we really need to be building more homes.**



Campbell St, Raureka: these houses were occupied 18 months ago

cul-de-sac (condemned two years ago), and describes how Housing NZ promised they would clean them up and list on the private market – he’s yet to see action, and now they’re “too far gone”.

Next, Wavell St, Akina, where six state houses have been trucked in from outside the region by a private developer and fully refurbished to be sold on as affordable family housing. One, a \$1 state house set to be demolished in Auckland, has been revamped, insulated, new piles, new roof, native wood fittings. Anna comments, “Without having someone with vision, those houses would have been firewood!”

She believes this is the kind of initiative the government should be involved in. “We shouldn’t be selling out; we should be going into active partnership with private developers, reusing our beautiful state housing and improving it.” She sees Wavell St as a model – where the site once contained “horrible” state flats that had to be pulled down and the street had a poor

reputation, there’s now a high-density mix of good state housing and refurbished, affordable homes. “There are huge opportunities here, but we’re being held back by a lack of vision.”

### **21st century solutions**

At a recent community housing conference at Te Papa, Mike Myers, founder of the Australian National Affordable Housing Consortium, described how he took a “market-making approach” to build over 3,500 new, affordable rental homes in the last seven years, attracting \$1.3 billion in private investment. The consortium recently established a fully market-based, shared-equity home ownership programme, BuyAssist Australia, to help people transition from renting to buying.

He commented that local councils and communities “need to be given the tools to plan for affordable housing and changing demographics.”

Currently, local councils are constrained

by what they can do to effect change on the ground, and community groups are stymied by bureaucracy and lack of funding. Although the current government is now promising to commit more resources to assist those in its ‘dire needs’ category, these measures are seen by those on the frontline as a mop-up measure rather than a genuine solution.

Research undertaken by Otago University indicates around 20,000 more houses are needed in NZ to house the “severely housing deprived”. The message: if we are serious about addressing homelessness, then we really need to be building more homes.

It’s clear, serious investment in housing is required at a government level; we are facing a legacy of neglect and erosion in that regard. But it’s also clear that the traditional state role of provision is not going to ‘cut it’, and that required too are community-led initiatives and private sector partnerships, given the right support and vision.



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Clockwise from top left: the Gotham Greens Brooklyn operation, Gotham Greens Chicago greenhouse, co-founder Viraj Puri

*[Editor: This article was first published online at PureAdvantage.org, and is condensed and reprinted here with permission.]*

# BECOMING THE DETROIT OF AGRICULTURE

DR ROSIE BOSWORTH

Technology strategist Ben Reid has commented that New Zealand is in danger of fast becoming the “Detroit of Agriculture” – a rustbelt left behind after production has moved elsewhere. Unfortunately, I am inclined to agree.

With technologies, science and new business models evolving, accelerating and converging at current breakneck speeds, industries globally – from banking, transport, accommodation and healthcare are having the rug pulled right out from beneath their feet. And sadly (at least for New Zealand farmers), agriculture, our economic mainstay, is next up on the chopping block. Fast en route towards becoming a sunset industry.

Overtaken and displaced by disruptive technologies, science breakthroughs and new business models.

And the people at the helm? Not the people on the inside like our dairy farmers, apple breeders and savvy winemakers. But by sneaker-wearing tech millennials and wealthy Tesla driving Silicon Valley venture capitalists and well funded research agencies. Most of whom have no background in agriculture (at least in the traditional sense) nor affiliation with NZ.

A very scary thought for NZ. For our farmers, for our policy makers and for every New Zealander who has indirectly benefited from the export revenues traditional pasture based agriculture has afforded us since our very existence as a new world nation.

## **Delaying the inevitable**

I’m not talking about the threat of technologies affording precision agriculture its day in the sun like sensors, crop yield monitors and satellite imagery. Or smart farming hardware/software systems enabling our farmers and growers to digitalise, monitor and measure and improve current conventional farming practices with more efficiency.

Yes, these technologies are useful and highly beneficial. They help farmers improve productivity (think crop yields) efficiency (think energy and water use) and sustainability (think less effluent, emissions and healthy soil). And we in New Zealand are, thankfully, well ahead of the pack globally when it comes to our adoption rates of this type of on farm, pasture based technology. But these technologies are not disruptive to agriculture.

Why? These technologies are designed for a living breathing moo cow. A pasture (or cage) roaming egg-laying chicken. A spring leaping lamb. A paradigm based on outdoor fruit orchards and picturesque vineyards. And vast acreages of monoculture vegetable fields. Technologies designed for a system that will fast become to food production what the cassette type has become to Spotify. A paradigm on the brink of extinction.

I’m talking about the threat of technologies and innovations that are currently designing the NEW world of agriculture and food production. Agriculture 2.0. Lab manufactured and bio-printed animal and plant proteins. Indoor and vertical crop



Clockwise from top left: Startups like Tiny Farm are introducing insect products to the US market, FarmedHere's Louisville plant, New Wave plant based shrimp, Perfect Day's synthetic milk is brewed using a special strain of yeast, Ava Wines making wine in the lab

## The cow that has so lucratively helped bolster NZ's bottom line for decades is about to be disrupted by tech entrepreneurs, mainly in Silicon Valley.

production (of almost any variety). Next generation of soil and seed technology negating the need for GMO and pesticide use. CRISPR for food (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats) and open sourced digital agriculture. Funded by venture capitalist coffers with more than New Zealand's entire economy.

A new agricultural paradigm enabling everyone on the planet to eat ethical and sustainable versions of tasty meat and juicy protein. To consume and even grow environmentally friendly and nutritious versions of fresh produce when they want. Where they want. Whatever the weather is doing. A system that New Zealand's conventional agrarian-based agricultural model – Agriculture 1.0, is wildly ill suited to.

But the only system designed to feed a world of 8.6 billion people whilst keeping the planet intact and without the need to displace even more of our precious rainforests, native forests and eco systems. No matter how smart and efficient our farmers become. Nor how smart on-farm technology becomes.

The cow that has so lucratively helped

bolster NZ's bottom line for decades is about to be disrupted by tech entrepreneurs, mainly in Silicon Valley. Startups like Impossible Foods, Memphis Meats, Kite Hill, Willow Cup and Perfect Day (previously branded Muufri) are now successfully producing tasty, healthy and environmentally friendly protein, milk and dairy product alternatives and substitutes such as beef, chicken, milk and dairy products that taste like the real thing, look like the real thing. Except without the animal.

Similarly, Hampton Creek and Clara Foods (amongst a handful of others) are now reinventing eggs and tasty egg products like mayonnaise – without the chicken. And indoor and vertical farming startups like Aero Farms, FarmedHere, Gotham Greens and indoor shipping container startup FreightFarms are redefining the very essence of what environmentally friendly, healthy and locally produced arable crop farming looks like. Without rolling green pasture in sight.

And the pace of disruption is accelerating. Agtech startups displacing poor Daisy the cow are popping up faster than I can keep

up with. Now not even our wine industry or fisheries – seemingly safe bets – are immune. San Francisco startup – Ava Wines – is busy engineering top quality wine with no grapes or fermentation. Co-founder and biologist, Alex Lee, says Ava's mission is to recreate the wine experience in the lab using science without having to recreate the resource and land intensive process. "Our pursuit of the molecular reconstruction of food will help push the envelope of the food tech revolution".

Similarly, New Wave Foods, another Silicon Valley startup, using biochemistry, is mastering the art of producing plant-based shrimp and seafood alternatives that are healthier and better for the environment. Miles away from the depths of any ocean.

And don't even get me started on novel insect protein startups that are eating into our NZ's animal protein-derived competitive advantage. New kids on the block like Tiny Farms, Exo and Entomo Farms are using lab product cricket factories to produce sustainable and clean forms of nutritious protein alternatives for health-conscious consumers rebelling against the dirty and

environmentally-taxing cow.

Thank goodness at least one forward thinking Kiwi startup, Anteater, has seen the opportunity in this space and is helping to put NZ on the map of Ag 2.0. Where are the rest?

These are the technologies disrupting agriculture. Not the latest smart farming apps. Those are merely stopgap, band-aid solutions that will only help our farmers in the very short term.

Granted, not all of the aforementioned startups have hit the market at scale, and some are still in R&D phase. But their potential to wildly disrupt conventional agricultural players over the long term should not be dismissed by even the most niche food or on-farm producer.

### Organic crops – our panacea?

I can hear many of our leaders telling themselves: We might be losing the protein battle, but we will still need to grow some outdoor crops in this new agricultural and food paradigm. And New Zealand can make up for lost ground here. Like better positioning and leveraging our farmers' clean, green and organic, non-GMO credentials as a way forward for competitive advantage.

Wrong. Oh so wrong.

The very same genetic engineering, technology and science that once brought GMO, drought, herbicide, and pesticide resistance traits to the market are now being used to produce far superior non-GMO strain of seeds, healthy plant probiotics and microbiomes, and digital plant recipes that are not only productive and nutritious but also incredibly more environmentally friendly and sustainable than their traditional counterparts. In the mass markets that need them – like the USA, a nation crippled by GMO and ready to rebel, as well as rapidly expanding Asia.

Is New Zealand ready to compete with

## New kids on the block like Tiny Farms, Exo and Entomo Farms are using lab product cricket factories to produce sustainable and clean forms of nutritious protein alternatives for health-conscious consumers rebelling against the dirty and environmentally-taxing cow.

such an attractive competitive offering?

For example Indigo Ag, the latest darling amongst the agtech VC community, and New Zealand's own Biolumic and BioConsortia have developed technology that enables plant seeds to be bathed in carefully crafted concoctions of light spectra or ancient microbes, bacteria and fungi to make plants healthier, hardier, and more drought resistant without the need for pesticides, herbicides and fungicides. Think light treatment and probiotics for plants. A simple concept but one that has the potential to attack huge problems like world famine, GMO or the global food supply in a dramatically new and healthy way.

Similarly, AgBiome has developed a proprietary organic fungicide application using the plant's own microbiome that is effective against a broad range of fungal

diseases. Early trials indicate its efficacy is comparable to the potency of leading chemical solutions and up to twenty times more effective than existing organic solutions on the market. Plant bacteria may finally provide its own salvation enabling the rapidly expanding population's growing global crop needs to be met without chemical pesticides and toxic residues.

Such advances are undeniably a crucial and welcome development in the world of global food security and food health. But they also have huge potential to render the need for healthy, safe non-GMO fruit and veg crops like New Zealand's shipped from afar almost redundant. A scary thought for our horticultural sector.

### STEM not Swandri

This swag of savvy Ag 2.0 startups demonstrate a common theme. Experts in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) are sowing the seeds for a sustainable, profitable and ethical protein food supply. Biochemists, plant biologists, DNA analysts, food scientists and geneticists. Not stoic, rugged Swandri-wearing Kiwi farmers labouring on the land.

The founder of Impossible Foods is a medical doctor and professor of biochemistry. Ava Wine's founder, a bioengineer. New Wave Food's founders are a material scientist and a marine biologist. And Indigo's co-founder holds a PhD in biomedical engineering and medical physics. The list could go on.

But it's more than just technology and science itself that's disrupting the very fabric of New Zealand's agricultural system. It's the speed at which these are developing footholds and gaining acceptance in the global marketplace. Before long they will be mainstream – at a cost far more appealing to price-conscious consumers than our current dated offerings.

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Clockwise from top left: Memphis Meats futurist ‘farmers’ have PhDs and MBAs, Hampton Creek egg-free Mayo, Entomo cricket farms, Aero Farms operate the largest vertical farm in the world in New Jersey. Centre: Impossible Burger’s made-from-plants alternative

**It seems our government, MPI and Callaghan think because we know how to get the most milk from our cows, package it up in pretty yoghurt containers and use apps on our farms, we are ahead of the world. But we aren’t.**

Beyond Meat’s 100% plant protein “chicken” and “beef” substitutes are two to three times cheaper to buy at Whole Foods in San Francisco than grass fed or free range conventional alternatives. And chefs in SF and NYC are charging between \$12 to \$19 for Impossible Food’s hot off the grill “Impossible Burgers” of varying sizes – no more than what you’d pay for one Burger Fuel Bacon Backfire.

These costs are on the continual decline too. Impossible Foods, along with cultured cell real meat alternatives like MosaMeat and Memphis Meats say their products will compete on price with conventional beef as production scales up.

What’s more, jaw dropping levels of venture capital, agtech accelerators and research institutes, primarily based in the US and Europe, are further fast tracking the

progress, cost competitiveness and equally important, legitimacy, of tech players fueling the Ag 2.0 paradigm.

According to *BloombergMarkets*, venture capital flooding into the agtech sector (protein, food and seed and crop technology) has reached record heights – \$25 billion in 2015. A staggering 15% of NZ’s total GDP for the same period.

Impossible Foods, Modern Meadow,

Beyond Meat and Hampton Creek attracted \$183M, \$55.4M and \$40.5M in VC backing respectively in the last year alone says CB Insights. Indigo Ag, a hefty US\$100M and Hampton Creek received a healthy \$120M in past 22 months. A private report released by AgFunder and BCG suggests even more mind-blowing figures for 2016 year-end are in the pipeline – not to mention the years to come. How on earth will NZ ever stay afloat with these numbers?

BioConsortia, New Zealand innovator of microbial solutions for natural plant trait enhancement and crop yield improvement, recently announced it raised \$12 million this year for future growth. Unfortunately for New Zealand, no other Kiwi players with the potential to help catapult us towards Ag 2.0 competitiveness are in sight.

If that's not all, VC backed research labs and consortiums specifically focussed on alternative protein and plant based R&D are also adding fuel to the fire for traditional ag players, rapidly eroding New Zealand's future competitiveness. AgFunder recently identified 90 resources and programmes available to startups in the agtech sector – from accelerators to incubators to pitch competitions – to fast track their success and legitimacy.

New Harvest Foods, Indio Bio and Berkley Biolabs are amongst a handful of research platforms helping to accelerate breakthroughs in cellular agriculture and alternative protein sectors, as well as fund-promising and ground-breaking research for protein alternatives. New Crop Capital, launched in 2016, has \$25M specifically to invest (along with other investors) into early-stage companies researching the plant-based and cultured meat sector. And Power Plant Ventures the world's largest vegan venture fund has \$42M it plans to invest in early stage visionary companies using technology and

plant based nutrition to re-architect our food system sustainably and ethically.

Fonterra's business model based on pasture grazing milk products could become the next Kodak in no time.

#### Where to from here?

What are we doing to stay in the race? With technology, science, R&D, VC accelerating and converging at such exponential rates, blowing the traditional pasture based model of agriculture out of the water, how does New Zealand compete? Sorry to rain on anyone's parade, but smart farming and food innovation based on pasture based milk products do not count.

New Zealand's Foodbowl, an open access national network of science and technology resources, funded largely by Callaghan Innovation, is doing a smattering of work to support the growth of the Food & Beverage sector and promote innovative food science. Alexandra Allan, Foodbowl's CEO, says initiatives include supporting a novel plant based meat protein startup that has the potential to serve as a healthy and ethical chicken alternative, as well as few early stage companies looking to commercialise food products using cricket protein. But frankly, simply not enough of this is going on.

It's not that we intend for New Zealand to become a failed agricultural state, but it seems our government, MPI and Callaghan think because we know how to get the most milk from our cows, package it up in pretty yoghurt containers and use apps on our farms, we are ahead of the world. But we aren't.

Does this mean New Zealand's current agricultural system is quite simply doomed to become the new "Detroit of agriculture"? And if we are, where does that leave us and what are our options?

Rather than hindering entrepreneurs with red tape and resting on our laurels as world

class dairy producers, Callaghan and other national industry advisories would be wise to refocus their efforts on retraining our up and coming children and millennials in STEM subjects. To focus on driving and backing technology development programmes so we too, can create an Impossible Foods or Perfect Day of our own. To focus on curbing the growth of dairy farm conversion. On investing in true long-term valuing-adding activity that our precious land, technological genius and entrepreneurial brains can provide.

To focus on how we can insert ourselves into this future. The future of Ag 2.0. A future underpinned by technology.

This is where the real opportunities lie and what will help us retain our global competitiveness in the world of agriculture in the coming years. Not investing in developing apps for farmers that support the infrastructure of what will soon be out of business as the world of protein and plant agriculture shifts inwards and upwards.

Yes, it will be painful to watch the sun setting over one of our treasured economic mainstays forming the very essence of our rural – even cultural identity. But what will be more painful for New Zealand is if we allow denial of the rapidly changing technologically-led agricultural and food paradigm, and our nostalgia for pasture-based farming paralyze our future economic progress.

It's time to start thinking seriously about Plan B for New Zealand's road ahead. Otherwise becoming the "Detroit of Agriculture" could fast become New Zealand's nightmarish reality.

*With a PhD in disruptive sustainable innovation and technology development, and a background in marketing and account management, Dr Rosie Bosworth consults in business.*

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# The Man with a Plan

SOPHIE PRICE

ON 19 JUNE JAMES PALMER took over as chief executive of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. As he wades into troubled waters, what might we expect?

The last twelve months have been turbulent for the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

The Havelock North water crisis and its political, social and financial fallout; the reappointment of controversial CEO Andrew Newman; an election that transformed the leadership make-up; a multi-million dollar project struggling to see a single foundation laid after seven years; questionable court cases; the resignation of chairman Andy Pearce from the council's investment body, HBRIC; the resignation of Newman; an oil and gas moratorium putting the local body at odds with government policy; consenting controversies; stormwater and feedlot issues; and numerous fresh water challenges, to name but a few.

All this has left the community questioning exactly what is going on in the regional organisation. And should it be trusted as our environmental guardian.

And then, late in May, Bay local James Palmer was appointed the authority's top job – a move Palmer views with both eagerness and trepidation.

"It's exciting because of the enormous opportunities that lie ahead for the council and for the region," he said. "[I'm apprehensive] given the scale of the challenges that we face as a region and the organisation's role in addressing these," he continued. "They are large, they are complex and they are long term."

**"I think you have to be prepared to be constantly surprised by how much knowledge and wisdom is held often not by experts but by people who are out there doing things everyday – the farmers and orchardists on the land, the tangata whenua or volunteers."**

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## Not easy being green

Formally taking his position on 19 June, Palmer has hit the ground running, in part thanks to his year-plus service as the council's strategic development group manager.

He knows that immediate issues such as the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme (having just completed a 400-page review of the project) and the newly identified environmental hot spots – including Lake Tūtira and Ahuriri – need urgent attention. He is also aware that if the issues confronting the Hawke's Bay environment are to be addressed successfully, long-term solutions are needed.

He says in this, the HBRC is not alone – regional bodies across the country are

facing similar challenges due to New Zealand modifying its environment through deforestation to expand farming at a faster rate than any other land mass in human history.

"That was done very, very quickly, but the legacy effects are going to take some time," he said. "As a country, we haven't dealt with this issue particularly aggressively and we have allowed things to drift for too long. Now the chickens have come home to roost in some respects and the community is demanding action on a whole range of these issues in a way that I don't think New Zealanders have in the past."

Palmer says many of the problems on the council table now, such as soil erosion, are not new. "The 1941 Soil Conservation and River Controls Act was implemented after the 1938 storms here in Esk Valley that inundated an entire community with sediment from the hills. That is 75 years ago that legislation was passed and we haven't dealt with the problem adequately."

Then there is the 1991 Resource Management Act, which initially focussed on point source pollution such as factory and sewage discharges into the waterways.

"What was put into the too-hard basket was the more diffuse pollution that comes from farming, from plantation forest harvesting and from our urban stormwater networks," he says. "They are very, very hard issues because you are talking about diffuse pollution coming from a whole range of sources that ends up being concentrated into our rivers. You can't deal with it as quickly or simply as dealing with a pipe that enters a river."

He says what people often forget is how resilient the environment is when it is given a fighting chance – like the Cape Sanctuary on Cape Kidnappers. “People had doubts that it could ever be restored to ecological function,” he said. “But that didn’t stop the land owners putting up a predator proof fence to keep the pests out of there. Now it has surprised everyone, including the scientists that worked on its recovery, just how quickly the native flora and fauna have come back.”

Palmer wants the council to build on success such as this, particularly with fresh water reform. “If we can get stock out of the waterways, get our waterways fenced off and get more and more riparian planting, we can create corridors through our landscape where native species can flourish,” he said. “We can then look at implementing a network across the region of restored and reforested areas which we can patchwork, if you like, to glue back together the environmental integrity of Hawke’s Bay.”

While he is optimistic the council can set this plan in motion, he is realistic that it will take time, money and patience – especially if climate change worsens and ever stronger storms set back the work done. “There is a real urgency around this and that is why we now just need to get on and do the job,” he said.

To make this work, Palmer says the council will be looking at a mix of regulation, education and possibly financial incentives to help landowners make the transition to different farming systems that include greater protection of water bodies.

Beyond the environmental issues plaguing the region, Palmer realises the biggest task ahead of him is regaining the trust and confidence of the Hawke’s Bay community. “Part of that I think is doing a better job of communicating the nature of the challenges we face, what the council is presently doing,

## “In this role I will be providing the council with free and frank and fearless advice about the challenges as I see them for the region and what I believe the priorities should be”

and what it plans to do in the future.”

He says with the HBRC about to enter a new long term planning cycle he sees opportunity to do just that. “That is the opportunity to reach out to the community and communicate the nature of all these challenges more clearly than possibly we have in the past and the options that the community faces to address those. To get the community locked in behind a really positive and progressive plan to address the region’s challenges.”

### The man

Growing up in Havelock North, Palmer now resides in Haumoana with his wife Mel and their blended family of three children – Isabella, Isaiah and Orlando – on a three-hectare lifestyle property, which keeps him busy when he is not working, surfcasting or playing a round of golf.

Beyond his extensive time in high-level public service in central government, he has also spent time in the private and NGO sectors at Esk Hydro Power and the Ecologic Foundation respectively, in addition to a spattering of university jobs that included

time working at a saw mill.

During his government service, Palmer helped to create the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme and the New Zealand Fast Forward Fund (now the Primary Growth Partnership).

Of the latter, Palmer says it was a change in central government’s investment in innovation around the primary sector. “To take our primary sector from being very commodity-driven to being much more consumer-led and value-added, while taking a much stronger focus on its environmental performance,” he said.

While he has had his wins, it hasn’t all been plain sailing for the new chief executive – with some testing times as a public servant also offering valuable lessons. Challenges such as getting seven government departments all on the same page around natural resource management, and reform around marine protected areas – both of which he wanted to make more progress on, but didn’t. However, it is all valuable experience, and it has led him to head the regional council so he can work on cleaning up his own backyard.

### The plan

Acknowledging that HBRC has been through a difficult period, he says for the local body to deliver what it needs to deliver will require “a whole bunch of other people” willing to put their resources, their effort, and their time to work with the council.

In two years’ time he would like to see a council that is more united with itself, the wider community and with its other stakeholders, all pushing in the same direction as “team Hawke’s Bay”.

“We are going to need to build trust and confidence in the community for them to put their resources alongside ours. Whether that



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be farmers spending money on their farms to do things better and differently ... the philanthropic sector being prepared to invest together with us in restoring biodiversity or cleaning up water bodies ... central government investing alongside us in all the initiatives we have ... or the other councils aligning their resources. That will require them to have the confidence that we are a good and trusted partner.”

A big call from someone, well, so green. But Palmer is determined to make this happen, and to do this his first step will be to listen so he can learn. “I have always been a

really big believer that the most important communication skill is listening.”

“There is an awful lot of common sense out in the community – people observe things, they know things, they learn things,” he said. “I think you have to be prepared to be constantly surprised by how much knowledge and wisdom is held often not by experts but by people who are out there doing things everyday – the farmers and orchardists on the land, the tangata whenua or volunteers.”

Palmer says by listening to these diverse views, the status quo is tested, offering council new and innovative ways of looking

at things. “It ensures we don’t become complacent in what we do when we have people nipping at our heels and continuing to ask the hard questions.”

Palmer also wants to change the focus of the regional council from outputs to outcomes – “Moving from just delivering activity to making impact.”

This is an orientation he brings to the HBRC from his time with the Ministry for the Environment, where he moved environmental monitoring from the department’s fringe to its core business, while still allowing it the flexibility to respond to the government of the day’s priorities. This work resulted in the Environment Reporting Act being passed in 2015, so the monitoring would go on irrespective of who was in power.

Palmer recognises the risk that public bodies face of getting caught up in the process and as a result simply delivering services. “Often what is missed is whether they are the right services and whether they are having the intended effect.”

His goal for the council is to be the most effective and efficient it can possibly be with the resources it has to make the greatest possible impact for the region.

“In this role I will be providing the council with free and frank and fearless advice about the challenges as I see them for the region and what I believe the priorities should be,” he says. “While it will be over to them to decide whether or not to concur with that advice, or whether they take a different view, it will always be my approach to provide them with a range of options about different ways and means that the council’s resources can be used to deliver the greatest impact for the community.”

Only time will tell if Palmer is the bridge over troubled waters that Hawke’s Bay so urgently needs.



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PAUL PAYNTER: RESIDENT ICONOCLAST

## Hiding Behind “N\*\*\*\*r”

“SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS for New Zealand’s Person of the Year,” said the radio announcer. I thought for a moment. “I think I’ll nominate Brian Tamaki,” I suggested to my passenger.

“What!? The guy’s crazy.”

“Maybe, but he has reminded me of what it means to live in a free society.”

“Free society? He thinks homosexuals caused the Kaikoura earthquake.”

“Well, gays, sinners and murderers at least – I don’t agree with him, but I support his right to hold such opinions. In Iran they might chop off his head for having such a radical opinion.”

“Or make him President,” my colleague quipped. “He’s an idiot and should lose his charitable status.”

Many people complain about political correctness ... until something affronts their own sensibilities. The conservative branches of all religions – including modern religions such as science and atheism – have beliefs that modernity finds unusual and extreme. History would indicate that a very few of these unusual beliefs may actually prove to be correct. In any event, let them say whatever it is they believe so long as they aren’t inciting sins of their own.

Political correctness takes many forms, some of which have found legislative endorsement. Most notable amongst these is discrimination. The Human Rights Act 1993 says it’s illegal for certain entities to discriminate against people on the grounds of gender, pregnancy, marital status, religion, ethnicity, disability, age (unless you’re under 16), political opinion, employment status, family obligations or sexual orientation.

Most people think that you can’t discriminate on any basis, but this isn’t so. You can discriminate against, amongst other things: fat people, smokers, ugly people, short people and those who can’t sing in tune.

In any event ‘discrimination’ has now

become a negative word. This is strange as in Victorian times it would have been a compliment to refer to a bloke as ‘a man of discrimination’. I would merely suggest he was discerning and knew what he liked and didn’t like. This instantly raises the Brian Tamaki quandary again: is it OK to like or dislike something on irrational grounds?

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**My stylist had 13 piercings, but I could only see nine, including his nipples which were intermittently on display. He offered to show me the rest. I politely declined.**

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Discrimination on irrational grounds is often a very stupid and unjust thing. The problem lies in the government’s (in)ability to stop people being stupid or unjust. Simplistically the public think – change the law and “pew, that’s dealt with”. Nothing could be further from the truth. It seems to me that discrimination is as prevalent as it ever has been. All that has changed is that people are less honest about it.

While resident in London, some years ago, I sought a well-priced haircut. ‘Haircuts £10’ said the sign towards the end of High Street Kensington. I descended into the basement salon with increasing trepidation. The salon was occupied by innumerable, overtly gay, buzz cut, heavily tattooed gentlemen, the likes of which I’d not seen in provincial New

Zealand. The salon doubled as a body piercing studio which appeared to specialise in affixing stainless steel adornments to your nether-regions. My stylist had 13 piercings, but I could only see nine, including his nipples which were intermittently on display. He offered to show me the rest. I politely declined.

Outcome? It was my best haircut ever, with unimaginable attention to detail. I never went to another salon during my stay.

On a subsequent visit I noted a new employee. Was it a middle-aged white woman from Bethnal Green? No, it was a gay guy, pierced, tattooed and precise. I knew that he was chosen on the basis of ‘tribal affiliation’. They would have almost certainly discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation, age, gender and probably on ethnicity and political beliefs. Many are comfortable with ‘positive’ discrimination, but how do you define it and where do you draw the line?

At the other end of the spectrum, I have great sympathy for, say, Indian nationals with PhD’s in neuroscience who find themselves stocking supermarket shelves in Papakura. Many employers don’t take on such candidates because their accent is initially impregnable, they can’t pronounce their name properly, or they’re worried about their cultural fit. Certainly the Indian workplace seems more structured and hierarchical than the Kiwi equivalent. All these attributes may be a perfectly legal basis on which an employer may discriminate. Certainly employment (or dismissal) on the basis of cultural fit, is well documented, though in many cases it may just be racism in disguise. How can you tell?

Discrimination on other grounds can occur too. Our company employs forklift drivers for instance. The role is dominated by young men, but we’ve had a few female drivers



Photo: Tim Whittaker tim.co.nz

**So, if I were allowed to discriminate, I'd probably choose the 40 year-old man, followed by the young woman, followed by the young Māori guy, followed by the young white guy. If you are going to impose this sort of discrimination, you better not admit it.**

over the years. The women typically have less natural ability and require more time or training to get up to speed – but you can't say that. What you get, in the fullness of time, is a forklift driving machine that delivers

metronomic performance and rarely has an accident. The younger lads, on the other hand, especially the Maori boys (but you can't say that), have superior natural talent. Sadly, their minds, being clouded by testosterone and overconfidence, can make them erratic performers, prone to the occasional wipe-out.

So, if I were allowed to discriminate, I'd probably choose the 40-year-old man, followed by the young woman, followed by the young Māori guy, followed by the young white guy. If you are going to impose this sort of discrimination, you better not admit it. But as it was with my London salon, such discrimination happens everywhere and is based on rational past experience.

Our discrimination laws are great if you think their job is to be aspirational, but if you want them to be practically enforceable, they fall well short.

Slovenian philosopher, Slavoj Žižek, points out that the impacts of political correctness are mostly cosmetic. It keeps the ugly reality of society below the parapets. That is, we create an artificial world where 'bad things' are hidden away and we can happily pretend they

don't exist. Mankind has an incredible capacity to suspend belief in this way.

Such a denial of reality has gotten us into trouble in past generations. They'd talk about such things in hushed tones or not at all and the media would shy away from printing unsavoury stories. Worse, we'd turn a blind eye to problems we ought to address – domestic violence, paedophilia and alcohol issues spring to mind.

This trend is still evident in many areas of our lives. Some excitement arose recently when a rugby club decided not to serve alcohol at their clubrooms. This achieves nothing much and may even make alcohol problems worse. Surely rugby clubrooms are the perfect supportive environment to reveal those that have a drinking problem or a drunk driving problem and for these issues to be confronted and managed. By removing alcohol from this public space they may have just transferred it to their homes or less sympathetic dens of inequity. If you accept that prohibition doesn't have a successful track record, then the only other solution is to expose alcohol and alcohol problems to the light of day. The ad says 'Mates

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Michael Franti

don't let mates drive drunk', but mates can't be mates if they're not there at the time.

It's uncomfortable to confront sensitive issues but the brave path is best. And the moment of maximum squirming will bring out the best in you. Steel yourself for some squirming.

Nigger - it's an ugly word.

Recently American comedian Bill Mayer stirred up a storm of controversy by using the word during some jocular banter with one of his television guests. To be clear the guest, the governor of Nebraska said about Mayer visiting his state: "We'd love to have you work in the fields with us". To which Mayer replied: "Work in the fields? Senator, I'm a house nigger."

This exchange may be ill-judged and offensive, but many modern comedians choose subject matter or adopt a vernacular that is grossly offensive. Nothing is sacred in comedic circles. Not only do these types confront difficult issues; they make jokes about them. That might not be such a bad approach desensitising us and encouraging public dialogue.

Humour and satire are longstanding mechanisms by which we are forced to confront uncomfortable realities. In newspapers the cartoons make social and political jibes that would stand little chance of finding their way into the printed word. For those comedians that take it too far - I choose not to listen to them. The same option is available to viewers of Bill Mayer. Having bad taste isn't something that is easily curable.

Discussing the word 'nigger' doesn't mean you're guilty of a racial slur. The word is a reality and discussing it in a historical or social context shouldn't be offensive. It's only a racial slur if you direct it at someone. The word will certainly be much more loaded in the USA as their slave history will always be a blight on 'the land of the free'.

It's odd that we seem to have adopted Americans' sensitivity regarding the word, which means little in NZ's historical context. We have no sensitivity to 'Chernozhopy' for instance, which is what Russians call those from the Caucasus with enhanced melanin.

Stranger still is the obsession the press have with hiding selective letters in 'nigger'. Why do we need to replace 'igge' with \*\*\*\* or just refer to it as 'the N-word'? 'Nigger' is a very

offensive word but it isn't inherently vulgar, like a number of other words I'm not permitted to use here by way of comparison.

And as alcohol prohibition fostered a trend toward hard liquor consumption, so it is that word prohibition gives these words more potency. If you want to remove their power, include them in intelligent discourse at every opportunity.

American rap and hip hop musicians use 'nigger' in their music in every other line. Yes, I know that much of this music is more broadly vulgar, misogynistic and offensive, but some of it isn't. I'm showing my age here, but one of the most intelligent proponents of hip-hop is Michael Franti. Let's take some of his early lyrics as an example of excellent 'nigger' usage:

*Sometimes I feel like a socio-genetic  
experiment*

*A petri-dish community's token of infection  
You see I'm African Native American  
Irish and German*

*I was adopted by parents who loved me  
They were the same color*

*As the kids who called me nigger  
On the walk home from school*

*I cried until I found out what it meant  
Then I got me some equipment*

*My fists, man*

Does anyone really want to emasculate the power of Mr Franti's personal experience by imposing asterisks on the 'N-word'?

Mr Franti shows us the way forward. We need to confront these difficult issues more directly and not confine them to the closet or shelter behind ineffectual legislation. Society must also accept there is no final solution for these problems. If they were an issue 100 years ago, they'll likely still be a problem in another 100 years.

All we can do is to instil in our children the principles of justice and compassion. The corollary is that we should also teach them to speak out where they see injustice and bigotry. To turn a blind eye is to condone such behaviour.

Paul Paynter is our resident iconoclast and cider maker. Sometimes he grows stuff at Yummyfruit.

# LIVE HERE GIVE HERE



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## ZEAL The Home of Young Creatives

Getting through your teenage years can be a bumpy ride – finding your place in the world, developing resilience, self-awareness and practical ways to follow your passions.

ZEAL Hawke's Bay is part of a national organisation helping young people to navigate this journey. They're making a real difference, developing the amazing creative talents of young New Zealanders as well as building their sense of community and belonging.

### How is ZEAL involved with Hawke's Bay Foundation?

Mark Wilson, manager of ZEAL Hawke's Bay says, "We were thrilled to have received funding from Hawke's Bay Foundation – it helped us to hit the road with our refurbished shipping container and to run events throughout the Bay. Last year alone we ran 19 events and 800 dance workshops for over 3,200 participants. ZEAL focuses on what's relevant to young people – we go to where they are and work with young local bands, artists, dance crews and soloists helping them hone their craft. Through their participation the kids get a great sense of community."

ZEAL Hawke's Bay is one of 115 local organisations to have received financial support from Hawke's Bay Foundation. Trustee Jessica O'Sullivan says, "I want all our kids



to feel they have a place to belong, and to be able to achieve their full potential. We love that ZEAL is giving so many of the Bay's young the opportunity to find their true rhythm and to step forward into adulthood with greater confidence."

### A Young Creative Gives Back

Hawke's Bay 24 year old, Jock Nowell-Usticke is carving out a music career as BAYNK and the world in which he now finds himself is global and borderless, driven by streaming, social media and the online universe. But Jock will always be a Hawke's Bay boy at heart and he is a regular donor to HB Foundation.

### Why do you support HBF?

"I had fantastic opportunities as a kid here – school was great, lots of chances to try new things, muck around with music (when I probably should have been studying!), good friends, really supportive family – all in the beautiful Bay. I know I've been given a lot so far in life."

"It's really important to give back and it's not just up to our parents' generation. You've got to start everything young, and flexing that 'giving muscle' should be part of

everyone's life-long exercise regime."

"I don't give a lot to the Foundation at the moment. I give what a somewhat impoverished musician can, but I know each donation I make counts. And I really like the fact that HB Foundation knows where the needs are in the Bay – outfits like ZEAL are doing an amazing job."

### What is Hawke's Bay Foundation?

HBF is a charitable trust receiving donations of all sizes from individuals and families around the region. These funds are pooled and invested forever. Only the earnings are distributed annually to support Hawke's Bay community initiatives and organisations bringing about positive and social change.

The Foundation is building an inter-generational asset for the community that will support Hawke's Bay people, forever.

For more information about HBF visit [hawkesbayfoundation.org.nz](http://hawkesbayfoundation.org.nz)

## BAY BUZZ

BayBuzz is pleased to support the Hawke's Bay Foundation



TCM practitioner Ming Lee. Photos: Sarah Cates

# Needles or Pills?

SARAH CATES

## ARE YOU AFRAID OF NEEDLES?

Then the thought of a therapy that inserts needles into the body as a method of healing may switch you right off.

However, many other New Zealanders are looking at acupuncture as an alternative solution to pain, mental suffering, and disease. In the financial year 2014/2015 ACC funded acupuncture treatments to a value of \$27 million dollars. This is a dramatic increase from 2003/2004 where the value of treatments amounted to \$3 million dollars.

Many of these claims were for soft tissue related injuries, but claims were also made for mental shock, deafness, and occupational disease. The industry in New Zealand is worth \$70 to \$75 million dollars, with 1,000-1,200 practitioners nationwide.

Around 810 of these are registered with ACC. To be a registered ACC treatment provider, practitioners must be a member of Acupuncture New Zealand - NZ's largest professional body that represents practitioners in Chinese medicine and acupuncture.

The New Zealand School of Acupuncture said "the medicine has grown in popularity, partially due to ACC recognition and through the growing body of research validating acupuncture. The desire of the general public to take a more holistic approach to managing their health also plays a large part."

Growing acceptance of acupuncture is not just a New Zealand trend. In the UK and the US demand for acupuncture is growing exponentially. The US Food and Drug Administration is currently working on a blueprint for doctors to use a 'multi-disciplinary' approach, which highlights acupuncture for pain management, in an effort to reduce the use of addictive opioid drugs as pain relief.

New Zealand's relationship with acupuncture as a pain treatment has been steadily developing since the early 1970s, when the Chinese Government invited a

## **New Zealand's relationship with acupuncture as a pain treatment has been steadily developing since the early 1970s, when the Chinese Government invited a New Zealand delegation to observe medical administration and public health.**

New Zealand delegation to observe medical administration and public health. Up to this point acupuncture within New Zealand had been largely confined to the Chinese communities. This visit created division within the New Zealand Medical Association. Many doctors remained dismissive of acupuncture, but, based on observations brought back from China, some doctors and physiotherapists began incorporating aspects of acupuncture into their usual practice.

Acupuncture forms the basis of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). It is believed to be one of the oldest therapies known to man. The basic theory of acupuncture is to balance the body, mind and spirit by regulating the flow of qi (pronounced chi). Qi is the vital life force of humans which determines the overall health of the body and mind.

When you are healthy, qi flows uninterrupted through the meridians. Meridians are channels that make up a continuous circuit of pathways that flow along the surface of the body and through the body's internal organs. Qi is made up from a

combination of genetics and lifestyle -- what we were born with, the food we eat, and the environment we live in.

When you are unhealthy, stressed, or experiencing pain, the flow of qi has become blocked. Experienced practitioners unblock the flow by inserting very fine needles in specific locations along the meridians. These points are acupuncture points or 'Ah-shi' points, translated as "yes, that's it!"

Acupuncture is progressively being used by mainstream health practitioners, physiotherapists and chiropractors for pain relief, the treatment of injuries, and musculoskeletal problems. Traditional acupuncturists believe this type of practice should be referred to as 'medical acupuncture' or 'dry needling' (DN), as practitioners of DN seldom use the underlying philosophy of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

DN is receiving a high level of scientific investment as it targets the exact location of pain. According to research, needling causes the body to produce adenosine, which reduces inflammation and pain. DN is very Western in its nature, as it only deals with the direct, localised symptoms, not the root cause of pain, or the whole person.

Ming Lee is a TCM practitioner based in Hastings. Lee studied both Chinese and Western medicine in Taiwan. On completion of her nursing degree she worked for five years as a paediatric nurse before coming to New Zealand.

"I originally only came to New Zealand for three years, 22 years on I am still here! I stayed in Auckland first but I had to leave Auckland to learn English, too many Asians in Auckland! To learn anything you have to become it, in the deep end". Ming moved to Hawke's Bay in 2001 and worked at Hawke's Bay Hospital before opening her TCM practice in 2006.

Ming's drive to practise TCM full-time came about from losing her father. "I had to return



**“Some of my clients call me ‘Magic Ming’ but really there is no magic, most of the problems with people is their own heads!”**

TCM PRACTITIONER MING LEE

back to Taiwan where I nursed my father for four months before he died. He had a stroke, but it was not the stroke that killed him. It was the side effects of Western medicine. Western medicine focuses on the symptoms, using drugs or surgery to treat them.

“TCM works on the whole body restoring balance both physically and emotionally. Many first time clients come to me as their last option when Western medicine has nothing left to offer. TCM gives them hope. I change people’s minds every day. I see their excitement as they receive instant relief.” Smiling, Lee continued, “Some of my clients call me ‘Magic Ming’ but really there is no magic, most of the problems with people is their own heads!”

One such returning client is Megan McGinniss, Assistant Manager of Clive Swimming Pool. “I had always gone down the mainstream route, with osteopathy being the most unconventional”. McGinniss had worked in hospitality 15 years. “Making three hundred coffees a day and standing for eight

hours straight on concrete floors I found I had increasing neck, shoulder, and back pain. Having historical injuries from competitive sport, bad habits, bad posture, and fluctuations in my weight, I really needed some help. I didn’t feel my doctor could deal with all this – so many little things, I didn’t know what to do. Painkillers were not the answer.

“One day at work a customer told me that she and her husband had started to see a TCM practitioner for shoulder and back pain and that it was really helping.” Megan booked in.

“I was nervous. I made my way through a labyrinth of stairs and corridors in an old Hastings building. I was greeted by a small Chinese looking lady, beaming, with a real presence. She ushered me into her modest treatment room. Before I knew it I was on the bed with needles in my ankles. The sensation differed depending on she put them. Some insertions hurt, only momentarily, while others created a tingling sensation that travelled up my leg.”

That was the first treatment of many,

McGinniss commented, “Ming has become very much part of my life. The treatments have helped improve my entire wellbeing. I suffer far less muscular aches and pains and feel supported in managing my own health. I see Ming for so many different complaints, from not sleeping to spraining my ankle after a fall. I still get niggly pains in my body – they haven’t been miraculously cured, but I know without the treatments my quality of life would be poor.

“I have a young active family, work 35 hours a week, and coach the hockey team, I need to be mobile and emotionally stable, the last thing I wanted was a constant prescription and snapping at the kids. I still use other practitioners and see my GP, but TCM is my treatment of choice.”

When Megan started her TCM treatment she could book an appointment for the same day. Five years on she may need to wait up to two weeks. “I book my next treatment then and there, when I’m off the table, otherwise I will have to wait! To be honest, I have stopped telling people about Ming!”

More and more people are no longer content with simply popping a pill. Acupuncture is a therapy producing results for many and should be regarded as part of medical practice – not an alternative. It will never be everyone’s cup of tea, and for some it may not work, but the growing numbers of meticulously trained practitioners and converted patients speaks for itself.

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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# Wine: Stories from Hawke's Bay

**Mark Sweet  
Photographs  
Tim Whittaker**



This book is a treasure ... I love the photographs, both old and new ... all my expectations were exceeded.

*Tim Turvey,  
Clearview Estate Winery*

A must for those wishing to know more about the Hawke's Bay wine industry – its history, wine pioneers and current producers and their outstanding wines.

*Graeme Avery, Sileni Estates*

A splendid new book ... an extraordinary trove of images.

*John Saker, Cuisine*

An engaging read that I heartily recommend for the depth and character it adds to the Hawke's Bay wine experience.

*Alwyn Corban, Ngatarawa Wines*

I heartily recommend this book to anyone interested in a well-researched piece of important wine history, a glimpse into many of the characters who have helped build a thriving wine industry, a winemaker's view of what makes the region and its wines special, or a beautifully illustrated adornment for a coffee table.

*Bob Campbell, Master of Wine*

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MATT MILLER: ONLINE TRENDS

## Machine Learning ... about You!

IT SEEMS THAT EVERY YEAR IN DIGITAL ECONOMY, a new concept emerges and everyone starts using it when hawking the benefits of their products or services.

For example, five years ago it was The Cloud, the place where software was heading. Instead of being located on your own machine, your software would be in a virtual location. The cloud was a very special place. Only the most cutting-edge companies were committed to the cloud. Then suddenly everyone was in the cloud – even Microsoft – and being in the cloud was not that special any more.

In their search for a new shiny thing, the technology vendors turned to the emerging field of 'Big Data'. This was the idea that it made good sense to collect an enormous amount of data about your customers, because the cost of storage was tending to zero, cloud software made it incredibly easy to record the behaviour of all of your users, and the information gained was an amazing asset and you could use it to your marketing advantage.

The big data enthusiasts received their first big setback when Edward Snowden went public with his revelations about the US Government's mass-surveillance programmes, which made the idea of big data distasteful to many of us, particularly those concerned about privacy.

Now 'Big Data' has given way to the new buzzwords du jour: 'artificial intelligence' and 'machine learning'.

You have no doubt heard of artificial intelligence (AI). Machine learning, however, seems to be a genuine newcomer to marketing-speak. I had not encountered the phrase in the trade press until the last six months or so. Now it seems I can't read a digital marketing newsletter or blog without coming across it.

So what is machine learning? Is it the same thing as artificial intelligence? Who is using it? How can you use it to your advantage? And are there any risks or downsides?

The first thing to be aware of is that

there are two main approaches to AI: rule-based systems and self-learning systems. Autonomous cars, for example, rely completely on programmed sets of rules. So do traditional chess-playing computer games. A programmer writes a set of logical rules (usually 'if-then' statements) and the system follows these rules. If the instruction set is good enough, and the computer is powerful enough – and the problem domain is narrow enough – 'intelligent' behaviour can emerge from the system.

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**Researchers in machine learning often express surprise at the results. Often, they are unable to explain how a learning system came to its conclusions, even though they know they are true.**

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The opposite approach to AI is to attempt to create self-learning systems. These are not fed a set of rules; rather, they are designed to observe, and then attempt to predict based on their observations, repeating and refining their algorithms as their predictions improve.

This can lead to incredible results in areas where computers have been traditionally weak. For example, Facebook can identify people in photos that it hasn't seen before. We now trust face recognition technology so much that we use it for automated identification at airport passport control. Machine learning is used in fields as diverse as cancer detection, finance, traffic routing, and other areas

where the aim is to spot trends that humans can't. A machine is capable of reading more data, analysing it with more processing power, and doing it 24/7 without ever getting bored.

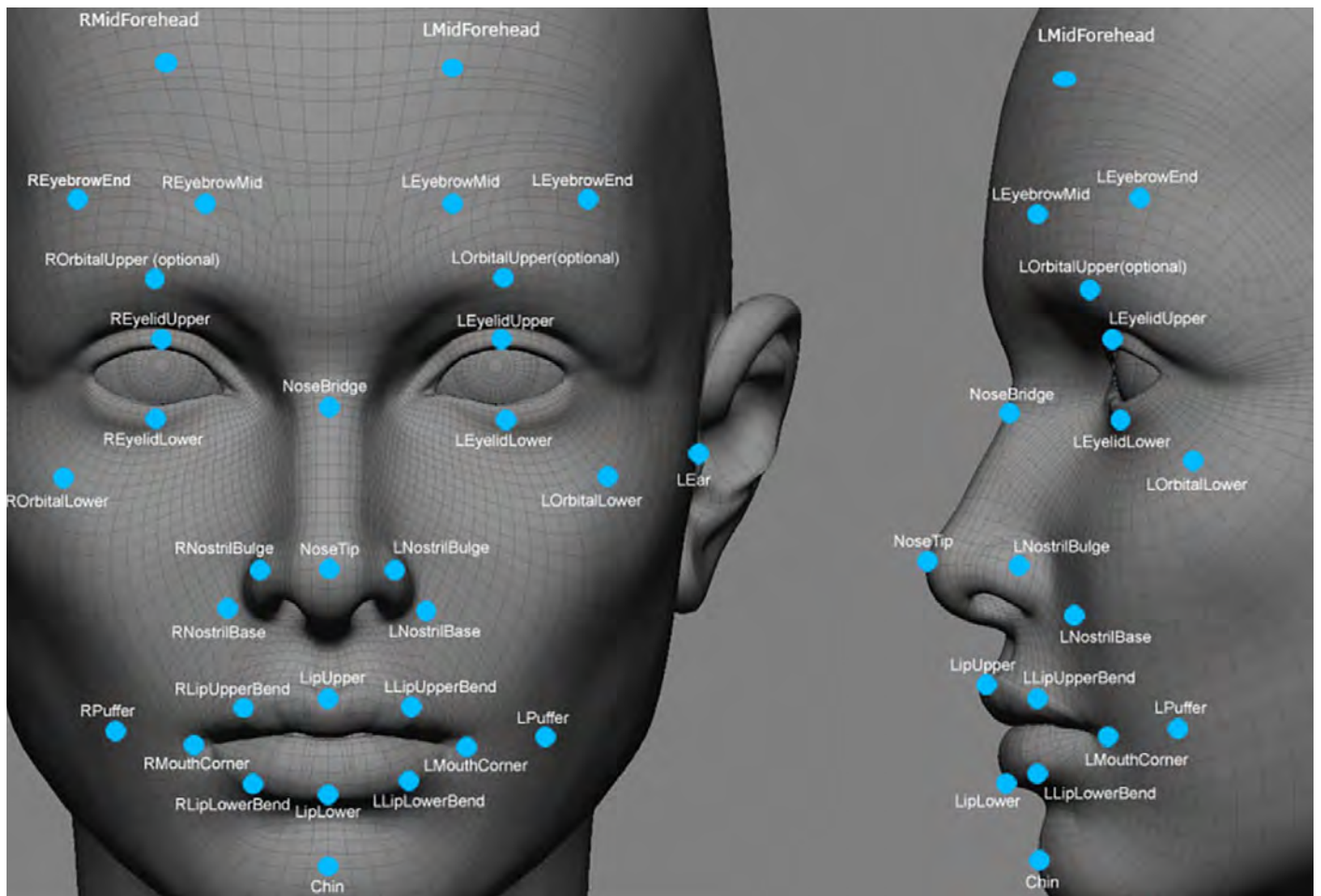
Researchers in machine learning often express surprise at the results. Often, they are unable to explain how a learning system came to its conclusions, even though they know they are true.

The most obvious use of this technology in everyday business is to make your digital marketing more effective. The American department store magnate John Wanamaker famously said, "Half the money I spend on advertising is wasted; the trouble is I don't know which half". The history of advertising has, in large part, been to target the right people with your messages at the right time so you don't waste your money on everybody else. And as Google and Facebook take in more and more of the economy's ad spend, their promises of their targeting effectiveness are making more use of machine learning.

One of the crudest forms of 'intelligent' advertising is Google Adwords, which shows ads relevant to the words you use when you search in Google. Then there are the ads that use the words in your emails to show relevant ads.

Remarketing takes it to another level. That's when you see ads for businesses based on the websites you have visited recently. They give you the eerie feeling that they are following you around the web. A number of Hawke's Bay websites do this. Lately I have been seeing remarketing ads for EIT, Iona College, and Redcurrent. We use it for our own product Strea.ma. But for many marketers, these techniques are still not intelligent enough to achieve significant results.

Google's Smart Lists is a new approach that explicitly touts machine learning as its primary selling point. A self-learning system analyses the data of your website's



**For example, Facebook can identify people in photos that it hasn't seen before. We now trust face recognition technology so much that we use it for automated identification at airport passport control.**

visitors and automatically redesigns your advertising campaigns every day. Google

doesn't go into detail about the exact data that it collects and processes, but in order to compete with the Facebook juggernaut, it must be a seriously impressive system.

Machine learning in marketing relies on personal data as its primary inputs, with data as sensitive as location-based tracking from smartphones and cars fair game in some jurisdictions. The question of whether personal information is a commodity to be collated, analysed – and even traded – is currently in sharp focus with the ongoing revelations about the Brexit and Trump campaigns' use of data-driven targeting of voters based on sophisticated social profiling, and the high likelihood of Russian involvement in efforts

to manipulate the democratic process.

Machine learning has been implicated in these campaigns' use of so-called 'fake news' and its virus-like spread. Facebook is now using pattern recognition to spot fake news stories automatically and warn readers using, you guessed it, machine learning.

But just as we're getting used to the phrase, it looks like another one might soon supplant it. Google announced recently that all of their products will use ... 'deep learning'.

Matt Miller co-owns web company Mogul Limited, based in Havelock North, but serving clients around the world, including *BayBuzz*. His beat for *BayBuzz* is online trends and best practice.

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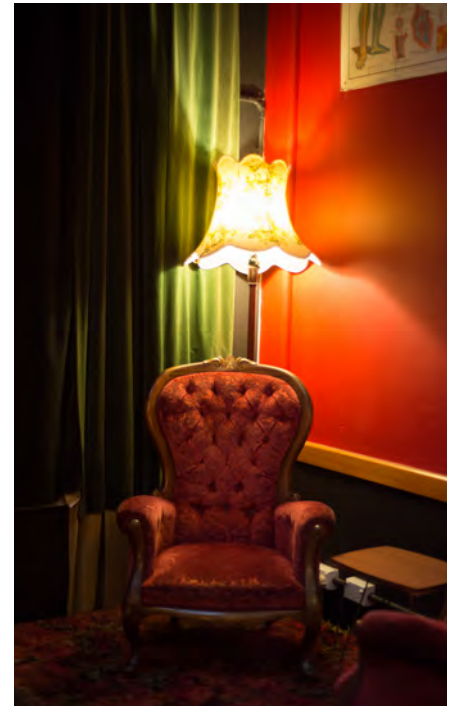
**TIM WHITTAKER**  
PHOTOGRAPHY



## Gerard and Common Room

LIZZIE RUSSELL





“IT’S HOSPITALITY – It’s not complicated,” says Common Room’s Gerard Barron. “You make people feel comfortable. You make them feel safe. You offer them good wine, and drinks and food. That’s it.”

I’ve come to find out from Gerard just what goes into the ‘special sauce’ that has in four short years made Common Room Hastings’ favourite hangout, widely renowned as a live music venue, and a driving force in the development of Hastings’ cool new reputation.

The answer isn’t shocking. It’s common sense.

Gerard and his wife Jess Soutar Barron returned from many years overseas, mostly in London, to Auckland and headed straight

out on a road trip – down the west coast and up the east coast of the North Island, armed with a mental checklist, seeking the ultimate place to make a home for their family. They were struck, Gerard says, by the potential of Hawke’s Bay, and Hastings in particular.

“We could see so much potential within and beneath the surface of the ‘wine’. With wine comes great food and hospitality, and creative people and art and huge opportunities.”

Jess moved down first for a job with Hastings District Council and the rest of the family followed. They got involved in the community, and came to see that while there were loads of interesting and creative and passionate people with great ideas

doing great things, what was missing was a fitting meeting point – a hub for what they call “the fine art of conversation”.

So four years ago they took the plunge, opening Common Room in Heretaunga Street’s East 200 block. The cosy, unique space was like stepping into the living room of a creative, well-travelled friend’s home. The retro furniture, intimate spaces, eclectic art and murals, and the buzz of chatter struck a chord with locals, and within eighteen months it was time to expand.

Common Room took over the neighbouring premises, doubling in size and providing more opportunity for live music and events.

Every decision in the development of

Common Room was to make it into the kind of place he and Jess would want to spend time, so one of the challenges, Gerard says, was growing the bar in size while keeping the vibe. He describes the delicate ecosystem that is Common Room. Everything is connected and everything – what they serve, who takes the stage, the aesthetic – acts as a filter to appeal to their customer: the broadminded people of Hawke's Bay.

So who are they? There's no archetypal Common Room patron ('commoners', as they're affectionately called). On any given night you might find students, elected officials, newspaper staff, retailers, artists, musicians, accountants from around the corner and couples clinking glasses in one of the intimate indoor spaces or out the back in the courtyard.

"It's a small city," says Gerard, "so you have to be and do it all."

This means the rotation of entertainment includes regular jazz nights, stand-up comedy, slam poetry, charity events and quizzes (they've helped make \$9,000 just this year for different causes), along with gigs from younger bands who get to learn their stage craft in a warm and welcoming environment and more established acts who might just want to play a more intimate show.

Gerard governs the place with his 'Ripple Effect' rule. Everybody is welcome to come here and enjoy themselves, so long as their enjoyment doesn't ripple out and affect anyone else's enjoyment negatively.

The separation of space helps with this too, with the smaller original space set apart from the main bar and stage area, so patrons can enjoy the fine art of conversation there while a rock band might be playing within metres of them.

So, what does the future look like?

Gerard has big hopes for Common Room, and for Hastings.

"We want Hastings to grow, and we want to be a part of that. When I look back to four years ago, this street was very different. You had WINZ over the road, second-hand shops that were here because of that, you had the sex shop selling legal highs."

Now it's developed an independent, artisan vibe with Ya Bon and LaPetite Chocolat complementing organic stalwarts Cornucopia and Taste. Plus, the Little Red Bookshop, Coco & Co and the expanding Hutchinson's make for great shopping on the block.

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**"I am so, so amped for the next couple of years here. It's time for those outdated attitudes and perceptions about Hastings to change."**

GERARD BARRON

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Hawke's Bay patrons have fast developed a taste for specialist beer in that time too, and Common Room has played a big role.

"When we opened, Zealandt was the only local craft brewery – they were it, and now look at the industry, there's nearly ten of them."

With so much positive change in four years, Gerard says the future is exciting.

"I am so, so amped for the next couple of years here. It's time for those outdated attitudes and perceptions about Hastings

to change."

"The potential for this part of town is screaming. Our placement here was very deliberate. You've got so much of the Hastings white collar activity within these few blocks, and the HB Today building, ACC, plus the art gallery, library, council, we have an opera house that's been fully committed to. Hastings has a lot to say."

Unsurprisingly, considering how involved Jess and Gerard are with their community, collaboration is at the heart of where they hope things will go.

"With us, Brave and Carr's Kitchen another block over, the opera house, the movie theatre and then the ethnic eateries all so close here, all we need is one, maybe two more bars or restaurants and we've got our own strip. Imagine it – the street closed at night, live bands playing outside... Hastings deserves that!"

He loves the idea of making this a destination entertainment area, linked up to the wider Bay too.

"There's potential to get shuttles running, say, between Haumoana, Havelock and here, so people can enjoy a night out that way too.

"It's always cool to hear people say that this place is like something they'd find in Wellington or Melbourne or another great city. Wouldn't it be great if one day they were going into bars on the other side of the world and saying those places remind them a bit of the Hastings vibe?"

There's always loads on at Common Room, including events as part of Fringe in the 'Stings coming up in early October. Follow Common Room on Facebook to get the scoop on what's happening during any given week, and make an effort to get there one winter's night – it's warm and cosy, and you never know where the conversation might take you.

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# Building the Best in the Bay

UNDOUBTEDLY ARCHITECTURE and its relationship to the environment can affect our wellbeing. Evidence lies in the recognition of architects who have the ability to form, protect and enhance the natural landscape whilst creating outstanding buildings. Structures which make us smile. The recent Gisborne/Hawke's Bay Architecture Awards were a case in point.

MICHAL MCKAY



Waimarama Surf Life Saving Club. Photo: Jeff Brass

FIVE HAWKE'S BAY ARCHITECTS carried away honours for buildings in such diverse categories as Hospitality to Housing. We asked them how they achieved such structures, which sit

harmoniously on site whilst providing a haven for the occupants. Their views on briefs, blending clients' demands with their own ideals as well as the environment are an indication of just how

complex architecture can be. Their favourites (and in a couple of cases, non-favourites) are a telling illustration of the role they play in producing architectural excellence.

**Enduring Architecture Award: Martin House (1970) by John Scott Architect**

Sol Atkinson, convenor of the jury which visited 15 shortlisted projects, summed up this award as “the perfect finale”. He also commented that the house and adjacent pottery shed, now the much loved home of potter Bruce Martin, reinforced the importance of the architect’s role in a building project. “This enduring building has not just withstood the tests of time, it has become a valuable example of how connections can be made between people and place.”





Shoal Beach House. Photo: Gavin Cooper

**Small Project Architecture: Waimarama Surf Life Saving Club, Chris Ainsworth, Paris Magdalinos Architects**

Many of this year’s shortlisted works occupied sites with sea or river views. Consequently connections to water played a strong part in the architecture. None more so than the Surf Club Tower leaning out over the dunes to access a full view of the beach. “The visual strength and positioning of the structure oozes confidence and control with all sightlines open for the surf-life saving club members,” commented convenor Atkinson.

Chris says his clients asked them to provide a robust and durable solution to replacing the existing dilapidated tower. “They wanted to think ‘outside the box’ and had already considered a cantilevered structure. So our challenge was to combine those two aspirations into a singular entity. One that would result in an iconic piece of architecture of which the Waimarama community could be proud. The design process was robust with client, engineering consultants and contractors all collaborating. It did yield the best outcome for budget and expectations.”

Chris and his team provided additional design ideas such as the rear timber screen, “which was achieved through integrating the design elements into the building fabric so as to provide a sun screen and sculptural form.” The tower site is in a highly corrosive environment so they had to choose robust and serviceable products and finishes. But they were able to use these to add to those sculptural

forms, such as the pre-cast concrete legs which have been sandblasted with a *kōrero*, by Bayden Barber, depicting the Waimarama story and history.

The award reflects his own satisfaction with the result. “We think we have achieved a fantastic piece of architecture which is fit for purpose and also fulfilled the client’s brief and budget.”

His own favourite buildings in the Bay which relate are Paxies Lane, McGlashins Building refurbishment, the Masonic, Farmers, Port Administration Building and Spriggs Park Changing Facilities – all in Napier.

**Housing: The Shoal Beach House by Gavin Cooper Architect**

There were three winners in this sector. All applauded as “fine examples of how architectural responses can be sculpted by the influences of wind, the views, the contours of the land and the client’s brief”. Gavin Cooper’s creation sits in Aramoana about 40 kilometres from Waipawa. It’s part of a coastal subdivision offering a multitude of pleasures - swimming, surfing, diving, wildlife, a nesting area for the NZ dotterell and the Te Angiangi marine reserve - all surrounded by rolling sheep country. A timber clad box with central courtyard, it provides shelter from sea breezes and westerlies; a gathering space between internal living, ablutions, guest sleeping, kitchen and the owner’s quarters.

His brief was straightforward. “The owners wanted to escape to the beach as

a relief from work and less commitment to their urban dwelling. This programme called for a beach house that enabled them to spend time alone or share with teenage children and friends. There was a lot of discussion along the way – a clear indication early on not to repeat the patterns and clutter of urban domestic living. Rather the direction was to pursue an interest in the typology of beachside campgrounds – often a collection of buildings catering for eating, sleeping, washing all gathered around a communal outdoor space.” A quite well-developed initial design was finally rejected because it didn’t meet those aims so well – “so we had another go from scratch.”

The environment was pivotal. “The building takes reference from the blunt shapes of local farm sheds and sculptured landforms as well as the colours and materiality of dry grasses, weathered driftwood and sand dunes. The house itself is pared back, reduced to provide form to the simple beach time rituals of sleeping, waking, eating, resting and swimming while providing resilience from the coastal environment.” And he wouldn’t change a thing.

His favourite house? “First up it would include a John Scott house, particularly the Martin House at Bridge Pa, or a Guy Natusch house.” Definitely a man of the moment he is particularly interested in how good design can be used in existing urban environments to provide higher density, affordable houses that contribute to their neighbourhoods.

# High Five:

Winners in the Hawke's Bay Architecture Awards, clockwise from top left: Gavin Cooper, Shaun Thompson-Gray, Ezra Kelly, Chris Ainsworth, Simon Clarkson.



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The Central Post Office Redevelopment. Photo: Jeff Brass

**Heritage: The Central Post Office Redevelopment by Ezra Kelly, Paris Magdalinos Architects**

Despite surviving the 1931 earthquake the P.O. was earmarked for demolition decades later. Fortunately it was saved and given new life with enhanced accessibility through the support of the client and key tenant. Ezra was given the task of the conversion. He observes that the existing building provided an anchor to the intersection of Dickens and Hastings Streets in Napier but the needs of tenants, NZ Post (plus the NBS 100% tick) meant a complete redevelopment for it to remain viable.

“The design process on a large project like this with so many stakeholders and consultants is a challenge,” says Ezra. “The architect has to juggle what can sometimes be conflicting requirements and come up with what best meets everyone’s needs.” The feasibility of a completely new building was considered. “We looked at many options and to be able to retain the existing building and develop it took significant effort. But so rewarding in the end.”

Obviously most of this project was internal, with environmental constraints set during original construction; but the opening up of the building to the Dickens St car park “provided an opportunity to enhance the Napier landscape”.

In hindsight would he have changed anything? “Existing buildings always uncover the unexpected during construction and some things have to be altered to accommodate. But given the extent of the work involved, this project went relatively smoothly.”

Not surprisingly Ezra regards the Masonic in Napier as an art deco jewel, but also gives credence to the conversion of more prosaic buildings such as FG Smiths and the MPI building in Ahuriri. “Both demonstrate just how well existing building stock can be reinvented.”

He is candid, however, in his comments regarding the preservation of our national heritage treasures. “Recently I had the opportunity to visit the new (and award-winning) visitor centre on the edge of Lake Waikaremoana, which is a strong asset to the community. But is tinged with sadness in terms of heritage architecture. The original centre designed by John Scott was architecturally significant. Yet DoC allowed it to become run down. This is an organisation charged with the stewardship of thousands of cultural and historical sites in NZ. Permitting the building to be demolished earlier this year is to me the ultimate abdication of responsibility marking another real loss for our heritage.”

**Commercial Architecture: 1 Wright Street, Ahuriri by Shaun Thompson-Gray, Architecture HDT, Hawke’s Bay**

Described by convenor Atkinson as “drawing on the woolshed building forms common in the Ahuriri precinct, these deceptively simple interventions to the building structure, utilising a considered material palette, have transformed what was a less than appealing building.”

As Shaun puts it, “Ahuriri was one of the earliest settled areas in Napier and many buildings that were once used industrially at the port have been redeveloped for a variety of commercial, residential, industrial and recreational uses. 1 Wright Street, built in the mid-20th century, included warehousing and two partial levels of commercial space which was accessed via six separate entries off Wright St., Waghorne St. and Vulcan Lane.”

Shaun was briefed by David Mackersey of Mackersey Development. It was specific and exacting: respect the Ahuriri urban context; provide naturally ventilated light-filled office spaces; reconsider the existing roof and facades; provide flexibility for future tenancy layouts; retain the existing steel structure and concrete floors; allow for staging the construction to maintain the existing tenancies spaces during Stage I. No mean task!

He explains that the large-scale buildings with distinctive saw-tooth



1 Wright Street, Ahuriri. Photo: Andrew Caldwell

roof lines, exterior walls hard on street boundaries and subdued colours set Ahuriri apart and it was important to retain these historical features to help preserve the area's character.

The transformation saw the emergence of a two-story commercial building.

A new single dramatic double-height entry lobby with a central circulation spine located off Wright St. dispensed with the original multiple access points. The old saw-tooths were extended with carefully located south-facing skylights to allow natural daylight right into the depths. All the mismatched cladding and windows were replaced with vertical metal cladding and slot windows to retain the industrial aesthetic yet develop a cohesive whole. And with the first and second floor decks which activated the corners, a physical connection with the neighbourhood was established along with a light airy environment for the offices. A portion of the rear warehouse was demolished to provide car space, which actually acts as a buffer between offices, State Highway and the railway yards.

Of the process Shaun is clear. "David has a wealth of experience. He constantly challenged our ideas and assumptions, but we also thoroughly tested in-house where all team members were encouraged to be frank and open." And the architects did provide well-received alternate thoughts.

Homage was paid to the wool store form, but the feeling was the large blank walls so typical of this typology were not appropriate for the intended use of the building. The residential verandas which about the Hardinge Rd boundary inspired them, so they created decks at both levels to provide that visual and physical link between interior and exterior.

Fortunately HDT had been located at 1 Wright Street long before the approach to redo, so were well acquainted with all its foibles. "We would not change a thing now."

Shaun's views on architecture are strongly reflected on his choice of a favourite building. "The Awatoto stormwater pods, located beside the cycleway represent pure, joyous form. Considering the complex juggling act of regulations, science and art there are numerous challenges to manage in the competing requirements and constraints in any building project. These are simply beautiful objects which elicit a smile every time I cycle past them."

His view on his least favourite building was decisive. "The Warehouse, Napier is simply an oppressive building that lacks any consideration for creating a positive shopping experience. There is a complete disconnection between the building and the public in terms of scale, connectivity and space creation."

## Design Note #02

SOL ATKINSON  
REGISTERED ARCHITECT

In this series of design notes, we are summarising the three project phases of Design, Documentation and Construction which guides our architectural design process. This full-service approach ensures the client is guided through all aspects of their project, from the initial engagement to building handover.

The **DESIGN PHASE**, which makes up between 15-30% of a full service, involves **three stages** that allow for, information gathering and establishing the project parameters (Pre-design), exploring designs to reflect the brief (Concept), and considering the design construction options and materials to best suit the project (Preliminary design).

During the **Pre-Design** stage we establish the Agreement for Architectural Services (AAS). The AAS outlines the project scope, the design brief, the Architect's fee, and the expectations of timeframe and budget. Initially, we meet with a prospective client free of charge, to discuss the project, before they are presented with the AAS. Once agreed upon, the predesign stage commences with a review of the District Plan, site legal constraints, a measure and 3D modelling of any existing buildings, and review the design programme. This stage allows an opportunity for fundamentals of the project to be discussed and any critical limitations to be identified.

Next, the **Concept Design** stage brings the project to life exploring layout and design options. Typically, we find the concept design phase includes a couple of initial designs that look at the project brief in often contrasting stand points. This facilitates discussion and helps articulate project priorities and allows for further concepts to be resolved. At the end of this stage the preferred design often includes a floor plan, some 3D images and basic 3D model.

The **Preliminary Design** stage refines materials and product choices. Construction elements are considered and other parties that may need to be involved are engaged. It's increasingly common that a project requires Structural Engineers, Geotechnical testing and Site Surveying. Once the preliminary design has been completed, we typically engage a Quantity Surveyor (QS) who will prepare a construction budget estimate. This helps to keep the project on track and/or allows for changes to be implemented relatively early in the project, to ensure a feasible outcome.

At AHA, we strive to provide refined and realistic built solutions, that not only meet our client's requirements and budget, but fulfil their design expectations. In the next issue, we'll continue our summary on the Documentation Phase of our architectural design process.





Craggy Range, The Lodge. photo: Richard Brimer

**Hospitality and Retail: Craggy Range, The Lodge, Simon Clarkson of Clarkson Architects**

Regarded as “meticulously crafted”, the luxury short-stay accommodation at Craggy Range vineyard provides visitors with framed glimpses of the Tukituki River winding down the valley. “Bare floorboards, high ceilings and painted timber linings create an atmosphere of rustic sophistication,” Convenor Atkinson commented. “And generous openings provide easy connection to landscaped gardens and a rejuvenated private central courtyard.”

“It used to be the manager’s home on the original estate,” explains Simon. “It is now a generous four bedroom, four ensuite, two living room, two dining room, luxury detached home complete with swimming pool and beautifully tailored landscaped gardens overlooking the Tukituki River to the north east and Te Mata Peak to the north west. The brief from the owners was to turn their tired 15 year-old manager’s home into a luxury accommodation which reflected the Craggy Range values. It also needed to respect the quality of the other public buildings already on site and be a home away from home, but with a luxury escape feel.

“There are always robust

conversations between all the parties involved,” Simon notes. In this case not only the owners but their financial advisor and the appointed project manager Simon Radburn (whom he commends for his co-ordination of the build), as well as the builder and other professionals like the landscape and interior designers. “Architecture is a collaborative profession so the finished result is often a reflection of how successful those conversations have been.”

He adds that usually with housing projects he will provide alternative thoughts to the initial brief, “because people come with preconceived ideas often based on what is trendy now. The problem with that is when the trend passes the building dates. It is always better to design around environmental restraints and other factors which give the building context. If a house design is driven by land, sun, wind, neighbours, contours, views etc. and decisions are based on the unchangeable then the house will always have a logic and retain relevance.”

In the case of Craggy Range he found his clients were very aware of the context of other buildings, which gave strong direction with which he was particularly comfortable. “I was happy to embrace

it and felt that it greatly benefited the project.”

The environment particularly played a strong part in the final outcome. “Being beside a river, the wind coming up the valley had to be considered. The courtyard space with outside fireplace has become a sheltered retreat. Also sight lines of the gorgeous views were considered and protected. And no matter the season a house has to be always comfortable so the sun, both summer and winter, was taken into account. Environment will always play a huge part in a successful house design.”

“I think we have produced a fantastic addition to Craggy Range and wouldn’t change anything.”

His most favourite building otherwise?

“I very much like the new Parlour Projects space in Hastings. I’ve always had a weakness when it comes to fine art and the celebration of art. And this building and space was a courageous undertaking in Hastings and shows a confidence in the product being promoted. The space reflects that. It is strong, voluminous, understated and simple. The light and space allow the art work to take centre stage. And the use of simple materials puts the integrity of the building and its structure on show so there is a real honesty about the space.”



Photo: Florence Charvin

We asked the winning architects to name their favourite Hawke's Bay buildings.

- Above: Shaun Thompson-Gray - the Awatoto stormwater pods.
- Right: Ezra Kelly - the now demolished Aniwanuiwa Visitor Centre by John Scott.



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Moise and Andrea Cerson. Photos: Florence Charvin



# Ya-Tres-Bon

MICHAL MCKAY

“A LOAF OF BREAD,” the Walrus said, “is what we chiefly need.” No doubt if Moise Cerson - bread maker extraordinaire - were to encounter Lewis Carroll’s Walrus and the Carpenter he would insist that the bread would have to be a sour dough fresh out of his oven: essential if the oysters were to taste any good!

Moise Cerson is passionate about bread. Artisan bread.

Like the breads he and his team of five bakers regularly produce out of Ya Bon’s bakery in Hastings. He’s there from the wee small hours in the morning at least four times a week. And loves baking. Mixing the dough. The heat of the oven. The seductive smell. He finds the whole experience truly sensual.

Well, he’s French. And that explains a lot. In France beautiful bread is regarded as the staff of a meal, if not life, and considered as much an essential component as fish, pasta or vegetables. “If you spend a lot of time and effort making a beautiful tagine – some fluffy substance that goes under the guise

**“If you spend a lot of time and effort making a beautiful tagine – some fluffy substance that goes under the guise of bread to accompany it, just will not do. It deserves beautiful artisan bread. Freshly baked. Preferably sour dough.”**

of bread to accompany it, just will not do. It deserves beautiful artisan bread. Freshly baked. Preferably sour dough.”

To him making bread is a sensory thing. “But it’s tough. It’s not the romanticised version you may have got from a movie

like *Chocolat* – not like that at all. It’s very physical. Hard. But electric. I get a buzz out of it from the time I arrive and all the ovens are on ... and working as a team. I love the big oven. Friday and Saturday are our biggest days. I enjoy the balancing and the logistics – the outside temperature vis-à-vis the inside and how they affect the baking result.”

Born in Brittany – his mother is French, his father from the Caribbean – his teenage years were spent in Paris where he started learning the traditional French cooking style. And discovered he liked the “sweet part” so spent time learning the art of fine pastry making in Paris patisseries. He travelled extensively, always pastry cheffing. A friend from New Caledonia encouraged him to visit where he spent around 18 months before moving to New Zealand “to learn English”. A year after that he went to Australia.

There he worked with many legendary chefs and restaurants regarded as Australia’s crème de la crème – Peter Doyle’s Cicada

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Andrea and Moise in their new Hastings premises

in Potts Point, Mark Best, known for his fine dining cuisine at Marquee.

“But I always knew I would return to New Zealand.”

That move was ensured when momentarily working for the illustrious and internationally renowned chef Bill Granger, at his first restaurant Bill’s in Darlinghurst. Here he met Andrea. He courted her over coffee. She was the barista.

Andrea is a Kiwi, from the Wairarapa. And after studying natural medicine at uni she moved to Australia as “a stepping stone”. Together they went back to France – the south for which they have a special affinity – then moved back to Sydney and after having their first son (they now have three teenagers all attending Napier Boys’ High) they felt the lifestyle was not right to bring up a family.

So they came back to the Wairarapa’s Greytown. And opened the French Bakery. It became virtually a household name. At the same time they produced three sons in four years. For ten years they focused on producing authentic artisan pastries and breads in true French fashion. Staples like baguettes, croissants (almond particularly popular), croustades, Danishes. And delicious breads.

When the boys were ten, eight and six they took them back to France and spent a lot of time in the south. “When we came back,”

explains Andrea, who is unquestionably the other particularly good half of Ya Bon, “we wanted to replicate that way of life.”

With Hawke’s Bay as their ideal, within a year they had moved here and opened Ya Bon in Hastings. Andrea runs the logistical side of the bakery. As anyone who has been involved in anything related to hospitality will know, a chef needs to focus on what he does best and a business partner is essential to his or her success. “She knows everything going on,” says Moise, “it is a real partnership.”

They are frank about the fact that running a bakery is hard. Their wholesale clients are a bit like the Hawke’s Bay culinary who’s who. They’re in all areas – Havelock North, Hastings, Clive, Ahuriri and Napier – and wide-ranging – Black Barn, Craggy Range, Georgia, Hohepa, Vetro, Box, Fresh Picks, Strawberry Patch and Orchard Store to name but a few. Wright & Co is up there at the top of the list. “We have always been with them,” says Andrea.

“We started off young so ten years later when we moved here we had ironed out the kinks and the business structure pretty well replicated what we did in Greytown.”

“We naturally wanted to go into wholesale,” she explains. “But now the size of the shop (they have a small retail frontage) and the kitchen behind is just too restricting. And we want to go to the



next stage with people being able to see and participate in what we are doing and creating. Now we've done our time and want to move on."

The move to new premises is scheduled for August-September – still in Hastings and Heretaunga Street, but now number 216, beside Hutchinson's.

"We love Hastings," they both enthuse. "The people are from all walks of life. We really enjoy the exchange with our clients and customers, their appreciation. And we have good relationships which we rely on." Their clients are in the main small business owners and they feel it's important they get what they need – "we can talk to them and get fresh ideas which help them with their businesses. And of course us." In fact it's beneficial for both sides, as she acknowledges, for their clients in turn rely on Moise and Andrea to give them what they feel is right for their particular clientele.

They are partnering with Al Borrie, whose coffee from Firsthand is renowned at both The Box Espresso and Crazy Good. So the new premises will be 1/3 café, "not a lot of seating", and 2/3 bakery, with the emphasis on the product.

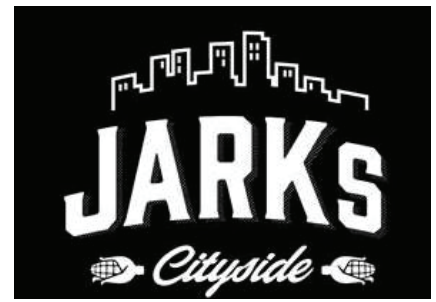
"People love to see what's going on in the kitchen and having the experience of seeing it firsthand we feel is important," explains Andrea. "There is a lot of interaction. And eventually we would love to have small

groups to come in early in the morning and share a coffee while watching what's happening in the bakery. The decor is simple. Al's aesthetic is modern, minimal (to which anyone who has been to the container that houses the Box will attest) and we want it to be accessible."

Andrea will also have a small section for retail, selling much sought-after produce from places like La Fromagerie in Auckland (highly rated by TripAdvisor), "little temptations", and taking catering orders. Also on the menu will be a variety of par-baked foods for the industry, plus celebration cakes.

They knew no one when they moved to the Bay. And they are hugely enthusiastic about what they have discovered here. "It's not just the same old, same old," Andrea laughs. "Each town has its own character." They live in Havelock North where they really enjoy the village ambience (Moise can be seen cycling happily on Te Mata Peak). The boys initially went to Hereworth and now bus to school in Napier each day, "they're used to the big distances in the Wairarapa". Moise and Andrea visit Napier a lot because of this, but they find it also has the added benefit of an easy and constant communication with their clients in the area. And of course Hastings is their second home base.

Ya Bon is good. Very good. No doubt, with this move, Ya Tres Tres Bon.



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

**PAN ROASTED KING FISH ON BABY ROAST POTATOES WITH FENNEL & RED ONION, LIGHTLY BATTERED BLUFF OYSTERS & A LEMON BUTTER SAUCE**

*Serve with side salad*

Oven @ 180° or deep fryer or pan at full heat

### PER SERVE

- 2 gourmet potatoes - halved
- 1/4 cup sliced fennel
- 1/4 cup red onion
- 6 to 8 leaves of baby spinach
- 150g butter
- Lemon 1/2 squeezed  
1/2 cut for garnish
- 180g skinned & boned king fish
- beer batter (previously made-beer, baking powder, flour)
- salt and pepper

Par boil gourmet potatoes. Add 75g of butter in an oven proof fry pan bring to heat, add potatoes & lightly brown. Add sliced fennel & red onion & sauté in the butter until slightly wilting. Season and place pan in oven at 180°. Lightly oil hot plate or fry pan with olive oil, place fillets of king fish on heated surface & sear both sides of the fish until lightly golden. In another pan place 75g butter & lemon juice & blend. Place lightly golden fish in lemon butter pan season and place that in oven for approx ten minutes (fish slightly longer if large fillets). While cooking lightly flour bluff oysters and place in batter mixture to deep fry. Once golden the fish should be almost done, pull pan from oven. In a bowl place baby spinach, potatoes, fennel, onion then king fish on top, spoon butter sauce from pan over and around the fish place, the oysters on top or beside & garnish with microveg & sliced lemon. Enjoy!

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# Pitsch Picks

PREVIEWING THE HARCOURTS  
HAWKE'S BAY ARTS FESTIVAL



THE TEAM BEHIND our regional arts festival is hard at work preparing to bring world-class entertainment to local audiences for the third time, from 26 September to 8 October

With the full programme soon to be released, we asked festival director Pitsch Leiser what events he's most excited about. From circus, theatre and cabaret to classical music and family comedy, here are Pitsch's picks for the 2017 Harcourts Hawke's Bay Arts Festival:

#### **Driftwood by Casus Circus**

After wowing us in 2015, Australia's Casus Circus returns with their breathtaking new show, *Driftwood*. Casus are renowned for their astonishing physical feats, combining strength, agility, beauty and a raw emotional edge. Described as "one of the most magnificent shows of the Festival," by the *Edinburgh Festival Magazine*, *Driftwood* firmly cements Casus' place as an international circus sensation.

#### **The Story Only I Can Tell**

This is the fascinating life story of internationally renowned photographer, playwright, visual artist, filmmaker and performer, William Yang. A third-generation Australian, Yang's forebears migrated from China over a hundred years ago. This autobiographical solo show explores issues of social diversity, belonging and travel in a poignant and powerful way.

#### **Otto & Astrid – Eurosmash!**

Otto & Astrid are Berlin's (self-appointed) Prince and Princess of Art Rock and Europop, and the two halves of Die Roten Punkte (The Red Dots). Describing themselves as "super musicians and unparalleled performers of stellar proportions", their hit show *Eurosmash!* is a lipstick-smear, tantrum-loving, sonic collision between the B52s, Kraftwerk and the early Ramones. Otto & Astrid's *Eurosmash!* is one of the most irreverent and funny gigs you are ever likely to see!

#### **The Unusual Silence – Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir**

New Zealand's premier vocal ensemble performs their latest work in the beautiful Napier Cathedral. Commissioned in memory of WWI, *The Unusual Silence* commemorates the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. Renowned New Zealand composer Victoria Kelly has created a contemplative, rich and moving programme, inspired by the Auckland War Memorial Museum's collection of war artifacts. A 'must-see' performance for all music lovers.

#### **The Listies Make You LOL!**

Australia's favourite kids' comedians, the Listies are bringing their insanely funny, family comedy show. Featuring alien attacks, toilet paper guns, spew, the rudest word in the world and the most disgusting pair of undies you have ever seen in your entire life. This will be a raucous, unruly hour guaranteed to have the whole family (even dads) LOLing, ROFLing and ROFLSHALBOWCOing.\* (\*Rolling On the Floor Laughing So Hard a Little Bit of Wee Came Out)

---

#### **Readers & Writers**

Marty Smith, programmer for the Readers & Writers portion of the festival, says she's looking forward to the Women of Influence Award event, where Anna Pierard will talk with Lizzie Marvely about their work in empowering young people.

Other high points include:

- Toby Buck hosting a discussion between Acorn Foundation Fiction Prize winners Catherine Chidgey (2017) and Stephen Daisley (2016).
- Mary-anne Scott [who is a finalist in the 2017 Book Awards] in conversation with Jenny Patrick about festering secrets and what their very different writing has in common.
- Gareth Ward, aka the Great Wardini, in discussion with Kate de Goldi.
- Chris Price and her partner Robbie Duncan, in discussion with poet Jenny Dobson. This session will be a mix of performance, poetry readings by Chris and Jenny, and discussion of *Beside Herself* (long listed for the 2017 Ockham Book Awards).

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Opposite: Lolo Lovina



Rakai Karaitiana, *Ko Waipuka Te Whenua*, 2015



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## Hawke's Bay's own rock 'n' roll troubadour



MAKING MUSIC in Hawke's Bay and getting it out to a wider audience is no easy road, but local favourite Stretch is doing just that, with the recent release of his debut album *Bury All Horses*, and the gigs he's been playing nationwide to promote it.

The album has been garnering praise from fans and reviewers alike, with Graham Reid (*Elsewhere*) describing it as "fine downbeat and poetic balladry, folk-rock melancholy, straight-up crowd pleasers and classic pop-rock..."

*Second Hand News* said, "Stretch steamrolls straight into his record no holds barred, if you like raw energy then you're going to take to this one!"

And *NZ Musician* said Stretch gave "Passionate performances, spacious production and melodic kinks...Stretch has taken an over-familiar genre and

given it a fresh twist."

For the man himself, finally releasing the album is a culmination of many years playing and writing around the country, the huge project of wrangling musicians, recording in Auckland while living in Napier, the "world of administration that comes with being an independent artist", and not least, a groundswell of support from friends, fans and community.

This past year has seen Stretch embark on four national tours, playing the country's best stages and even nabbing the support slot for American songwriting legend Jeff Tweedy of Wilco at the Powerstation.

"I love it. I hate it," he says of life on the road.

"Well, I just hate the parts where you're on your own and the car has

blown up in Shannon with a gig to get to. But it's all testing whether you should be doing this or not. And it is. I'm out there to connect with people. And it takes a lot of effort just to get in front of them, before you even play the gig. But that time playing the songs makes the days in-between worth it."

Stretch is wrapping up touring duties for *Bury All Horses* with three dates this winter: July 22 in Auckland, July 29 in Wellington and then finally back here at the Old Mill in Napier on August 5.

In June he also released a video for the new single, 'Less Rock, More Roll'. Shot at Common Room, it's a black and white stop-motion montage mirroring the dynamic, visceral energy of the song. You can check out the video (and buy the album!) at [stretchsongs.com](http://stretchsongs.com).

# Upstart Magazine

FURTHER PROOF that print is not obsolete yet!

One Hawke's Bay company is churning out a creative, colourful bi-monthly magazine for – and in collaboration with – primary and intermediate-age children around the country, while building a strong and future-focused digital presence.

*Upstart Magazine* is distributed to just over 30,000 kids, schools and libraries throughout NZ. It's the only NZ-produced and nationally distributed magazine for children aged 13 and under, and can be found in 87% of NZ Primary and Intermediate schools.

The magazine first went out in January 2005, produced and independently published by Sue Hoyle, a previous managing editor and CEO of *Tearaway Magazine*.

In 2006 Sue approached Napier-based web agency Xplore, owned by Wendy Schollum, to develop an online presence. In the nine years that followed, both the print and digital worlds evolved. While print remained vibrant (particularly in the under 13-year-old demographic), demand grew for complementary digital channels, for both readers and advertisers.

In 2015 Wendy approached Sue with her annual Xplore digital marketing review and found herself wooed by the promise of print. Within three months, Upstart Media Ltd was born – the perfect partnership between Sue's print and Wendy's digital experience.

Upstart populates the online sphere with three ever-developing digital channels – Upstart Social (taking in busy presences on YouTube, Facebook



and Instagram), Upstart to your Inbox, and Upstart Online. The Upstart Online platform is currently undergoing a major overhaul, which will be complete in early 2018, making it a resource that teachers and schools can use as an enquiry-based learning tool.

"We're passionate about providing kids with the opportunity to write and create for a national audience – our new online platform will allow us to publish and celebrate more work by kiwi kids," says Wendy Schollum.

"We also work hard to take the movies, toys and books that interest

our audience and introduce the learning that lies within – be it uncovering the process of inventing a new toy, the careers behind the scene of their favourite movie, or the encouragement to try writing their own book. There is learning in everything!"

With nine contractors working from Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Palmerston North, Fielding, Christchurch and Sydney, Upstart Media is a truly modern company, and with an approach that combines the best of what print and digital have to offer, it's looking towards an exciting future.



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## The Return of Fringe

Photo: Russel Taylor

LAST YEAR Hawke's Bay's festival goers were introduced to the Harcourts Hawke's Bay Arts Festival's snotty-nosed, delinquent cousin: Fringe in the 'Stings. And now the Fringe team is in

the process of putting together its 2017 line-up.

Last year's Fringe performers left thinking the little festival certainly had a big heart. Andrea Taaffe, chair of the

Fringe committee, explains: "We'll never be the richest festival, but we can certainly be the best hosts. We look after our artists because they are our most precious resource."

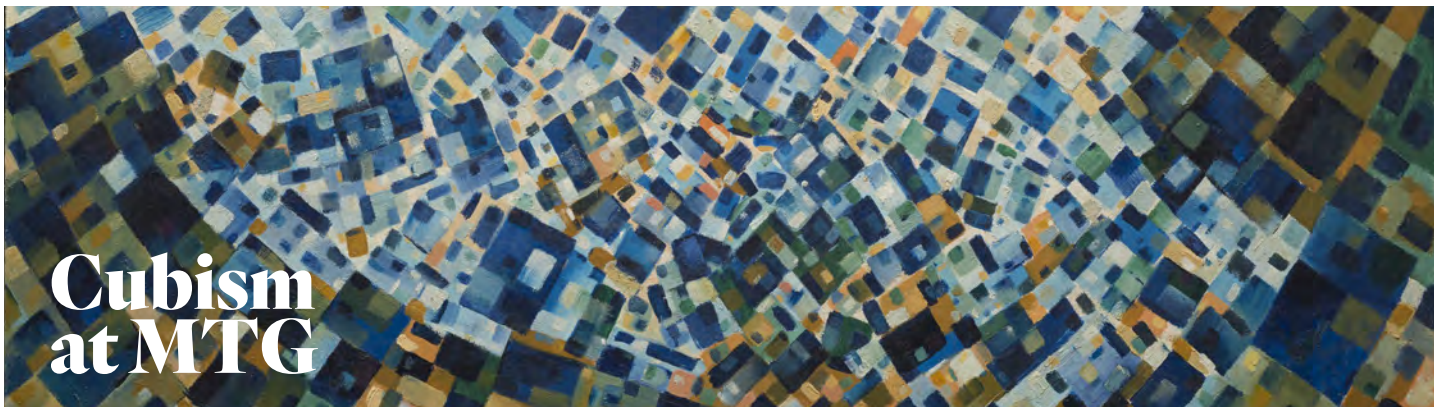
Testament to that is the return of comedian James Nokise, who performed his show *So So Gangsta* to sell-out audiences. Nokise will bring a new show to Hastings this year, with details currently under wraps.

New to Fringe in 2017 is Tom Knowles who will bring *Allergic to Love* to Hastings. Knowles won the Fringe in the 'Stings-sponsored NZ Fringe Wellington award for a touring show this year. The show has also won the San Diego International Fringe Festival Tour Ready Award and is touring in the States currently.

Knowles' and Nokise's are among nearly 30 shows that will take place in Hastings as part of the Fringe, a big step up from the 10 shows of 2016.

"The growth of the Fringe is good for business in Hastings, it's good for the hospo industry and for accommodation providers, but mainly it's good for audiences who are really hungry for as much festival action as they can get," says Andrea Taaffe.

*Fringe in the 'Stings runs from 5-7 October in Hastings.*



## Cubism at MTG

Colin McCahon, French Bay. Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki.

THE LATEST MAJOR EXHIBITION at MTG Hawke's Bay delves into the effect of Cubism on New Zealand painting.

Freedom and Structure: Cubism and New Zealand Art 1930 – 1960 is toured by Auckland Art Gallery, Toi o Tāmaki, and features works from its own collection, along with paintings loaned by Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Waikato Museum, the University of Auckland, Victoria University of Wellington, the Hocken Library – University of Otago, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and private collectors.

The exhibition reveals the revolutionary cubist movement's

impact on the work of early New Zealand adopters John Weeks, Louise Henderson and Colin McCahon, and others including Melvin Day, Charles Tole and Wilfred Stanley Wallis.

MTG curator of art Jess Mio says that cubism marks an exciting shift in Western art history, following on from the invention of the camera, which could depict the world more accurately, quickly and cheaply than most artists.

"So painters began to explore other possibilities beyond faithful representation, instead showing what the eye can't see: subjects

painted from multiple perspectives at once, objects broken down into their fundamental forms, colours altered at will, and more.

"Because it was such an innovative and daring style, cubist art remains hugely popular. Anyone interested in seeing a radical break in thousands of years of visual tradition would enjoy this exhibition, along with students of art and history. It's great to be able to bring these nationally significant, bold and energetic paintings to Hawke's Bay," Mio says.

The exhibition runs until 12 November 2017.

## Coffee Flows in Tukituki Valley

ANOTHER PASSIONATE, ambitious, pro-Hawke's Bay young professional is making her mark on a picturesque part of her adopted region, and has built a rural community hub in the process.

Mel Campbell is the owner of Red Bridge Coffee in the Tukituki Valley, the container café she opened in March.

Inspired by the joy of making coffee for others while in her previous role running a co-working space, the Factory in Palmerston North, Mel began planning for her own coffee outlet when she moved to the Bay with her husband last year.

"Around coffee there's nothing negative," she says. "Working at the Factory I just loved seeing people's faces when they took their first sip."

Stints with Kete Kai, Wright & Co, Malo and Hawthorne when she arrived helped Mel get a feel for the local coffee scene, develop relationships and learn what Hawke's Bay likes.

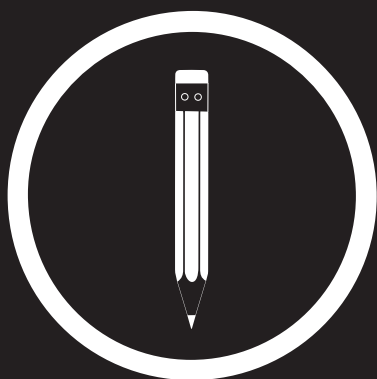
Then it was a case of making sure the location was going to work, and overseeing the design and development of the rustic-chic container café.

The coffee container and its collection of outdoor seating, plants and even brazier sits on a section owned by Mel's husband's family, just over the Red Bridge on Waimarama Road coming from Havelock North, so right in the thick of a growing rural neighbourhood.

Serving Havelock North's Hawthorne Coffee, accompanied by Origin Earth milk and delicious food from locals Carr's Kitchen, Ya Bon (and occasional treats from Organic Ash), Red Bridge Coffee has become the perfect pit stop for local families and farmers, people heading to the beaches, morning tradesmen, cyclists (motor and pedalists), fishermen and Sunday drivers.

While there may have been a few nerves at the outset, Mel has been run off her feet and has had to hire two part-time staff. There hasn't been a day off yet, and the business has totally exceeded her expectations, thanks to the enthusiasm of the locals.

Mel says there are big plans for landscaping in the spring, and other business ideas in the pipeline – we'll be keeping an eye out for the next project.



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## 35 Years of Cranford Hospice

HAWKE'S BAY'S SPECIALIST palliative care service Cranford Hospice is marking its 35th birthday by striking out on its own.

Established in 1982 with a handful of volunteers, Cranford now has 75 paid employees, who, supported by around 400 volunteers, care for about 750 patients and their families from Mahia to Porangahau each year.

Until now, the hospice has operated under the umbrella of Presbyterian Support East Coast (PSEC). It will be run independently as an incorporated charitable trust called the Cranford Hospice Trust.

Cranford's CEO Janice Byford Jones says the behind-the-scenes developments to the governance and management of the hospice won't spell any obvious changes for the people of Hawke's Bay.

"It's business as usual for us, despite Cranford 'leaving home' as

some have put it. There won't be any real changes that patients or families will notice to our service delivery."

"We really do acknowledge PSEC's huge contribution though, in getting us here, and in having the foresight to establish Cranford Hospice. There has been an enormous amount of work go on behind the scenes to get Cranford to this point. Now is the time for PSEC and for us to concentrate on our own core responsibilities."

While there is a lot to look back on over the last thirty-five years, Janice and her team are eying the future. They've fed into the Hawke's Bay DHB's Palliative Care Strategy, which has just been signed off, so now is a vital time to bring together the research and plans for the future, with the new trust and the Cranford Hospice Foundation.

Clear projections show that demand for specialist palliative care is going to increase in the future, Janice says. Right now, most of that care happens in patients' homes, though a caring 'hub' will always be important as a base for the community.

"We're about helping people live

as well as they can, for as long as they can. A big part of that is meeting the increasingly diverse cultural and personal needs of patients and their families."

These needs are being met by the dedicated clinical and support team, including those in new positions funded by the government's Innovation Fund – carer support, nurse practitioner and specialist nurses who go into local aged care facilities.

### CRANFORD HOSPICE:

- 50% of its funding comes from the DHB, the other 50% (around \$2.8 million) from the community, keeping the services cost-free to patients and their families. A large chunk of the community portion comes from Cranford's retail shops, which are staffed by volunteers.
- 90% of Cranford's work is done 'in-home' rather than at the Knight Street site.
- 30% of patients do not come to Cranford with a cancer diagnosis, but other diseases including motor neuron disease, multiple sclerosis, heart disease and renal failure.

BOOKS

# Making Word Magic

MICHAL MCKAY

GARETH WARD HAS A WAY WITH WORDS. He has just conjured up an award-winning steampunk adventure story for young adults that will actually enchant all generations.

Together with his wife Louise, Gareth aka The Great Wardini, runs the highly successful Wardini Books in Hawke's Bay. He is also a magician, hypnotist, storyteller and now author.

Last year *The Traitor and the Thief* (originally called *The Sin Chronicles: New Blood*) – a rip-roaring young adult steampunk adventure won the Storylines Tessa Duder Award for an unpublished manuscript. Open to all New Zealand writers, the award is made biennially when merited to the NZ author of a work of fiction for young adults aged 13 and above.

This year his publisher, Walker Books Australia (recognised as THE publisher of books for the younger generation in Oz) has decided it will be the only book they take to the highly acclaimed Bologna Book Fair. No doubt the spell is cast.

Born in the town of Banbury in the UK, Gareth attended the University of York where he gained a joint honours degree in biology and computer science. (He says that if you want your cat reprogrammed, he's your man). A marine commando he went to police training college where he met Louise. But when their son Max and daughter Alex were born, they both felt this was not a way of life for bringing up children. So ten years ago they moved to New Zealand (Louise's brother lives here and they had visited often). Louise took up teaching at Hastings Intermediate and Gareth went into IT in Napier.

Both are avid readers. "We have always loved browsing and buying and enjoying books," he explains. So when the Janeff bookshop in Havelock North became available four years ago they said, "Why not?"

"Well actually we had to buy because every single one of our walls at home is lined with books," he laughs. What they have created is a hub for book lovers of all ages and genres. So much so they now have another shop in Napier.

Little wonder then that in his non-sleeping hours, Gareth – a Renaissance man – has written this masterpiece of a steampunk adventure. For those who may not be acquainted with 'steampunk', it is a genre of science fiction which has a historical setting and typically features steam-



Photo: Sarah Cates

powered machinery rather than advanced technology. An interesting twist for an IT specialist. But for an ex-policeman who knows the underbelly of society very well, not so surprising. "I love the steampunk world. It's a great genre in which to write ... real fantasy coupled with Victorian England and no one can tell you you've got it wrong."

Gareth was inspired by a series he had read set in Victorian times which was a steampunk adventure. And he is a prolific wordsmith. "I've always written. And tend to live in a dream world. Never suffered from writer's block and when I write I just spew. Sometimes I might get stuck on a plot point and no idea how to get out of it, but I take the dog for a walk and think it through. And presto I get out of it." Rather like the magician he is.

*The Traitor and the Thief* took him less than a year. "I started in January and saw the competition was to take place in October and that was that."

Even for those way out of the intended demographic, *The Traitor and the Thief* plot makes for compelling reading. Fourteen-year-old Sin lives rough on the streets.

Caught stealing a priceless necklace at Coxford's (play on Oxford) Corn Market by the enigmatic Eldritch Moons, Sin is offered a way out of his life of crime: join the Covert Operations Group (COG) and train to become a spy.

At Lenheim Palace, Sin learns spy craft while trying not to break the school's Cast-Iron Rules. Befriended by eccentric Zonda Chubb, together they endeavour to unmask a traitor causing havoc within the palace. After an assassination attempt on the founder of COG, Sin realises that someone closest to him could be the traitor. With no other option, Sin is forced into an uneasy alliance with the school bully, Velvet Von Darque. But can he trust her? And will COG try to bury him with the secrets he discovers? Secrets, spies and steampunk – who could resist picking it up and reading through the night?

*The Traitor and the Thief* will be launched at the Havelock North Function Hall on 28 July at 6pm to be followed by a Steampunk Traitor's Ball at 7pm. Go to [www.wardini.co.nz/events](http://www.wardini.co.nz/events) for details.

# Buzz around the Bay

## Blood Brothers

July 7 – 29 at Tabard Theatre

The Napier Operatic Society presents *Blood Brothers* – a show that transcends the generations as it explores the nature versus nurture question through the lives of Mickey and Eddie, twins separated at birth and raised at opposite ends of the social spectrum.

Tickets at iTicket.co.nz



Bella Donna and the Bandits, Winter Deco

## Winter Deco Weekend

July 14 – 16

The Art Deco Trust's boutique festival is a winter highlight, so don your coats, hats and fur wraps for a stylish weekend of glitzy soirees, vintage cocktail evenings, jazz performances, memorable dining experiences, fabulous fashion, classic films, rides on a traditional 1938 railcar and vintage car displays.

- The Speakeasy Burlesque at The Cabana (Saturday night and Sunday night) promises to thrill with wicked entertainment, hosted by MisRed Delicious.



Italian  
Film  
Festival

- On Saturday morning Join curator Charles Ropitini, for a special floor talk on Māori jazz bands and waiata of the 1930's portrayed through the exhibition *He Manu Tioriori – 100 Years of Ngati Kahungunu Music* at MTG Hawke's Bay.
- Check out the full programme of over 30 events at [artdeconapier.com](http://artdeconapier.com)

## Italian Film Festival

July 26 – August 2 at Event Cinema

(formerly Cinema Gold), Havelock North Curated by New Zealand's favourite Italian – actor, director and playwright Paolo Rotondo, the Cinema Italiano Festival presents an engaging selection of films that celebrate Italian life in all its forms. The line-up includes 20 features, ranging from traditional to contemporary masterpieces. Highlights include a digitally re-mastered version of the Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck classic *Roman Holiday*, Nunziante's comedy *Where Am I Going?* (the highest grossing film in Italian cinema history), Genovese's dramatic comedy *Perfect Strangers* and Visconti's 1960 gritty crime film, *Rocco and His Brothers* starring Alain Delon and Annie Girardot. See [cinemaitalianon.z.com](http://cinemaitalianon.z.com) for details.

## NZSO Presents:

### Alexander Shelley Returns

July 27 at Napier Municipal Theatre

Conducted by Alexander Shelley, virtuoso guitarist Pablo Sáinz Villegas will play Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*. Leonie Holmes' *Fronde*, from *Three Landscapes for Orchestra* and Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*. Tickets at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

### Rhys Darby: Mystic Time Bird

August 15 at Napier Municipal Theatre

Join Rhys Darby for a comedy show made up of that heady mix of ancient mysticism, weird movement and sound effects. In *Mystic Time Bird* Darby turns to the world of ancient mysticism to find answers to the world's problems. He addresses the big questions like "Are we truly free in this day and age, or is alien technology guiding us into an even greater trap?" Tickets at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

### CMNZ Presents: Michael Houstoun & Bella Hristova

August 24 at The Blyth Performing Arts Centre, Iona College

Violinist Bella Hristova and pianist Michael Houstoun's collaboration in



Rhys Darby

CMNZ's Beethoven Mini-Festival promises to be Chamber Music's landmark event of 2017. Hristova, winner of the 2007 Michael Hill International Violin Competition, is a violinist perfectly suited to the huge technical and emotional demands of Beethoven's sonatas. Houstoun's recent performances of Beethoven's complete *Piano Sonatas* met with huge acclaim for fluency, and appreciation of Beethoven's wit, as well as the moments of profound desolation.

Tickets at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

#### **Operatunity Presents: The Last Night of The Proms**

August 31 at Bay Outreach Centre

Cameron Barclay, star of the Ten Tenors, joins Sue Boland, John Cameron, Bonaventure Allan-Moetaua, Karl Perigo, and Penny Dodd for this fun variety show of magnificent melodies, singalongs, skits, madness, and mayhem.

Tickets at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

#### **Women's Lifestyle Expo**

September 2 – 3 at Pettigrew Green Arena

Step into spring at the two-day annual event featuring 120 companies presenting everything from jewellery and beauty to business products, crafts, fitness, food and wine. The Expo includes a hair styling lounge, beauty bar, champagne lounge, taste zone, nz craft zone, fashion zone, plus there will be Goodie Bags.

Door sales only. Entry \$10, under 12s free.



Paper Shaper

#### **Paper Shaper – Children's Puppet Theatre**

Sept 5 – 6 at MTG

Little Dog Barking is the leading puppet theatre for children, which brought us *Guji Guji* last year. With *Paper Shaper*, they present visual storytelling at its warmest and most imaginative. Short and simple, yet rich with emotion and humour, the story springs straight from the realms of imagination and curiosity that children inhabit. What happens to that little man on the side of the rubbish bin when no one is looking? He creates a whole universe out of people's paper, with a paper sun, paper trees, paper flowers and paper butterflies. Suitable for ages 2 - 10 years old (up to and including Year 6).

Tickets at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

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MARY KIPPENBERGER

## Letter from the Country

SOME DAYS IT'S JUST BETTER not to leave home.

Needing some electronic gadget I walked into Jaycar, Hastings. Lots of vibrant people without wrinkles stood behind the counter. I noted one with an enormous button-like thing moulded into his earlobe.

This prompted a memory, the image of a young man with a large hole in either cheek allowing the workings of his inner mouth to be viewed by one and all. My mouth now decided it was time to weigh in and share that memory with the vibrant ones.

"Oh oh," I said, with no real thought other than wanting to be at one with the young.

"Oh, oh," I continued, relating the horror of teeth and tongue and dribbling flesh. Button boy looked me and hastened to tell me that his ear holes would grow back.

"Oh yes," I smiled approvingly. "Of course, and so much more sensible than getting a tattoo ... because people change don't they and at least with piercings you can get rid of it when you do change."

Silence. Five pairs of eyes stared at me.

"Oh, oh," I said. "Tattoos can be very beautiful of course, but homemade ones? Really you're better to go to a tattoo place and get a professional to do it."

And still they stared at the old one who had come amongst them.

"Oh, oh," I stumbled on. "Of course homemade ones can be very powerful and can mean such a lot..."

Smiles at last and the vibrant ones managed various states of undress as they showed their tattoos, loved and meaningful to them, a lesson to me.

Purchase completed I shuffled away, button boy at my side, carrying my parcel, hand on my elbow, gently guiding me to my car. "Thank you dear," I said, playing my part.

Personal challenge: enter shop, buy product, say thank you, leave.

Not worrying is another challenge to be mastered. I think it may be too late for me.

The other day I was at my beloved CHB College. A quick phone check revealed eight missed calls from home.

EIGHT! Immediate heart elevation. I call home. No reply. I ring around all the houses. Nothing. I race to the office.

"I'm going home! SOMETHING IS WRONG."

Into the car I leap and head across the



Photo: Kate CJ Priestley

## We have joined all those dots and started a YouTube gardening channel – 'Mary&Kate Gardening with Grandies'.

bridge towards Waipawa. What's this ahead of me?

Road works on the bridge complete with 30k's and a lollipop man. We inch forward, every car before me makes it through. I'm nearly there. Hands grip the steering wheel; eyes are glued to the cars in front of me. One by one they make it to the other side. My turn. Lollipop man turns towards me and, as if in slow motion, raises the circular sign. Slightly wild of eye and demented of bearing I share with him my imagined news, imploring him to let me through, but mercy is not his middle name.

I wait, small head movement side to side, heart pounding. I scan the sky for the Lowe Walker Rescue Helicopter. Finally the lollipop lowers and I spring through the gate. Waipawa is left in my wake as I head down the straight and into Argyll Rd. A mini jack-knife with small screech sees me into the basin. My brother is bending over the tractor.

"WHAT'S HAPPENED?" I cry.

Michael looks puzzled.

"EIGHT missed calls, I had EIGHT missed calls!"

"Oh," says Michael, "Peter wanted to know if you'd moved the cows."

I had.

We've had amazing news. Kate and Danny are homeward bound. The farm is abuzz with happiness. Twenty at the table again.

There are so many plans, but the one that really excites me revolves around my garden. Kate is a passionate gardener, musician and has film and documentary qualifications; Danny is a musician and photographer. Their black and white collaborations are stunning. We have joined all those dots and started a YouTube gardening channel – 'Mary&Kate Gardening with Grandies'.

My father was a gardener, but never included his children. He was a shy man and probably thought it an imposition. I am happily imposing this skill to my grandies. It's a funny old world we live in and I'm thinking growing our own food might become increasingly important.

If you feel like taking a look (and even subscribing!) I'd be thrilled. We could swap ideas. Sometimes barrows need pushing and that's not easy when it's your own!

*[Editor: Just go to YouTube and enter 'Mary&Kate Gardening with Grandies'. You won't be disappointed.]*

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