

# BAY BUZZ



№46 • MARCH / APRIL 2019 • HAWKE'S BAY UP CLOSE, IN DEPTH

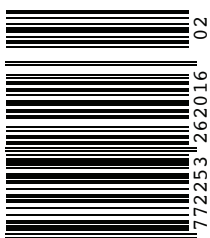
## The Future of Work



Avoiding health apartheid  
Losing to global warming  
Plastic ... no quick fix  
Endangered trees  
Meet the Hello Cup  
Mapping the arts

Inside:  
**BayBuzz**  
event  
guide

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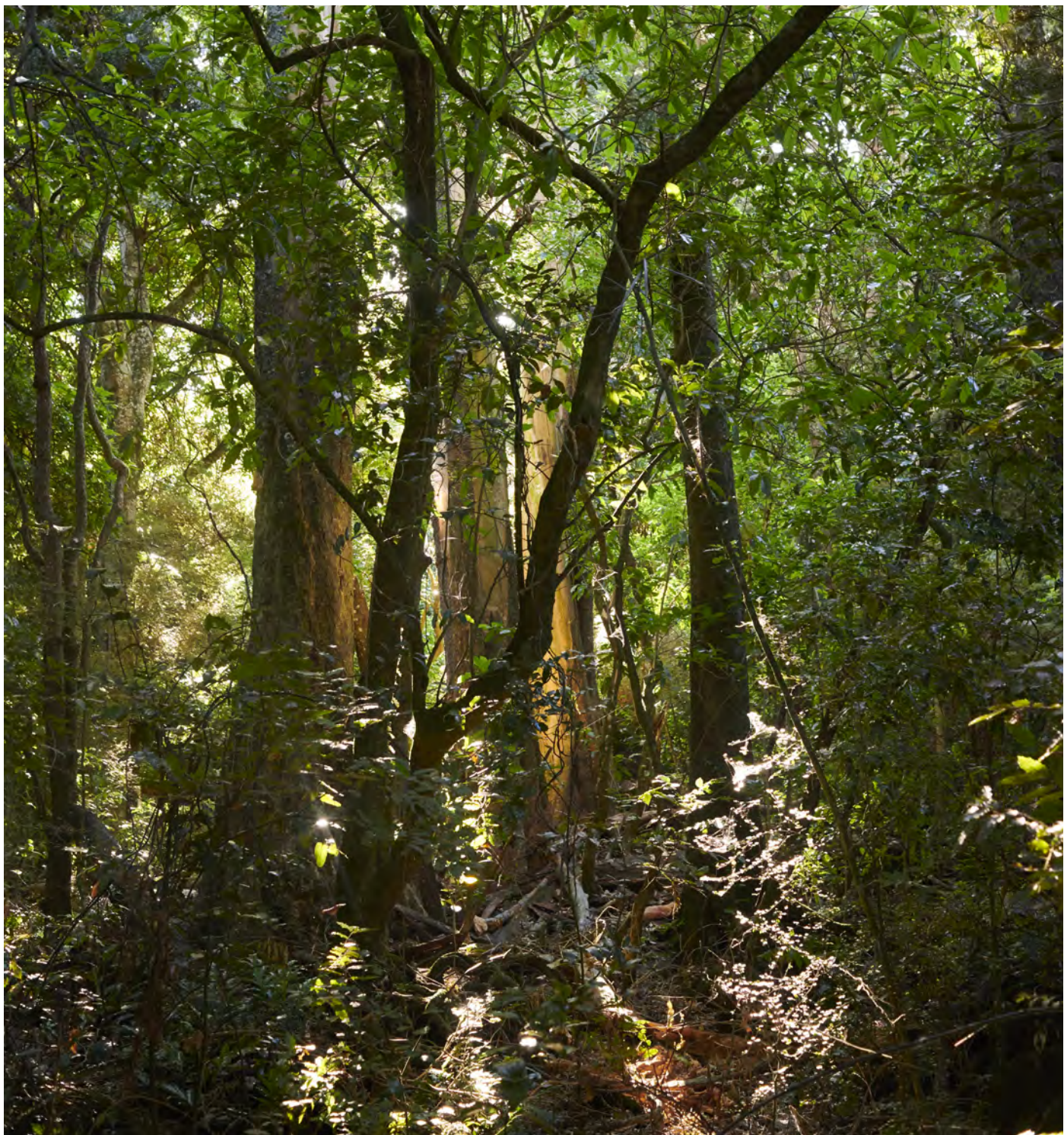
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## BayBuzz March/April 2019

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Hawke's Bay's changing workplace. Health outcomes reveal lingering inequity. Losing the battle against global warming. Issues and election politics in the year ahead. Online shopping surges. Opera House re-birthing. Mapping the HB arts community. Endangered trees. Mental health reform. Hakikino conserving Māori culture. Paul Paynter's plastic dilemma. Meet the Hello Cup. Frame on Napier. Alexandra Tylee loves coffee. Mary Kippenberger loves onions. Plus stuff you must know!

Above: Hawke's Bay's last remnant of alluvial kahikatea forest, near Onga Onga. Photo: Florence Charvin

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# Featured Contributor



**Tom Allan**

Tom Allan is Hawke's Bay born and bred. He's a designer, photographer and videographer, and yoga practitioner.

"Curiosity is the hook for me, starting when I receive an assignment. I love the unfolding journey where I get to discover more about Hawke's Bay and the people who live here. We're very lucky in Hawke's Bay to have such diversity in our people, geography and history. Even on the simplest assignments I'll still come away fascinated by some new aspect. I feel very privileged when people let me into their worlds to be part of telling their story, whether it's through photography or videography. Whoever you are or whatever you do - keep rocking to your own beat and hopefully we'll meet one day!"

Photo: Florence Charvin

## BayBuzz Regulars



**Lizzie Russell**

Lizzie has been working in the arts and communications in Hawke's Bay since returning in 2010. Along with her work for BayBuzz, she also runs Tennyson Gallery in Napier.



**Bridget Freeman-Rock**

Bridget, Hawke's Bay grown, lived abroad in Australia and Germany before returning with her family in 2009. She has a fairly eclectic, free-range writing vocation, freelancing as a writer, copy-editor, translator and occasional performance poet.



**Matt Miller**

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 digital trends and best practice.



**Andrew Frame**

Andrew Frame is a 41-year-old husband, father, and life-long Napier resident. He writes the [www.napierinframe.co.nz](http://www.napierinframe.co.nz) website and promotes all things Hawke's Bay on social media.



**Jess Soutar Barron**

Jess is a wordsmith and project manager whose past gigs have included time with Sky TV, Hastings District Council and Band, as well as three years as a communications manager with the Metropolitan Police Service.



**Mary Kippenberger**

With a degree in anthropology, Mary is a keen observer of the human species, and interprets our foibles, trials and tribulations as a superb storyteller and children's writer. Her farm in Otane is a regular home for drama and music workshops, festivals and performances.



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FROM THE EDITOR  
TOM BELFORD

## Back to work!

March is here and it's back to serious work for Hawke's Bay.

Concerts have wound down, Art Deco costumes re-packed, schools resumed, surf lifesavers gone, only a few cruise ships to go.

Time to get back to the real work and challenges of the Bay.

With especially heavy lifting ahead for the growers who fuel much of HB's economy. Seasonal labour is always an issue for our growers ... but this isn't the only labour issue confronting the Bay, as Keith Newman explores in *Reinventing Work and Workers*. From the primary sector through to the digital sector, the Hawke's Bay workplace faces serious disruption and skill shortages. And we don't appear adequately prepared for the challenge.

Another sector that must confront disruptive change is our region's health system. To be sure, HB's health care challenges are not unique to this region; our 'system' is like every other region's, flawed by a government-dictated misallocation of too-scarce funds to hospital care versus primary and community care and prevention. But our region's particular demographic and social stresses compound our difficulties.

The most disturbing consequence is the persistent and in some cases growing differences in health outcomes between our poor, Māori and Pasifika communities versus the rest of our population. Our region's health decision makers seemed poised to attempt change. Rosheen FitzGerald and Jess Soutar Barron assess the prospects in *On the Brink of Apartheid ... Health Inequity in Hawke's Bay*.

Our mental health services are especially in need of repair, as I discuss in *Mental health system fails stress test*,

looking at the findings and recommendations of the Government's recent exhaustive inquiry.

To further depress you, in *On the Right Side of History*, I review the latest global warming impacts and prognostications. The path we're on collectively can be easily summarized: a profound moral failure ... we are not even close to leaving our children and grandchildren a better place, and the prospects worsen each day.

Paul Paynter, in *Plastic ... No Quick Fix*, piles on even more, arguing we can't even get it right with plastic!

Andrew Frame kicks off our political coverage for this local body election year writing of Napier, it's *A Sink or Swim Year*. While my Political Update offers an overview of the key issues and election prospects ahead.

Trees have been in the news lately, from billion dollar planting initiatives to threatened oaks in Havelock North. Pat Turley pays homage in *The Value of Trees*, while Bridget Freeman-Rock visits Inglis Bush Scenic Reserve in CHB, returning with the question, *The Kahikatea Are Dying ... Why?*

Kay Bazzard, on the other hand, finds a celebratory story in Waimarama, writing about an inspiring cultural and environmental restoration project there in, *Hakikino ... Window to Māori Culture*.

Renewal seems on the way in our broader cultural sector as well. Jess Soutar Barron updates us on progress toward re-opening the Hawke's Bay Opera House in *A place for new memories*. And, in *Do We Have Culture? Mapping Hawke's Bay's Arts World*, she takes measure of new collaborative winds blowing in the HB arts community, generated in part by a new umbrella organisation, Ngā Toi Hawke's Bay.

Also on the lifestyle front, Matt Miller applauds the Hello Cup, Keith updates on online shopping and Bridget visits Te Pōhue. Plus heaps of 'don't miss' Events and other edifying bits from Lizzie Russell.

And finally, we deliver our customary nourishment from Alexandra Tylee and Mary Kippenberger, writing of coffee and onions (yes, onions), respectively.

Enjoy!

**Tom Belford**  
**tom@baybuzz.co.nz**

P.S. As I write, we're still (until 28 February) gathering entries to both our Summer Reading Quiz and our Black Barn Ultimate Experience draw. Winners announced in our next edition!

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Tom is a HB Regional Councillor. His past includes the Carter White House, building Ted Turner's first philanthropic organisation, doing heaps of marketing consulting for major non-profits and corporates.



# 10 ways *you* can help BAY BUZZ

1. We all love lists. You're reading ours! On what topic would you like *BayBuzz* to prepare a 'Top 10' or 'Top 20' of Hawke's Bay list?  
Email [editors@baybuzz.co.nz](mailto:editors@baybuzz.co.nz)
2. Do you know someone who's recently returned to Hawke's Bay from overseas life? The more exotic their overseas adventure, the better.  
Email [editors@baybuzz.co.nz](mailto:editors@baybuzz.co.nz)
3. Do you know someone now overseas that you'd like to keep informed, even lure back to Hawke's Bay? Best way is a \$15 BB digital subscription. Sign them up at [www.baybuzz.co.nz/subscribe](http://www.baybuzz.co.nz/subscribe)
4. In politics and government, like elsewhere, sunlight is the best disinfectant. Is there somewhere you think *BayBuzz* should shine its spotlight? Email [editors@baybuzz.co.nz](mailto:editors@baybuzz.co.nz)
5. Have you 'Liked' our Facebook page?  
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6. Are you an exceptional writer and keen observer of the Hawke's Bay scene? Send us a writing sample.  
Email [editors@baybuzz.co.nz](mailto:editors@baybuzz.co.nz)
7. Do you have/know of a store or shop where *BayBuzz* magazine could be sold?  
Email [editors@baybuzz.co.nz](mailto:editors@baybuzz.co.nz)
8. New to Hawke's Bay? Need a back copy of *BayBuzz*? They're now available at Wardini Books - Havelock and Napier.
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Photo: Kane Grundy (Grundy Productions)

## William Trubridge

World-champion freediver William Trubridge became the first person to attempt an underwater crossing of the Cook Strait in February, drawing

attention to the plight of NZ's critically endangered Hector's and Maui's dolphins. The turbulent 22 km channel crossing took him nine hours and 930 successive dives (five times slower with five times as many dives as a dolphin) with the aid of a mono-fin, some potato soup and his environmental conviction.

He is calling on the Government to take action: "If we can swim like a dolphin between our two islands then they too should have the freedom to do the same."

William and partner Sachiko are currently based in Hawke's Bay, awaiting the birth of their first child. 

# LIVE HERE GIVE HERE



HAWKE'S BAY  
FOUNDATION

## HERETAUNGA WOMEN'S CENTRE - EMPOWERING WOMEN

Since 1921, the 'Women's Rest' building has been a familiar landmark in central Hastings.

Almost 100 years on, this historic building continues to serve the needs of local women as the vibrant hub of the Heretaunga Women's Centre.

Hawke's Bay Foundation has provided funding to Heretaunga Women's Centre for the past six years, in recognition of the vital role the organisation plays.

Every year around 2,000 local women from Hastings, Napier and Central Hawke's Bay attend counselling, therapy sessions, courses and support groups, and receive legal advice and referrals for other services. With minimal paid staff, the centre is heavily reliant on volunteers to keep costs down. Service Manager Margot Wilson says finding funding to pay wages for their small staff is one of the organisation's greatest challenges.

"Thanks to the generosity of grants providers such as Hawke's Bay Foundation and private donors, we are able to offer our services for a koha or a minimal charge," says Margot. "We want to encourage as many women as possible to be part of the Women's Centre community - money should not be a barrier to inclusion."

Loneliness and being disconnected are major contributors to poor mental wellbeing and place an increased demand on social services.



Gloria Rautahi at the Heretaunga Women's Centre with Margot Wilson and Cathy Barclay.  
Photo: Florence Charvin

**"When women become part of our supportive community, we believe there is a positive flowback for the community at large."** MARGOT WILSON

"When women become part of our supportive community, we believe there is a positive flowback for the community at large," says Margot.

### GLORIA RAUTAHU – Finding purpose through pain

Chronic pain sufferer, Gloria Rautahi understands all too well how loneliness and isolation can lead to depression and poor mental health.

Returning to Hawke's Bay from Palmerston North after a 35 year absence, Gloria found it difficult to meet new people and cope with the challenge of living with constant pain.

Gloria approached the Heretaunga Women's Centre and asked if they had any support groups for chronic pain sufferers. Service Coordinator, Cathy Barclay suggested they start one up.

Six people came together the first session, sharing their experiences and exchanging ways of coping with chronic pain. Two years on, the group has evolved, with health professionals coming in to offer education and strategies for improving quality of life.

"Chronic pain sufferers often think they are all alone so they suffer in silence," says Gloria "We're frightened of venturing out of our homes because

of the pain - this group has got a lot of us out of our houses."

Gloria says the group has become so much more than just a support network, with many close friendships being formed.

"It's given me friends and it's given me a purpose," says Gloria. "Even though I still suffer with the pain and some depression, it's got me out and about, and given me something to look forward to," she says.

"I can't wait to get down there!"

## HAWKE'S BAY FOUNDATION: A better and more lasting way to give

Hawke's Bay Foundation is a simple way you can support your local community. Our smarter giving model turns your initial donation into a growing fund, with the interest being used to support local charities, for generations to come.

To find out how you can make a lasting difference in your community, visit [hawkesbayfoundation.org.nz](http://hawkesbayfoundation.org.nz)

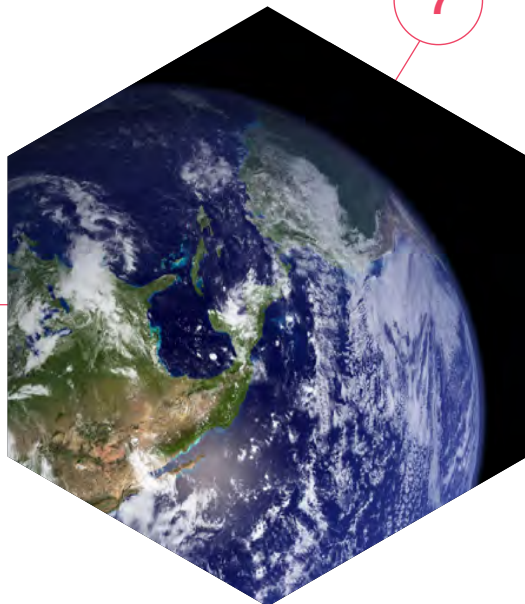
## BAYBUZZ

BayBuzz is pleased to support the Hawke's Bay Foundation

# Did You Know?

**1.**

About 12,000 hectares of fruit production sits within Hawke's Bay and nearly 9,000 hectares of vegetable production. Fruit includes apples, peaches, nectarines, kiwifruit, pears, plums, apricots, cherries and berries. Vegetables include squash, peas, sweet corn, onions, potatoes, green beans, pumpkin, and asparagus.



**7**

**2.**

Local company Polytechnik has been awarded the engineering, design, supply and commissioning of New Zealand's biggest wood/biomass energy centre outside the wood processing industry, for Christchurch Hospital. The plant will be the most advanced energy centre in the Southern hemisphere.

**3.**

MTG Hawke's Bay is home to around 100,000 objects. The collections started in 1859 and include archives of Hawke's Bay and New Zealand history, decorative arts, fine arts, natural history, social history, and taonga Māori. You can take a peek at 27,171 objects at [collection.mtghawkesbay.com/explore](http://collection.mtghawkesbay.com/explore)

**5**



**6.**

Hawke's Bay had some hot days in January and February, but Hanmer Forest took the record for the summer – 38.4 degrees on 31 January. It was also the highest January temperature in NZ since Alexandra reached 38.7°C last year (on 30 January 2018).



**3**

**4.**

A recent international study on the cleanliness of cars reported that steering wheels are, bacteria-wise, on average six times dirtier than the average cellphone screen, four times dirtier than a public toilet, and twice as dirty as the buttons on a public elevator.

**5.**

The feature race run at the Hawke's Bay spring carnival at Hastings – the Livamol Classic – has been named among the top 100 Group I races in the world for 2018. It is the first New Zealand race to make the top 100 since the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) introduced annual race rankings four years ago.

**4**



**7.**

It's Earth Day on 22 April. Mind you, aren't we now at the point where every day should be Earth Day?

**8.**

The regional arts advocacy group Ngā Toi Hawke's Bay has launched a full website outlining their activities, plus cultural events and news at [www.ngatoihawkesbay.co.nz](http://www.ngatoihawkesbay.co.nz)

**9.**

The North Island's largest standing totara is a 600-year-old "survivor" in A'Deane's Bush near Onga Onga. At almost 34 metres tall, it takes 7 'tree huggers' to encircle its trunk with their arms.

**10.**

Origin Earth now sell their milk in refillable glass bottles. They have a mobile vending truck, which can be found week round throughout Hawke's Bay, from Kereru to Te Awanga, from Sherenden to Whakatu, from the Pakowhai Fruit Shop to Red Bridge coffee, from the Village Green to the HB Farmers' Market. Locations and times can be found at [www.originearth.co.nz/mobile-milk-refills](http://www.originearth.co.nz/mobile-milk-refills)

**6**



**13.**

The tallest Easter egg chocolate was made in Italy in 2011. It was 10.39 metres tall and weighed a whopping 7,200 kg.

**14.**

There were 621 building consents for new dwellings issued in Hawke's Bay in 2018.



**9**

**15**



**13**



**11**



**14**

**11.**

Havelock North is buzzing about its newest addition to the hospo scene. Smith & Sheth Wine Company Tasting Studio and Wine Lounge has opened in the Porters Hotel complex (behind Malo restaurant). The Smith & Sheth Oenothèque (official name) is a venture of Steve Smith's (a Craggy Range pioneer) newly-formed Hawke's Bay-based company Aotearoa New Zealand Fine Wine Estates.

**12.**

Hawke's Bay start-up and success story The Hello Cup – producers of locally-made menstrual cups – has been shortlisted for international mentorship programme SheEO. The Hello Cup and the other finalists now supply further information to the SheEO female judging panel. Then a final five are selected and will be eligible for interest-free loans funded by a pool of donated money from leading businesswomen who then act as "activators" or mentors to the winning businesses.

**15.**

The Hawke's Bay Knowledge Bank has launched a fresh new website at [knowledgebank.org.nz](http://knowledgebank.org.nz). The Knowledge Bank collects, digitises and uploads written, oral and photographic records from across Hawke's Bay, to ensure the region's history is preserved for future generations. Currently there are some 18,000 records available online, and it will take about four years for the whole collection currently on hand to be digitised and uploaded by Knowledge Bank's volunteers.



March 17: Nitro Circus You Got This Stadium Tour at McLean Park

## BayBuzz Event Guide

### March 8

#### SeaweeK – Whakamahia Beach Clean Up

Grab the sunscreen, hat and gloves and head for Whakamahia Beach, Wairoa to do your bit!

[seaweeK.org.nz/events/hawkesbay](http://seaweeK.org.nz/events/hawkesbay)

### March 8

#### SeaweeK – Cathedral Environment Network Beach Clean Up at Marine Parade

Starting near Fish Bike on Marine Parade, pitch in for the clean-up and then park up with a picnic afterwards.

[seaweeK.org.nz/events/hawkesbay](http://seaweeK.org.nz/events/hawkesbay)

### March 9

#### Maraekakaho Country Market Day

Head for the hills and enjoy local produce, coffee, home baking and gourmet foods, artisan crafts, gifts, toys, clothing, jewellery, furniture, landscaping plants, art, entertainment, and a ton of country fun. All proceeds to Maraekakaho School and Gumboots Maraekakaho Early Childhood Centre.

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

[MaraekakahoCountryMarketDay/](http://MaraekakahoCountryMarketDay/)

### March 9

#### MCL Construction Triple Peaks 2019 in Havelock North

Run, walk or mountain bike the challenging but beautiful 55km track in this iconic Hawke's Bay event. Proceeds go towards the Te Mata Park fundraising campaign, One Giant Chance, to establish new trails and plant more native trees on a new patch of land for the Park.

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

### March 9

#### Made for a Cause at Napier Municipal Theatre

The Hawke's Bay Indian Cultural Centre supports Kidney Kids NZ with this annual event. The evening features a three-course Indian meal and Indo-Western dance drama "Shakuntala!" written by Pauline Hayes and directed by Ken Keys, along with performances by several talents from the TV-3 reality show "The Great NZ Dance Masala".

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

### March 9

#### Beer Appreciation Day IX at Duart House

Craft beers on tap, ciders, live music, DJ tunes, food from Paella-a-go-go and DCBBQ, all consumed in a sunny garden setting – what better way to wile away a Saturday? [beerappreciationday.co.nz](http://beerappreciationday.co.nz)

### March 9

#### Saturday Night Session with Fuego Latino at The Urban Winery

Dine on Spanish-inspired Tapas and dance the night away with the folk Latin band. [theurbanwinery.co.nz](http://theurbanwinery.co.nz)

**March 10**

**The DeSotos – Southern Acoustic Tour at The Cabana**

Hear Auckland's DeSotos on their acoustic tour – featuring material from their two critically-acclaimed albums and rounded out with some of the band's personal favourites from the likes of Neil Young and Ryan Adams. [cabana.net.nz](http://cabana.net.nz)

**March 10**

**Wheels On Windsor at Windsor Park**

Check out the huge display of classic, vintage and American cars, with proceeds to the HB Brain Injury Association. Hosted by the Hawke's Bay British & European Car Club. [hbbritishandeurocarclub.co.nz](http://hbbritishandeurocarclub.co.nz)

**March 10 (and 17, 23)**

**Hygge Sounds of Summer**

Enjoy some of Hawke's Bay's finest musicians in one of our finest spots – on the grass by the sea at Clifton, with a glass in hand and delicious food from Hygge. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**March 12 – 17**

**Land Rover Horse of The Year 2019**

NZ's most prestigious equestrian event brings over 1,400 riders and over 1,800 horses to the Bay to compete, and this year it's hosting superstars Jonelle and Tim Price too. The HB Showgrounds is the place to be for stunning dressage, showjumping and more – plus shopping too. [hoy.kiwi](http://hoy.kiwi)

**March 13**

**Mockingbird at Central Hawke's Bay Municipal Theatre**

Written and performed by Lecoq-trained actor Lisa Brickell and musician Siri Embla, *Mockingbird* takes a tongue-in-cheek look at postnatal psychosis and postnatal depression, which affects approximately 1 in 7 women every year. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)



March 9: MCL Construction Triple Peaks 2019 in Havelock North



March 12 – 17: Land Rover Horse of The Year 2019

**March 13 – 27**

**Alliance Française French Film Festival at Event Cinemas, Havelock North**

Francophiles and film buffs – the Festival is back for its 13<sup>th</sup> year, and looking as broad and brilliant as ever. [frenchfilmfestival.co.nz](http://frenchfilmfestival.co.nz)

**March 16**

**Grass Roots Hawke's Bay at Ellwood Function Centre**

Presented by the STAROS Affected by Suicide Support Trust, this is a one-day, free event kicking off with Rob Mokaraka's hard-hitting show *Shot Bro*, followed by talks and panel discussions with local and visiting speakers. [eventbrite.co.nz](http://eventbrite.co.nz)

**March 17**

**Nitro Circus You Got This Stadium Tour at McLean Park**

See the best athletes in FMX, BMX and Skate push themselves to their absolute limits on the biggest ramps in action sports. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**March 20**

**Campbell Bros & Stortford Auto Sales Aquathon Race #5 at Pandora Pond**

The final event of the series gives participants the choice of 2 distances – long course (750m swim followed by a 4.5km run) and short course (200m swim followed by a 2km run). [trihb.kiwi/](http://trihb.kiwi/)

**March 28**

**Napier Port HB Primary Sector Awards**

The awards night sees the announcement of major category winners including the Silver Fern Farms Hawke's Bay Farmer of the Year and the Bayleys Hawke's Bay Primary Sector Professional of the Year, and a new award, Hawke's Bay Horticulturalist of the Year. [showgroundshb.co.nz](http://showgroundshb.co.nz)

**March 20**

**SGCNZ Hawke's Bay Regional UOSWSF 2019 at Iona College**

The acronyms stand for Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand's University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festivals. Check out some young regional talent giving their own twists on the drama of the bard. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**March 21**

**Leaving Jackson – The Johnny Cash & June Carter Show at Napier Municipal Theatre**

Step back for two hours of tribute to some of the greatest country songs ever written. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)



March 29 & 30: Stretch – The Chasing Summer Tour

**March 22**  
**Lifting the Blues 2019**  
**at MTG Century Theatre**

Ben Waters again offers up his virtuoso piano skills and high energy performance style as a key fundraiser for Brain Injury HB. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**March 23**  
**Gumboot Day in Taihape**

Fancy getting out of town for a day? Gumboot Day, and additionally the World Boot Throwing Championships, will be held in Taihape, celebrating rural life in the Rangitikei District, as well as providing fun, family-focused entertainment and stalls. [taihape.co.nz](http://taihape.co.nz)

**March 23**  
**Saturday Night Session with Dave Bongiovanni at The Urban Winery**

Tapas, craft beers, great wines and acoustic covers from a guitar talent with a melodic voice – how’s that for a chilled Saturday night out in Napier? [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**March 23**  
**Strangely Arousing & DJ Straw Hat**  
**at The Paisley Stage**

Check out the dub-funk fivesome, fresh off a big international tour. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**March 24**  
**Church Road Live – Summer Sessions**

Relax with and soak up the late-summer sun, fine refreshments and the musical offerings of Emma Webb, 80/20 and Fraser Mack. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**March 29**  
**Dine With ... at Napier Conference Centre**

Support the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Service by gathering a group and attending the celebrity chef charity dinner. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**March 29**  
**Stretch – The Chasing Summer Tour at The Urban Winery**  
**And March 30 at EastEnd Café & Bar, Wairoa**

Hawke’s Bay’s favourite troubadour is hitting the road with Paula Sugden and her stunning 300-year-old cello. Stretch’s passion and stage presence, and the connection between the two musicians, is set to make for a stunning night of music and emotion. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**March 30 (and April 27)**  
**Piece-Makers Market**  
**at Hawthorne Coffee**

This monthly treat features stallholders who have made, designed or found high-quality products including homewares, children’s clothing, fresh flowers, furniture, textiles, jewellery and objects. [piece-makers-market.co.nz](http://piece-makers-market.co.nz)

April 1: Alice in Wonderland



**March 30 & 31**  
**Bard @ the Park**  
**at Moana Park Winery**

In association with the Slightly Mad Theatre Co, Moana Park welcomes you to come and see the complete works of Shakespeare (abridged!). [moanapark.co.nz](http://moanapark.co.nz)

**April 1**  
**Alice in Wonderland at Napier Municipal Theatre**

Melbourne City Ballet pays homage to the classic Lewis Carroll novel with this enchanting ballet complemented by one of Tchaikovsky’s most famous scores. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 3 – 7**  
**Once On This Island presented**  
**by Lindisfarne & Iona College**

The Iona and Lindisfarne cast bring the Broadway hit – a highly original Caribbean adaption of The Little Mermaid – to the Lindisfarne Performing Arts Centre. [lindisfarne.school.nz](http://lindisfarne.school.nz)

**April 5**  
**Aro - Manu Album Release Tour**  
**at Common Room**

Aro’s sound is distinctly Aotearoa/NZ pop, with a range of other influences including RnB, jazz, and kapa haka. They’re on a national tour supporting the release of their debut album. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 6**  
**2019 Hawkes Bay Backyard Cricket Championships at Zeffer Cider**

The local tournament has higher stakes this year – the winner of each regional event qualifies for the NZBYC Champs set to take place at a very special and unique location, so be sure to pick your best side. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 6**  
**Blindspott with special guest**  
**Deadbeat at Linden Estate**

The multi-platinum selling Kiwi band is back together for a string of summer shows, alongside Deadbeat – the alter ego and musical concept of Shelton Woolright. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 6**

**The Enchanted Ball – Supporting Te Mata Park**

A magical summer celebration in a secret location, with great local food, premium beverages and entertainment by Shaun Preston, Cool Kids Club and Jonny Avery. Black tie. [enchantedball.co.nz](http://enchantedball.co.nz)

**April 6**

**Saturday Live Music Session with Jess Atkin at The Urban Winery**

Enjoy music from Jess Atkin and her talented family members, alongside some of Hawke's Bay's best wines, craft beer on tap and delicious food in Ahuriri. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 6**

**The Manfreds – Farewell Tour at Napier Municipal Theatre**

Revisit the 60s with one of the most successful British Invasion groups of the era, and bob to hits like Do Wah Diddy Diddy, Pretty Flamingo, My Name Is Jack, Fox On The Run, Mighty Quinn, Just Like A Woman, Ragamuffin Man. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 7**

**Napier Port Harbour to Hills 2019 at Perfume Point**

Lap up the picture postcard scenery while taking on the 2km ocean swim, 95km bike and 21km run. [harbourtohills.co.nz](http://harbourtohills.co.nz)

**April 7**

**Taradale Village Fete at Taradale Primary School**

The 2019 fete promises over 60 stalls, from fruit to fashion and all the woodwork, jewellery, crafts, competitions, raffles, rides and baking in between! [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 7**

**Nashville Live at Napier Municipal Theatre**

Find yourself at the Grand Old Opry, toe-tapping through country music history featuring songs from Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton to Carrie Underwood and Garth Brooks. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 11**

**Lawrence Arabia's Singles Club Album Release Tour at The Cabana**

NZ's "foremost chronicler of 21st Century bourgeois dilemmas", Lawrence Arabia, is back on tour supporting his latest album. [cabana.net.nz](http://cabana.net.nz)



April 20: The Big Easy at Church Road Winery

**April 14**

**Lake Tutira Off Road Half Marathon, 12k & 5k Trail Run**

This picturesque off-road event over a challenging course offers three distance options, and walkers are also welcome on the 12km and 5km routes. Entries close on April 12. [hbtrailrun.co.nz](http://hbtrailrun.co.nz)

**April 18**

**Harcourts Hastings City Bunny Hop Easter Night Market**

Bring the kids along to the night market for Easter treats and fun, to kick off the long weekend. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 19 – 22**

**The Extravaganza Fair at Anderson Park, Napier and April 27 & 28 at Havelock North Domain**

Fun for the whole family, this travelling event features market stalls, arts and craft, food, musical entertainment, circus shows, performers, tiny homes, and kids' shows & games. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 19**

**The Little Easy at Russell Park, Waipukurau**

Ease into Easter Weekend with a gentle 12km meander on the Rotary River Pathway, then finish up back at Russell Park for some post-ride entertainment and the option to grab a bite to eat, cold drink or coffee after your ride. [hawkesbaynz.com/the-big-easy](http://hawkesbaynz.com/the-big-easy)

**April 20**

**The Big Easy at Church Road Winery**

Starting out from Church Road and winding up at Black Barn for the finale party and concert, with 42 tasty stops along the way, The Big Easy has become a Hawke's Bay Easter tradition. [hawkesbaynz.com/the-big-easy](http://hawkesbaynz.com/the-big-easy)

**April 27**

**2019 New Zealand Single Speed Championships at Te Mata Peak**

Check out the fancy dress, beer shortcuts, and some sweet trails and racing action as the single speeds take on the surprise trail. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 27**

**The Big Bike Film Night at MTG Century Theatre**

Take in the best cycling short films from around the world – action, drama, humour, and plenty of inspiration to get on ya bike! [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

**April 30**

**Rhythms of Ireland – 10 Year Anniversary Tour at Napier Municipal Theatre**

Ireland's most celebrated show returns to New Zealand for the first time since 2010, offering audiences an evening of traditional Irish dance, music and song enhanced by stunning costumes, lighting and sound. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

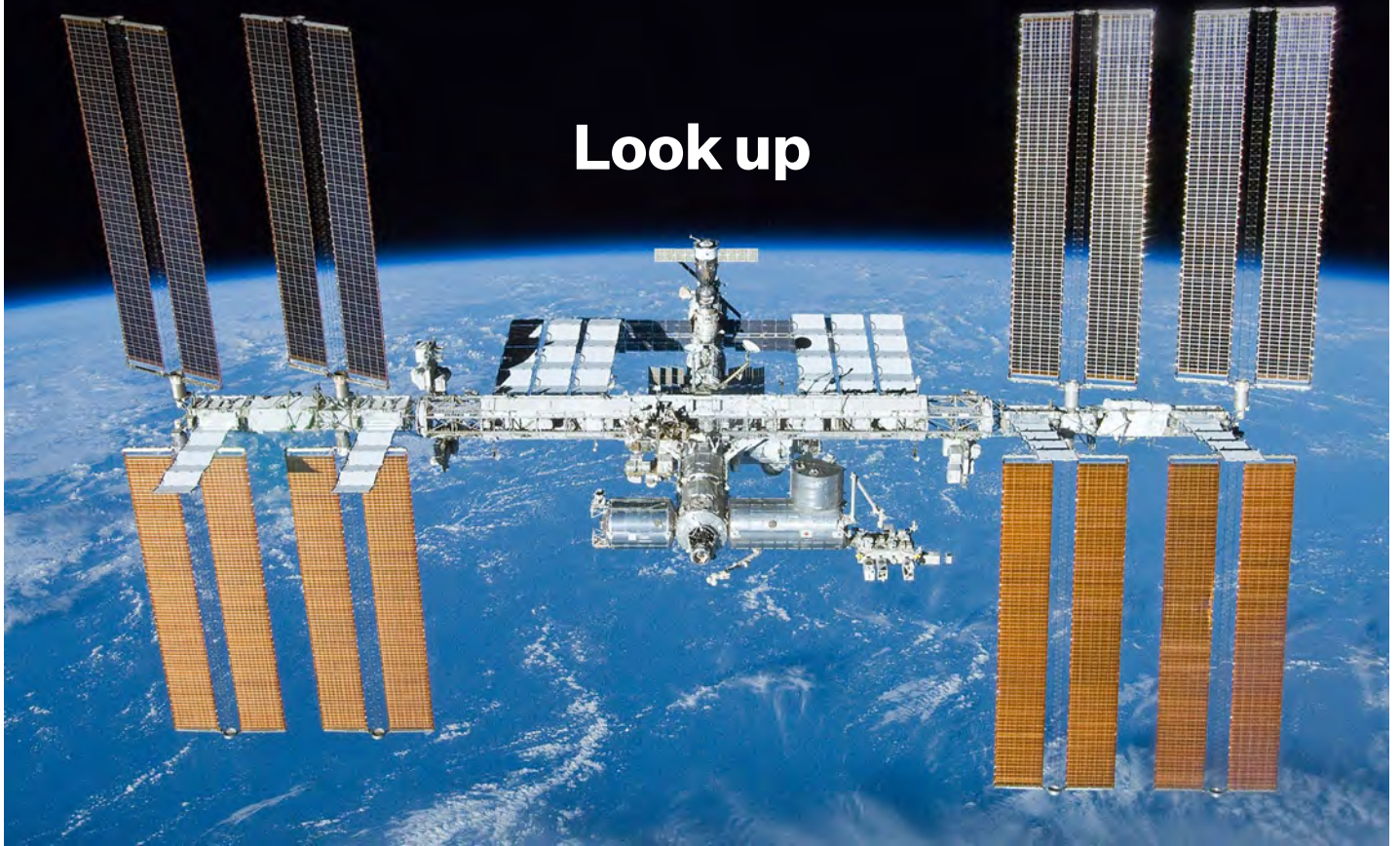
**May 2**

**Cats at Napier Municipal Theatre**

Experience the Andrew Lloyd Webber masterpiece right here as part of the 16-city tour around New Zealand. [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz) ●



# Look up



Keen to keep an eye on what wondrous man-made magic is floating above us? The International Space Station (ISS) regularly passes across New Zealand, only 400km or so into the sky.

While most of its transits are in the daytime or the depths of night (hidden in Earth's shadow), it can occasionally be seen from here either in the evening

or the morning, after sunset or before sunrise. At these times, the ISS in orbit may still be illuminated by sunlight, making it an obvious bright spot of moving light.

You can calculate the time to look out for it – and other satellites – by visiting the website Heavens Above ([bit.ly/2DTAczA](http://bit.ly/2DTAczA)) and entering your

location. Once you've got a time to look out for it, the International Space Station can be identified as brighter than the brightest star in the sky, moving quickly. In orbit its speed is around 7.7 km per second (over 27,500 kph), giving it the appearance of a fast-moving jetliner as it moves from horizon to horizon. ●

## Chemical Disposal

Planning an end-of-summer clean-up? Be sure you're disposing of any chemicals correctly.

As a rule, you shouldn't put any toxic, corrosive, flammable or explosive material into your general rubbish (or recycling) bin. Doing so can cause serious damage to human health and the environment. These chemicals – collectively known as hazardous substances – need to be specially treated. That means household items from gardening and cleaning products to paint and automotive fluids.

BayBuzz recently checked up on our local councils' practices.

### Hastings District and Napier City Councils have the same practices:

They accept herbicides, pesticides, paints, solvents, pool chemicals, varnish/wood polish, household cleaners, etc ... in household quantities only (commercial waste and agrichemicals are separate matters). Electronic waste can be recycled via the Hawke's Bay Environment Centre (user pays).

Councils organise a regular collection event via HazMobile. Watch for public notices for where and when to take your nasties. Next Napier collection event is in March; Hastings collection expected before July.

### Central Hawke's Bay:

Likewise, Central Hawke's Bay

District Council annually provides a free hazardous waste collection service using the 'HazMobile'. This service allows for most types of hazardous waste (chemicals, substances and E-waste) and is next programmed to run in September 2019.

For other disposal of hazardous waste residents are encouraged to contact Council directly and the Solid Waste Team will assist with a solution.

### Wairoa:

Wairoa transfer centre is the collection point for residential hazardous waste. Residents can bring hazardous material in during normal operating hours. ●

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\* Offer only applies to selected Discovery HSE and Discovery Sport Dynamic Edition. Limited stock available in New Zealand. Images are not representative of offer. Price shown is Maximum Retail Price (MRP).



Struggling: glaciers, salmon and kelp.

## NZ Heatwave Impacts

A recent study on the effects of last summer's heatwave is out, and it doesn't make for happy reading.

Climate change experts Professor James Renwick from Victoria University of Wellington and Dr Jim Salinger from the University of Tasmania report that the 2017/18 summer heatwave gave New Zealand its warmest summer and the warmest January on record.

The zone studied covered an area of four million square kilometres (comparable to the Indian subcontinent), including the land, the eastern Tasman Sea and the Pacific east

of New Zealand to the Chatham Islands.

The average air temperature was 2.2°C above the 1981-2010 normal of 16.7°C – the warmest summer ever recorded in more than 150 years.

The peak month was January 2018, 3.2°C above normal and the warmest month recorded in observations as far back as 1867. Ocean surface temperatures showed a marine heatwave that lasted about five months, at 2.0°C above normal at its peak.


The prolonged warm temperatures led to some marked and worrying effects.




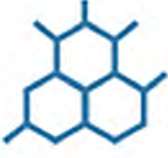



In Marlborough, the 2018 grape harvest came two to three weeks early.

Coastal kelp forests struggled to grow in the warm seas, leading to substantial losses of kelp canopies.

Commercial fishers reported that snapper was spawning approximately six weeks early off the South Island coast, and Queensland goproter was reported in northern New Zealand, 3000km out of normal range.

Atlantic salmon had to be imported for the first time, as some of Marlborough's farmed stocks died in the warmer waters.

The warm conditions caused massive ice loss in South Island glaciers, estimated to be the largest annual loss of glacier ice in nearly 60 years of records for the Southern Alps. Satellite data from end-of-summer snowline measurements at the Tasman Glacier suggest that the Southern Alps lost 9% of glacier ice during last summer alone. 

 <p>Measure Carbon Dioxide</p>	 <p>Measure Relative Humidity</p>
 <p>Measure Temperature</p>	 <p>Measure Volatile Gases</p>
 <p>Measure Pressure</p>	 <p>Measure Ambient Light</p>
<p><b>Tether Device</b></p>	 <p>+ 2Yr Battery Life or Mains Power</p>

Given our many hundreds of substandard homes and the end of the warm, dry summer season, Hawke's Bay's landlords and property managers might want to look to Auckland company Tether and their device, the Tether EnviroQ.

Designed to measure carbon dioxide, humidity, temperature, light and volatile gases, the Tether EnviroQ sensor can determine the effects of older houses which can be damp and prone to moisture and mould, and newer homes which are double-glazed and often not well ventilated. The sensor sends the air quality findings to an app, which the property owner or tenant can check to make sure the house is safe.

EnviroQ can also detect if residents are cooking methamphetamine on site!

Since October 2017, Tether has sold out of its initial run of sensors (a second, larger run of the devices is due in March) and taken on Tamaki Regeneration and Housing New Zealand as clients. Housing New Zealand commissioned a pilot programme for 550 sensors across 155 homes. [www.tetherme.io](http://www.tetherme.io)

# enlighten

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

## Looking for a new dentist?

**With so many choices available, it's important to decide what you are looking for.**

**Here are some tips:**

### Is cost important?

Get a quote, but make sure you are comparing apples to apples. Materials, size and time all affect standard procedures.

### Looking for quality?

Check out online reviews. Ask about guarantees for dental work.

### Looking for a modern approach?

For a start, check out websites; are they up-to-date and easy to engage with? Ask about digital dentistry. Is it a paperless practice?

### Convenience?

Look for ease of location and after hours appointments. You never know when you might need your dentist.

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## A few choice words about BayBuzz ...



And ... two more key words ...

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# Re-Inventing Work & Workers

Many  
Hawke's Bay  
businesses  
already  
struggling to  
find suitable  
employees  
to meet  
their growth  
targets will  
face further  
challenges as  
accelerating  
technological  
churn  
redefines  
work and the  
workplace.



Story by Keith Newman

**The impact of next level automation – artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, machine learning and cognitive computing – is expected to cause major disruption, with many traditional jobs phased out or redesigned for the new digital work era.**

Industry sectors, education, training organisations, unions and the government are scrambling to come up with coping strategies ahead of the upheaval predicted by a succession of reports and studies.



Studio Ossian. Photo: Tom Allan

The latest EIT Hawke's Bay Growth Study confirms many of the region's larger businesses have serious concerns about employment needs into the 2020s even before they've adopted leading edge technology.

While EIT has only analysed a few sectors and is still in data collection mode, research director Jonathan Sibley says labour force concerns for the next 5-8-years will impact our future economic prosperity.

Sibley was surprised to find labour shortages at every level in the primary sector, our largest employer, with many of those jobs, including packhouse workers, requiring greater

competency in the use of technology.

The Hawke's Bay digital sector also faced shortages for the foreseeable future alongside the quandary of how to attract and retain talented people.

Although these digital innovators, many operating under the radar, typically employed less than twenty people, Sibley says their success is essential for growth in other areas, including the primary sector.

#### **Workplace rework**

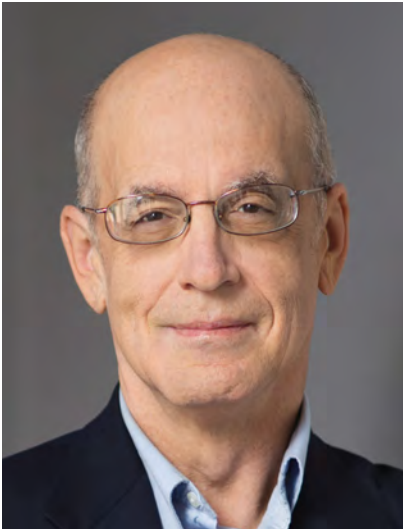
Gary Bolles, chair for the Future of Work at Singularity University in California, says we need to be better prepared for technological disruption

to the structure of organisations, the nature of work, leadership, and how we educate, train and use our skills.

Bolles, on his sixth trip to New Zealand, told Hawke's Bay business leaders they need to develop strategies that anticipate exponential change as the old rules for life - the 'three boxes' of bulk learning, work or career, then retirement - are no longer relevant.

He says digitally driven organisations will be flatter, more efficient and flexible, and accommodate more technically astute and adaptable employees, including contractors and part-timers who are team players.

Bolles says 'jobs' were traditionally



**“Digitally-driven organisations will be flatter, more efficient and flexible, and accommodate more technically astute and adaptable employees, including contractors and part-timers who are team players.”**

GARY BOLLES, VISITING  
WORK FUTURES EXPERT

created through the shift from an agricultural to an industrial society. “When you worked on a farm there were a bunch of things you had to do, but a job was more structured around the things the employer needed doing.”

Work, he says, is being redefined as a problem to be solved, with doctors, lawyers and others using their knowledge to find solutions.

“We are problem solvers...trial and error engines. We make mistakes and learn that there are certain skills we are good at and certain tasks we can optimise based on opportunities, experience and exposure.”

Organisations need adaptable processes around how they hire, develop and train managers who can enable and resource problem solvers.

Rote learning, inflexible workplaces, ‘stern parent’ management techniques and narrow job descriptions are no longer acceptable.

By 2020, the World Economic Forum forecasts over a third of skills considered important in today’s workforce will have changed, important new skills

will include cognitive flexibility and the ability to problem solve and manage digital labour and hybrid workforces (human/ machine partnerships).

A 2018 OECD policy brief claimed 14% of jobs across member nations would be replaced by automation and a further 32% significantly changed, with low-skilled and young people most at risk. It said adaptable education systems were a priority to address that.

**Dire shortage**

In Hawke’s Bay it’s not so much job losses that are a concern, but rather job vacancies. There’s already a drought of engineers, tradespeople and the technically-skilled.

And elsewhere in the job market, there’s a dire shortage of pickers and pruners (and at every level in the sector), with orchardists again appealing for easier access to imported and visiting workers. The EIT study suggests local young people in particular are unavailable - not work fit, unwilling to work or unable to pass drug tests. A kinder official response is that low unemployment levels mean a short supply of willing seasonal outdoor workers.

One observation is that Work and Income’s long stand-down period - for those who work more than 30 hours a week for longer than six months - is part of the problem. Some ask, why would they bother when the money is only marginally more than the dole, and at season’s end they have to live off those earnings while waiting to get back on the queue?

The region is dependent on the Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme (RSE) importing mainly Pacific Island workers to counter annual labour shortages during apple harvest from February to May.

Paul Paynter of Yummyfruit warned if there aren’t enough workers this year orchardists may prioritise high quality, high value fruit, leaving up to \$60 million worth on the trees.

A paucity of pickers presents a massive impediment to industry expansion. High demand and larger harvests meant 2018 crops were 22% bigger than 2017, requiring 7,000 peak season workers.

Work and Income declared a seasonal labour shortage in mid-January 2018, enabling limited work permits for international visitors. Despite an even bigger harvest predicted in 2019, requiring around 2,600 extra workers, officials delayed their decision on a six week permit until mid-February.

Back in November the Government

boosted RSE numbers by 1,750, but the 600 targeted for Hawke’s Bay was soon pruned to 400 with no explanation given.

A review of the RSE scheme was promised sometime in 2019, with the Government urging growers to do more to attract local workers; the unions weighed in with a stinging volley insisting they pay more and stop exploiting foreign workers.

Meanwhile the big players - already automating quality control, packing and stacking - are planting in fruit walls to reduce the need for ladders, while planning a decade or more ahead when machine picking can replace human labour. [See following article for more views on seasonal needs.]

**Digital dominates**

The skill scare exists across industries and is only going to get worse as technology displaces mundane and semi-skilled tasks and demand increases for workers with good social and technical skills who can learn on the job.

Professional services giant PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) warns businesses to embrace change or be changed by the converging forces of technology, connectedness, globalisation, volatile economies and shifting employee and consumer demand.

PwC Digital Services New Zealand director Mini Prasad says disruption is the new norm bringing unprecedented change, whether from automated vehicles or augmentation of roles through virtual assistants.

PwC’s report on the future of work says Robotic Process Automation (RPA), digital learning and cognitive computing will transform the digital labour market. RPA already automates rules-based and routine tasks and it’s predicted a quarter of workflow in all industries will use this by 2021.

Machine learning undertakes tasks and solves problems previously in the human domain and cognitive computing identifies patterns and relationships to assist in decision making.

The technology sector is already New Zealand’s third largest exporter, contributing over \$1.6 billion to GDP and employing over 100,000 people, aiming to be the second largest earner by 2025.

Prasad says the Government needs to invest in its digital strategy to take advantage of this global revolution as geographical barriers continued to disappear.

The PwC report predicts three waves of automation - the first impacting



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## Take another look at EIT

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EIT degree qualifications are equivalent to those gained at any NZ university, complying with New Zealand's stringent qualifications framework, and come with an assurance of quality that is recognised and trusted worldwide.

On this solid foundation, we ensure our programmes are always relevant to our region. We connect and consult with local industry, students gain work experience and employment from local employers, and their skills and qualifications benefit our whole community.

As lifestyles have changed, so have our programmes. Talk to us about flexible, part-time and online options for study.

**If 2019 is your year for returning to tertiary study, making a career change, or gaining a postgraduate qualification – take another look at EIT.**



**The technology sector is already New Zealand's third largest exporter, contributing over \$1.6 billion to GDP and employing over 100,000 people, aiming to be the second largest earner by 2025.**

2-3% of jobs and the second 'augmentation wave' until the late 2020s, changing 20% of jobs through advances in drones, robots in warehouses and semi-autonomous vehicles.

The third or 'autonomy wave' will affect 30% of jobs with machines analysing data, making decisions and taking physical action with little or no human input.

Prasad says many jobs will be reconfigured and redesigned causing disruption through job dislocations and a requirement to learn new skills. This will likely lead to a "hollowing out" of middle-income jobs including medical, legal and finance professionals who will be replaced by cognitive platforms.

On the positive side, technology is expected to create operational efficiencies, freeing up people from "mundane transactional tasks" for more complex "value creation activities".

### **Government-led forum**

In an attempt to prepare for this rocky terrain the Government, Business New Zealand and the Council of Trade Unions are collaborating through the Future Work Forum (FWF) to inform policy and help workers and businesses adapt.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern says we need a robust plan to stay ahead of the curve and "avoid the mistakes of the past where economic shocks damaged communities up and down New Zealand." The PM says the economy needs to be future-proofed for environmental sustainability, climate change and the fact that 40% of today's jobs will not exist in a few decades.

The FWF is looking to better define the Government's role in this massive shift. It has commended manufacturing industry efforts to identify changes and opportunities in workforce transitions

and wants to remove barriers faced by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as they deal with technological disruption.

It's addressing education and ways to overcome the country's "lacklustre productivity" through pooling of resources and ideas as more jobs are automated and sunset industries are created in response to climate change and changing consumer tastes.

The FWF says education needs to prepare for "future working styles" with better career training and pathways, while workplaces need to be more adaptable and resilient.

### **Learning on the job**

Visiting expert Gary Bolles warns the education system cannot leave transferable skills to chance as students now live in a world of instantly available information that will be embedded in the work they do. Secondary schools, "distorted by governments and set

standards”, will have to become more adaptive or face challenges from innovators and alternative schooling.

Higher education, he suggests, is at even greater risk with people training for careers or qualifications that may no longer be relevant. “Of the 2,200 place-based colleges in the US last year 25% ran at a deficit.”

Bolles asks, why we need a four to six-year degree in AI or robotics programming when all the techniques will have changed by graduation time. “Going to a code camp you can work on shipping products and learn much faster.”

According to management consultancy firm Scarlatti, only 4% of school leavers are involved in an on-the-job tertiary education; that’s 145,000 students employed by 25,000 employers, more than the number of domestic students at our universities.

The country’s 11 Industry Training Organisations (ITOs) are backing an initiative to qualify more apprentices and trainees to meet skill shortages across construction and manufacturing to primary, social services and the creative sector. The ITOs are appealing to the Government to provide greater incentives for businesses to upskill their employees.

### Pyramid collapse

While the internet has been applauded as the great game changer, Bolles says few realised it would place so much power into the hands of those who already had power, resulting in the pyramid collapsing in the middle impacting most of the western economy.

Amazon, Google and Facebook, after figuring how various industries worked and where the higher value was, took all the pieces apart and built the most dominant opportunity.

On the positive side, it’s more affordable to start a company or enter a market. That means a continual opportunity to build entrepreneurial capabilities.

Many of the technological shifts we’re facing are science fiction-like scenarios, from wider use of smart drones to human-like digital assistants, AI, cellular agriculture (biotech) and robotic surgery. Bolles believes the surprises will keep coming like Uber and smart self-driving cars which continue to have a ripple effect across the transport industry.

The Black Fly flying car is ready for market as are Airbus drones; “you’ll have an app that will tell you to go to a nearby tall building for pick up”.

Then there’s Epibone that grows bone from your own cells, the vertical farm in Tokyo producing 11 million heads of lettuce a year ... and training, he says, is already underway for mining asteroids. “This next generation is being trained to solve cancer and colonise planets.”

### Sharp curve ahead

And it’s still early on the business transformation curve. In the computing age, says Bolles, we’ve continued to operate on Moore’s Law of incremental power and capability coming at ever reducing cost. And if internet pioneer Ray Kurzweil’s ‘law of accelerating returns’ kicks in, we could be in for another wave of exponential growth.

Bolles is expecting a paradigm shift, a “technological change so rapid and profound it represents a rupture in the fabric of human history,” possibly around 2045. He’s also something of a fantasist, imagining a brain to machine (B2M) interface as part of that.

Back in the real world, Bolles says we’re only going to see more bad news about job losses, so businesses should prepare by moving away from hierarchical management to act more like a network. That’s a structure, he

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JONATHAN SIBLEY  
EIT RESEARCH DIRECTOR

## The latest EIT Hawke's Bay Growth Study confirms many of the region's larger businesses have serious concerns about employment needs into the 2020s even before they've adopted leading edge technology.

suggests, that can better accommodate a creative workforce that thrives on constant change, embracing lifelong learning and collaboration.

This generation, he says, operate in "an arc of constant change" rather than the linear model. After school they might take a gap year, then a day job while working on a start-up with friends, drive for Uber at night, then take more time off.

"It's a mash up, a portfolio of work with people constantly moving forward to get the best use of their skills, working on problems they like to solve and constantly testing new things out."

Some companies are incubating start-ups on site to innovate and develop their portfolio. For example, Google engineers are given 20% of their time or a day a week to come up with new ideas. "That's how Gmail evolved."

Valuable CV qualities for the evolving workplace will include transferable skills, psychological diversity, critical and creative thinking, being a good cultural fit and the ability to adapt

"individual super powers to align with the goals of an organisation".

The pathway to work will be more about apprenticeships, part time employment and unbundling work so workers get a better idea what they're committing to. To top it off, says Bolles, those employees will be looking for a sense of purpose, something that is a good fit with why they're on the planet.

### Challenge for unions

In New Zealand, as the debate about the future of work heats up, we're seeing more union-led strike action than we have for decades, with nurses, teachers, doctors and others in key sectors complaining they're undervalued, overworked and underpaid.

A January survey by the Council of Trade Unions (CTU) suggests around two-thirds believe income hasn't kept pace with the cost of living, despite more than half of those surveyed taking on additional work.

CTU president Richard Wagstaff says it's an indictment on the nation that work is unfulfilling for so many, something that can only reflect on the mood of workers and the economy.

Asked whether unions were facilitators or inhibitors in the evolving digital work environment, Gary Bolles says we're entering an era "where the collective action of workers and their power is eroding". In the US, "We've not had a net gain in the average income of the middle-class worker since the 1970s."

While Uber challenges the traditional model it offers no employee protection. They're very clear, says Bolles, the moment self-driving cars go mainstream their workers are gone.

While collective action or bargaining attempts to balance the scales "for employees in the box", new models are emerging, including the "two-sided work market" where the hirer always gets the best service at the lowest price.

### Urgent discussion needed

This next wave technology revolution is a two-edged sword, enhancing efficiency and creating new and more skilled positions, while severely reducing the need for less skilled work.

In Hawke's Bay many employers are caught between worlds. According to EIT's study there's already a huge deficit of people for basic labouring tasks and the technical skills needed to grow businesses.

Around 89% of those involved in fruit and vegetables, meat and wool and

food production areas will need new technical skills over the next 5-8-years, which more than half of employers say are "probably not available". Transport and logistics face a similar challenge.

Meantime, the proportion of youth not in employment education or training in Hawke's Bay is 50% higher than the national average.

One attempt to address this is the Government's \$3 billion Provincial Growth Fund (PGF), designed to create jobs in the regions, particularly in training young people, but barely off the ground. Around \$60 million will be invested in Te Ara Mahi (Pathways to Work), a new scheme to stimulate employment and boost skills in five 'surge' regions which had "high unemployment, low wages and low productivity", including Hawke's Bay.

Despite training programmes and significant effort by orchardists to get young people involved in primary industries, EIT's Jonathan Sibley can find no clear reason for the reluctance to engage. "It's a major issue...there's a sea change going on."

But he warns, it's too easy to blame the millennial generation, suggesting the industry needs to take some responsibility to better understand the way young people operate and remove barriers to employment.

That might include reviewing how the work is perceived, job structures, payment and other constraints that make the sector less attractive to seasonal and other workers.

One of the key reasons EIT is conducting these 'limits to growth' surveys - the first of their kind in the region - is to help determine future training needs. The results so far suggest an urgent need for a serious conversation with central and local government, employers and schools on how to address this looming crisis.

Challenging questions will include who pays for the upskilling when it's not going to add to the short-term bottom line, and what happens to the new unemployable or displaced?

Facilitating this transition will require a major rethink of education and training, recruitment, job descriptions, workplace and Work and Income approaches.

With employers being urged to think more creatively, and many already struggling under a mountain of adminivia, we may also need to review our addiction to a form-filling bureaucracy that often seems more geared to crushing innovation than encouraging it. ●

## NOW is the time for Baby Boomers to exit their businesses

The term baby boomers" refers to the generation of business owners in the 60 to 74 years age bracket.

These owners have been through various ups and downs in the economy such as the share market crash in the 80's and the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) 2008 to 2011. Recovery from the GFC has been steady in New Zealand with many businesses now enjoying a buoyant economy and the profitability that goes with it.

It can be a difficult decision to sell when times are good, however it is the best time to sell.

Most Baby boomers do not have a good understanding of what their business may be worth in today's market and yet they are relying on this sale for their retirement nest egg.

Also by hanging on to the business they risk ill health driving a business owner into a "fire sale" situation, they need to exit quickly, have no strategy in place and this often results in a lower asking price or business closure. The same can apply if there is a downturn in the economy.

Better to have an orderly plan to exit.

There are two main reasons to sell your business now.

The Baby Boomers will have to sell in order to realise their retirement investment. This will push more businesses on to the market and it is then harder to stand out in the crowded market place if the market is flooded with other more average performing businesses in the next few years.

The younger generation is looking to buy most of the good businesses that are standing out from others in an open market. The businesses they want are already performing well but have more potential given the right systems management. Some of these buyers are looking at exiting a corporate environment and being in control of their own destiny. These buyers are market and tech savvy.

Presently there are more buyers than good businesses for sale so it makes sense as a Baby Boomer business owner to capitalise on this.

### Some points to help improve the saleability of your business:

- **Get your business appraised now:** This will give you, the business owner, an up to date market value of your business to help you in the decision making process.
- **Financial records:** Get your financial records in order and keep them up to date monthly. This greatly assists the sales process because, if purchasers have to wait for up to date information, they can lose interest.
- **Document business processes and systems:** This should include the accounting system, payroll system, employee manuals, CRM system, sales and marketing processes, health and safety manual.
- **Asset register:** Review and update the asset register on a regular basis to ensure the items are accounted for and in good working order. Now is the time to dispose of surplus and non-operational assets or repair them.
- **Stock/inventory:** Deal with old and obsolete stock on a consistent basis, don't accumulate these items as it will impact when negotiating your sales price.

Getting your business ready for sale requires an experienced business broker to assess your business honestly and assist you with advice to maximise its value on the open market.

An experienced business broker will work with you to achieve this as they will have all the facts, figures, historical sales data needed.

Times are good, interest rates low, banks have money to lend buyers; the economy is still showing growth. NOW is the time to act.

Graham Hoffmann has 17 years' experience and is a Senior Business Broker at LINK Business Brokers  
Email [graham.hoffmann@linkbusiness.co.nz](mailto:graham.hoffmann@linkbusiness.co.nz) | Mobile 0274 936 411

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# Solving the Seasonal Worker Challenge

Perhaps the most visible labour shortage in Hawke's Bay affects our fruit industry. *BayBuzz* asked some informed players for their opinions on the issue.

## John Bostock

Founder & CEO, Bostock NZ  
Bostock New Zealand's crop doubles over the next five years and the company is very short of labour now to pick the crop. Unless the Government takes a longer term view and gives certainty for labour supply the company will have no option but to stop expansion plans.

Tourists are welcome and can help us in the short term. But they are only here for a week or two, posing challenges around training and accommodation, with no long-term security. We need certainty and reliability.

The Recognised Seasonal Employment scheme is a better solution. RSE workers provide security and certainty. They come every year for 6-9 months and we know they will be here to pick the fruit.

By having overseas workers do seasonal work the company is able to train, take on, and create more full time quality jobs for New Zealanders.

Although Bostock New Zealand takes New Zealanders first, there are less NZers available than any other year due to record low unemployment numbers. NZ workers are simply not available for seasonal work. Availability of NZers for this type of work is the issue.

The new proposals for RSE workers

is helpful but will not address the immediate pending chronic shortage in low skilled work such as fruit picking.

Bostock New Zealand does appreciate the coalition government review. We would like to work with the Government to find long term solutions to the labour shortage to ensure we can get the fruit off the trees at the optimum time.

## Ben James

President, HB Fruitgrowers Assn  
Short-term response should be RSE cap increases and better use of unemployed Kiwis in other regions, being offered employment, accommodation and other services such as the RSE employees get. This needs management and policing in my view.

We do struggle to motivate kiwis to harvest the apples. A lot of the industry pay fair rates with some earning \$350 a day and more for the top picking aces. It's not a lack of money issue, this is a historical shadow that follows horticulture.

On top of seasonal labour, many are struggling to fill permanent positions in orchards. Rapid growth will see some companies needing to double their permanent staff over the next five years.

Long-term solutions would include the use of the RSE platform as this is a very well controlled and policed seasonal labour scheme with tight regulations. (Tighter than what we have had in the 80s, 90s & 00s, and far more controlled than our mates across the ditch).

Robotics will play a huge part in horticulture in the future. This will take

some years to get to where we do not need seasonal labour; however great advances are being made globally with NZ at centre stage.

## Stuart Nash

MP, Napier

We have become so reliant upon RSE workers that the ability to access labour through this scheme must now be an important part of any due diligence undertaken when considering new planting.

We seem past the point of no return in terms of getting young unemployed New Zealanders into the orchards. I struggle with this, as the RSE workers take jobs that I believe Kiwi workers should fill; in addition, a significant percentage of the money these workers earn is remitted back to their homeland, therefore not circulating around our local economy.

To address the first issue, we need to fundamentally change the education settings in order to allow students to train and earn money in recognised jobs and key industries whilst still at school - a big change that would allow a smooth transition from the discipline of the school environment straight into the discipline of the work place. Getting the 'nefs off the couch' is a lot harder than it sounds, as the reality is that the 'nefs' just won't get off the comfortable couch after 12 months of nothingness to pick fruit.

The industry also needs to take a hard look at the value proposition it offers potential workers. To be honest, it's

hardly attractive. Growers need to look at, for example, the pay rates they offer to ensure employment provides at least a living wage over the picking season.

This aside, the stark reality is that we need more RSE workers to pick our fruit. The government must ensure we have enough workers to allow growers to maximise their crops (as well as grow and expand if this is their strategy), maximising for the region its economic potential and for the country its export earnings.

### **Paul Paynter**

CEO, Yummyfruit

When HB had 10% unemployment in the winter, a whole lot of unemployed came off the sidelines for seasonal work. In 2018 the unemployment rate was 4.3%. Good news for HB, but a bit of a problem for growers.

An economist wrote recently that future food production was going to be based on itinerant labour and mentioned the NZ RSE scheme as a stand-out example. It is. It's now the biggest foreign exchange earner for Samoa (and probably Tonga and Vanuatu). All we need is a few months of extra labour. Meantime, our permanent employees in the sector are growing faster than the RSE numbers and wages are going up too.

Both economies benefit.

In time automation will replace labour, but more in the packhouse; robotics don't mesh too well with the ambiguities of the biological world. We are now growing fruiting walls and moving towards platform harvesting. I think we can eliminate ladders, making us 20-25% more labour efficient. It will take time - about two decades should do it.

Allowing people on tourist visas to work would help in the short term. But most tourists have a schedule and won't change flights and send passports off to Wellington for visa variations. The only way to change that is to let them know with a bit of notice that they can work for a few weeks.

We also need to build accommodations for workers, but the RSE scheme is a year-by-year deal with no certainty on numbers. We need a multi-year deal to allow confidence to build accommodations.

### **Denise Roche**

National Organiser, First Union

Pay rates in horticulture are so low there's a pay crisis. Even holidaying seasonal workers from Europe don't

believe it's worth their time. The work is seasonal, so it's typically insecure work and pay rates need to reflect this. It also requires skill for staff to become fast at the various roles within horticulture, again pay rates need to lift to reflect this. Horticulture is one of our top exporters and earns the country a lot of money, yet the pay rates just don't match up.

It's highly unethical that so many companies in horticulture choose to pay minimal rates when we know the minimum wage has not kept up with the cost of living. More alarmingly, a 2017 audit showed that more than half of Bay of Plenty's kiwifruit audited employers failed to meet the bare minimum of basic employment standards and we haven't seen any evidence that this has improved. In fact we have seen more exploitation and even trafficking cases emerge from horticulture ... trafficking in New Zealand of all places, that's horrific.

We want to see a horticulture sector that values its workers. We need a concerted, collaborative effort that seeks to make seasonal work more sustainable and attractive. One mechanism that we could use to do this would be to develop Fair Pay Agreements which would give additional protection to migrant workers, prevent exploitation and stop the race to the bottom on wages that has characterised seasonal work until now. It would mean good employers wouldn't be undermined by bad employers and it would raise the bar for the whole sector.

### **Erin Simpson**

Capability Development Manager  
Apples & Pears NZ

The apple and pear industry is working hard across the technology, social and economic space to find long-term sustainable solutions to their labour needs.

The industry has created permanent pastoral support teams within most if not all of the medium-to-large sized businesses; and developed strong collaborative relationships with MSD, MBIE, Corrections and local Iwi groups looking to support and guide people into employment, whether in full time or casual roles.

In the short term, the industry is doing all that it can to encourage and support New Zealanders into work. However, with the Hawke's Bay economy doing very well and unemployment at a historical low, the gap between labour demand and supply is growing. The RSE scheme has been

hugely successful in bridging that gap, giving businesses confidence to invest and grow, thereby creating real and sustained opportunities for local people to take up rewarding full-time careers in the sector.

Longer term, technology is crucial. While robotics and automation are being worked on, it will be some years away before robotic fruit picking is a commercially viable solution. For a start, the architecture of our trees needs to change significantly to enable machines to be used widely. Packhouses will see faster adaptation to robotics and automation.

The perception of the apple and pear sector as offering a career of choice is a key focus. The industry is working on a number of initiatives to raise awareness of the innovative vocational options that are available today.

### **Lawrence Yule**

MP, Tukituki

Bumper crops are expected this season, but where are the pickers going to come from? This is a huge issue to all growers and a major industry concern.

Last year, when the cap for RSE workers was lifted, the situation was alleviated for a short time, but it required a lot of pressure for the Government to admit we are still short of labour.

Additionally, the Government has just declared a seasonal labour shortage, which will help in the short term allowing visitors to work and removing benefit stand-down periods. But what about a long-term solution?

The Government was aware of the proposed growth on the Heretaunga Plains. Simply put, there aren't enough local workers to do the job, so we rely on RSE workers who are critical to orchard production.

The Government has announced a review of the RSE scheme sometime in 2019. It needs to be done early so the 2020 crop, which will be even larger, can be picked.

RSE workers need accommodation and pastoral care investment, but the current annual review process gives growers no certainty to plan or invest. Let's hope the RSE review provides that certainty.

As a food-producing country, it is a criminal waste to see good food either rot on the trees or on the ground.

I believe the Government needs to be flexible and act decisively. We need to find a solution that meets the needs of growers in 2020 and beyond to provide confidence and certainty. ●

# On the Right Side of History



**“In the climate emergency we’re in, slow success is no success. In an emergency, if the ambulance doesn’t get you to the hospital in time, you die. If the firetruck doesn’t get to your house in time, it burns down.”**

DURWOOD ZAELKE, PRESIDENT, INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AT DECEMBER CLIMATE SUMMIT IN POLAND

**Story by Tom Belford**  
**Our celebrity Prime Minister was recently in Davos telling other world leaders that global warming was the issue of our times. “What greater threat to our wellbeing is there than the current threat of climate change,” she commented, adding, “This is about being on the right side of history.”**

Do you agree? The global warming warnings have become even more frequent and dire over the summer break. Here’s a sampling.

#### **Ice**

The most dramatic (chilling!) evidence of the dangers ahead from increasing temperatures lies in the ice - the Arctic, the Antarctic and glaciers.

A US National Academy of Sciences study published in January reported that Greenland’s ice is melting faster than anyone thought - at a rate in 2012 nearly four times the rate in 2003. Perhaps reaching a tipping point that cannot be reversed.

It takes about 360 billion tons of ice to produce one millimeter of sea-level rise. Greenland contains enough ice to raise sea levels 7 metres. In the 20th century it lost around 9,000 billion tons in total, accounting for 25mm of sea rise. However between 2002 and 2016, Greenland lost approximately 280 billion tons of ice *per year*.

Yet Greenland’s is dwarfed by the

Antarctic ice sheet, which could yield a 57 metre rise in sea level if fully melted. Its ice loss averaged 252 billion tons a year over the past ten years, six times the rate of four decades ago.

North American glaciers ... similar acceleration, quadrupling since the early 2000s. Indeed accelerating glacier loss is underway across the planet.

And the impact is not only on sea level. In the case of Greenland, mounting ice melt is believed to be diminishing the ability of the Atlantic Ocean’s Gulf Stream to deliver the warm water (and resultant air temperatures) that have hitherto given northern Europe a temperate climate.

And where retreating glaciers feed less water into river systems, devastating consequences on food production and drinking water will follow.

Some of this effect will come from diminished aquifer recharge - a “groundwater time bomb” promising political upheaval.

Studies project almost half the world’s aquifers to be depleted in the next 100 years (including from changes in rainfall and snow). One-third are already in distress, the worst being the Arabian Aquifer System, providing water to more than 60 million people; second most stressed is the Indus Basin aquifer of northwestern India and Pakistan; the third most is the Murzuk-Djado Basin in northern Africa. California’s agriculture-intense Central Valley is labelled highly stressed.

#### **Temperature**

More heat, less ice. In the case of Greenland, each degree of warmth above 1 C doubles the amount of ice melt.

**“The Earth’s climate has been warmer than the 20th Century average over the last 406 consecutive months. That means no one under the age of 32 has ever experienced a cooler-than-average month.”**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the four hottest years recorded have been the last four, 2015-2018. As *National Geographic* put it: “The Earth’s climate has been warmer than the 20th Century average over the last 406 consecutive months. That means no one under the age of 32 has ever experienced a cooler-than-average month.” Scientists are now predicting that 2019 will be the hottest ever, with future El Niño years promising more of the same.

A new analysis published in *Science* in January found that oceans are heating up 40% faster than the UN estimated five years ago, with 2018 the warmest year on record for ocean temperatures. Until now, oceans have absorbed 93% of the heat trapped by greenhouse gases, sparing land-lubbers from even higher temperatures.

The planet’s higher heat produces sea rise and more violent storms (and more of them), kills coral reefs (and people), disrupts the entire plankton-based marine food chain, spawns and exacerbates wildfires (and subsequent soil erosion), and, for the business-minded, even seriously erodes productivity. According to a recent *Lancet* report, 153 billion hours of labour were wiped out last year due to heat waves, nearly three times more than 2000.

## Today the scientific consensus appears to be that the 1.5 C goal is impossible, and will be exceeded by 2035, with the increase reaching 2.0 C by 2060.

The earth has already warmed one degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Three years ago the Paris agreement endorsed by 200 nations set a goal of holding the warming increase below two degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels and to “pursue efforts” to limit it to 1.5 C.

The most recent international negotiations in December in Poland produced a “rulebook” for putting the 2015 Paris agreement into practice, including how governments will measure and verify their emissions-cutting efforts. Important, yes, but once again failing to bind countries to their targets, and actually backsliding on accounting for carbon credits.

International political crunch time will come in 2020, when nations must be meeting their Paris emissions commitments and produce new targets for 2030 and beyond.

Today the scientific consensus appears to be that the 1.5 C goal is impossible, and will be exceeded by 2035, with the increase reaching 2.0 C by 2060. Our nations, with the exception of the European Union, are not doing so great with emissions. Under the present commitments, if 100% met, the world faces a 3.0 C or more increase in temperatures, a level scientists consider disastrous.

### Emissions

Even to curtail temperature rise to the 2.0 C target, global emissions would need to decline to zero by around 2075. Not only would virtually all coal plants and gasoline-fuelled vehicles need to be eliminated, we would also actually need to develop technologies that at large scale could remove billions of tons of existing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year. Not a single

mitigation scenario produced by the UN can meet the 2.0 C target without massively deploying carbon capture technology, which (along with nuclear power) many environmental groups oppose.

Yet, on December 5 the *NY Times* headlined, “Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accelerate Like a ‘Speeding Freight Train’ in 2018”. The science reports cited in the article noted that oil use had gone up five years in a row and that carbon emission would increase by 2.7% in 2018 to a record 37.1 gigatons. 59% of current emissions come from China (27%), the US (15%), the European Union (10%) and India (7%), with the fastest growth in India, followed by China.

Globally, the consequences of warming at this pace are predicted to come more and more quickly. In October the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that rising emissions would cause widespread food shortages, coastal flooding, wildfires and population displacement by 2040. Two months later, a study reported in the science journal *Nature* advanced these effects to 2030, only eleven years from now.

Add to these worries that directly affect humans - the species we are most accustomed to caring about - the catastrophic effects of climate change on the rest of the flora and fauna with whom we inhabit the planet. Some (more likely, many) of those face extinction at our hands and inaction. We humans like to believe we’re clever enough to escape that fate, but in the long run, nature doesn’t play favourites.

And we’re playing against extremely tight margins. Echoing study after study, “Every fraction of a degree of warming makes a difference to human

health and access to food and fresh water, to the extinction of animals and plants, to the survival of coral reefs and marine life.” WMO Deputy Secretary-General Elena Manaenkova emphasized to *National Geographic*.

### The 0.5 C difference

Haggling over half-degree differences in global warming targets might sound rather picky, but in fact the ecosystem, infrastructure and human impacts of these changes are huge.

### Some examples of the ‘extra’ half-degree ...

**At 2.0 C, about twice as many people worldwide would be exposed to severe heat waves at least once every five years (37% versus 14% at 1.5 C).**

**Some regions, such as the Arctic, will heat up two to three times faster – ice-free summers would be 10 times more likely at 2.0 C.**

**At 1.5 C, +350 million of our urban population would be exposed to severe drought, increasing to +411 million at 2.0 C.**

**At 1.5 C, 31-69 million people would be exposed to flooding from sea rise in 2100, increasing to 32-80 million at 2.0 C.**

**Some small island nations could become uninhabitable or disappear.**

**The Mediterranean and Middle East regions could see a 9% drop in water availability at 1.5 degrees of warming, but a 17% drop at 2.0.**

**At 2.0 C coral reefs move from “very frequent mass mortalities” to “mostly disappear”.**

**At 1.5 C, 6% of insects, 8% of plants and 4% of vertebrates lose more than half their range; at 2.0 C this habitat loss increases to 18%, 16% and 8% respectively.**

**Crop yields would be lower, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central/South America.**

And we haven’t really begun to contemplate the impact of a 3.0 C rise, other than to anticipate that the various effects would compound one another!

**“The world is in the early stages of a sustainability revolution which has the magnitude of the industrial revolution, but at the speed of the digital revolution.”**

AL GORE

**Solutions?**

But there’s opportunity in this challenge as well.

Climate action evangelist Al Gore told recent Davos attendees, “The world is in the early stages of a sustainability revolution which has the magnitude of the industrial revolution, but at the speed of the digital revolution.”

As PM Ardern put it, “We have the chance here to transition and future-proof our economies ... it’s the only way.” The Government’s first steps include ceasing further oil and gas development, a goal to plant one billion trees over ten years, a \$100 million green investment fund, a pledge for the nation’s energy generation to become 100% renewable by 2035 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Details on the last of these are yet to emerge.

We look forward to seeing these promises and programmes fleshed out and implemented, especially Climate

Minister Shaw’s Green Investment Fund and the anticipated Zero Carbon Act.

But meantime, in January Genesis Energy announced that coal-fired electricity generation had reached a five year high. We still live in a country without fuel economy standards for its vehicles, and we’re shamefully behind in exploiting our bountiful solar potential.

**Moral imperative**

Or practical necessity?

The problem used to be that we short-term-thinking humans were being asked to contemplate and address a future 100 years out, and we shrugged off the task. Now we face huge ecosystem changes within a decade or two ... but still are having difficulty processing the urgency for action.

We seem relatively unmoved morally by the harm our present consumptive practices will cause in the future to other species, natural ecosystems or even our own offspring.

But now, with the accelerating and intensifying impacts that are visibly at hand, maybe we will be moved by the threat of more immediate disruption to our own lives and economic wellbeing. Maybe economics will prevail.

Witness 13 agencies of the Trump administration issuing a joint 1,656-page report estimating that climate change could slash the US GDP by 10% by 2100 ... that would be twice the losses caused by the Great Financial Meltdown decade ago.

That might generate action that moral purpose alone has not.

Here in New Zealand, the Productivity Commission has weighed in on the economic value of addressing climate

change now versus later and outlining a path to a low-emissions economy.

Local Government NZ has just released a report indicating that \$5.1b of local government infrastructure is at risk from 1m sea rise, \$7.8b at 1.5m rise, and \$14.1b at 3m rise.

NZ-wide, \$38 billion of residential and commercial buildings (125,600 buildings) are estimated at risk from a sea level rise of one metre. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment will soon release estimates of the financial risk to *all* buildings and infrastructure from sea rise, with the estimates given by region and broken down for 10cm increments of sea rise.

*BayBuzz* will continue reporting extensively on climate change, and in particular we look forward to covering the climate policies and actions of the current Government, as well as our Hawke’s Bay councils and companies.

**[Editor’s note: The consequences of these global ecosystem changes for us here in Hawke’s Bay were well-traversed by Bridget Freeman-Rock’s article, *Adapting Hawke’s Bay to Climate Change*, in the previous *BayBuzz*.]**



Unison is pleased to sponsor robust examination of energy issues in Hawke’s Bay. This reporting is prepared by *BayBuzz*. Any editorial views expressed are those of the *BayBuzz* team and do not reflect the views of Unison.



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## **On the Brink of Apartheid: Health Inequity in Hawke's Bay**

**Māori and Pasifika people in Hawke's Bay live shorter and less healthy lives than other ethnicities. So found the third biennial Health Equity Report, released in December last year. No coalface health practitioners would have been surprised.**



**Story by Rosheen FitzGerald  
and Jess Soutar Barron.  
Photos by Florence Charvin.  
The culmination of a year of  
research and inquiry by the  
District Health Board, the Report  
is a grim read. The sliding  
scale summarising its findings  
is heavily weighted towards  
stalling or regression of progress,  
painting a picture of a community  
on the brink of health apartheid.**

Equity has been achieved in a single area - immunisations - the result of community outreach programmes. Uptake of the HPV vaccine, delivered in schools in adolescence, has been greater by Māori and Pasifika teens than others, with a concentrated effort to deliver services in homes in a culturally sensitive manner.

Such achievements can be lauded, but they are 'low hanging fruit'. Accepting a free and accessible service is one thing; but effecting sustained behavioural, systemic and institutional change is entirely different. Failure of progression and backsliding is recorded in the greatest number of areas, many of which are behavioural, ingrained and difficult to change.

And so bleakness mounts.

The 'amenable' mortality gap (deaths that can be prevented through healthcare), which the 2016 report projected to close by now, is in stasis. Rates of acute bronchiolitis - a symptom of poor housing and a key indicator of underlying social issues - haven't changed. There's been little shift in rates of breastfeeding, childhood obesity, and the oral health and preventable hospital admissions of pre-schoolers. There are some optimistic improvements recorded for youth, but Māori teen pregnancy rates are still four times that of non-Māori/Pasifika.

The report finds Māori and Pasifika eat less fruits and vegetables, are less active, more obese, drink more harmfully, and suffer higher rates of diabetes. They are more likely to have mental health problems, sexually transmitted infections and be admitted to hospital for issues preventable by earlier care in the community. Māori and Pasifika women smoke more than their Pakeha peers, and are more like to be hospitalised as a victim of assault.





From those working within the DHB to those in general practice, no one disputes the findings. While the DHB writes reports and strategies, the frontline is busy - in an overworked, under-resourced, high-pressure sector - trying to find do-able, everyday solutions for some big, complex, entrenched problems.

**“They spend a lot of money on reports to tell us what we know about our Māori and Pasifika families; things just keep on getting worse.”**

MATT O'DOWDA, PRINCIPAL,  
KIMI ORA COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL

District Health Board general manager of Māori health, Patrick Le Geyt knows the Report's findings are symptomatic of a bigger picture of social inequality. Socioeconomic factors drive about 45% of health inequities; 10-20% are attributed to the health care system.

“We really need to be partnering together to look at some of the key foundational social determinants: income, housing, employment, access to health and social care,” he says,

 <b>Health equity ACHIEVED</b>	 <b>GOOD PROGRESS towards health equity</b>	 <b>SOME PROGRESS towards equity but slowing or stalled</b>	 <b>NO PROGRESS or inequity worsening</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immunisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breast screening</li> <li>• Cervical screening</li> <li>• Pregnancy - under 18s</li> <li>• Youth not in employment education or training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premature mortality</li> <li>• Avoidable mortality</li> <li>• Amenable mortality</li> <li>• Years of Life Lost</li> <li>• Acute bronchiolitis</li> <li>• Ambulatory Sensitive Hospitalisations (0-4 year olds)</li> <li>• Oral health - 5 year olds</li> <li>• Breastfeeding</li> <li>• Childhood obesity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fruit and vegetable intake</li> <li>• Physical activity</li> <li>• Adult obesity</li> <li>• Hazardous drinking</li> <li>• Maternal smoking</li> <li>• Sexually transmitted infections</li> <li>• Mental health</li> <li>• Female hospital stays for assault</li> <li>• Diabetes</li> <li>• Ambulatory Sensitive Hospitalisations (45-64 year olds)</li> </ul>

**“There needs to be a clear and achievable plan. There need to be some tight timelines. We need to get on with the job and it needs to be properly resourced. Otherwise they’ll just be writing another report in another two years’ time...the stuff in that report has been going on forever.”**

DR HOWARD DICKSON, MANAGING DIRECTOR TOTARA HEALTH

citing the DHB’s lead role in many initiatives of the Mātariki partnership - last year’s Regional Social Inclusion Strategy - as examples of how agencies are allying for change.

The elephant in the room is funding. A \$6.8 million deficit at the DHB last year means executive managers are now analysing spend with forensic meticulousness.

“(The DHB’s) reviewing and unpicking where every dollar is spent, putting an equity analysis over that,” explains Le Geyt. “We’ve got to free up some of those resources and reallocate to those programmes that will achieve equity.”

The DHB says it is ready to shuffle budgets in a radical way. But the reality would then see care of the very old sacrificed in favour of bolstering the offering to young Māori and Pasifika.

Meanwhile those working from within Māori and Pasifika communities in the Bay are fed up with ping ponging

between policies, initiatives and resolutions imposed by the DHB. In general, their view is that given authentic and legitimate power-sharing - and the money that goes with it - they would do a better job themselves, from within whānau, hapū and iwi.

#### **Need to re-balance priorities**

DHB clinical director of health improvement and equity Dr Nicholas Jones recognises the importance of the whole community backing institutional change. “People like myself who are in a privileged position need to start by acknowledging the privilege ... and by acknowledging that, recognise the need for something to change in the system.”

One of the chief issues is pressure from both ends of a spectrum. Those privileged enough to make it to very old age then need increasing (and increasingly expensive) care from the

same health system whose resources are then diluted, with the young, Māori and in-need missing out.

With equity a priority, Jones notes the DHB needs to rethink end-of-life care for the elderly. “We need to make sure our care for those approaching death is appropriate for the person and their family, and avoid heroic investigations and treatments.” This would mean implementing a shift to “quality of life and quality of death, rather than throwing lots of resource at people in the final stages of life,” Jones explains.

He is also clear that escalating health problems are going unaddressed, resulting in a heavy share of acute hospital services sucking up resources at the bottom of the cliff. Bringing about big change is going to take brave and holistic overhaul, not just DHB reports on the situation.

“Our health system is not going to be sustainable if we don’t do something about health equity,” he says. Environmental and behavioural factors, as well as interactions with health services, can develop either resilience ... or vulnerability.

“It’s like a battery,” explains Jones. “As events drain the battery it’s putting you more and more at risk in terms of your health, but you can turn it around by having positive experiences, positive behaviours, and being in positive environments.”

Jones would like to see the system shift, “to make it more community focused, more whānau-centric and to have more services out in the community where people need them.”

“There’s no quick fix. It’s about building the systems, building the processes, changing the way we’re working, changing the way we’re making decisions so we’re actually going to prioritise the things that will address equity.”

Jones recognises the way health-care is delivered does not serve those who need it most. He sees a need for providers to recognise that what the system sees as standard treatment probably doesn’t work for all cultures, or perhaps only works for Pākehā.

### Do more outside the hospital

Flaxmere councillor and District Health Board member Jacoby Poulain would like to tip the model upside down and give more funding and more support to providing healthcare in the primary system. “To get our people healthy - mentally, spiritually, physically - outside the hospital,” she says.

Ideally, one-stop whānau wellness centres would provide this, as a coronial report on the spate of teenage suicides in her ward recommended. That report proposed the employment

of a team of Pacific Health Navigators to improve access. Poulain sees this as a short-term stop-gap, but knows it doesn’t take away the need for systemic change.

“A better result would be to make the system simpler so you don’t need navigators, so you can navigate it yourself.” Poulain applauds the work of those promoting Māori health in the community - Iron Māori, Patu, Choices, Te Taiwhenua.

Inequities are entrenched, have deep historical roots and far reaching implications for this and future generations. And they’re complex to fix. Poulain sees strong links between historical loss of land and loss of wealth - both financial and cultural - and then social and economic deprivation.

“Land is where a family derives their wealth, so when the land changed hands so did the ability of the people to generate wealth,” she explains. “We’ve got generations living disconnected from the system. That transpires to health effects - lack of knowledge, lack of skills and behavioural issues.”

Bayden Barber is a Hastings councillor and chair of Health Hawke’s Bay (the PHO representing primary care providers). He now also chairs the Te Pitau Health Alliance between the DHB

and Health HB, signed in late 2018. This group has been set up to fashion a transition to more extensive and effective community-based care.

The goals of Te Pitau are lofty. To improve health outcomes by (among other actions):

“Transforming ... and integrating primary and community healthcare services” so as to:

- Achieve equity with a particular focus on those with unmet needs
- Create a culture that is person and whānau centred
- Co-design and prioritise services to meet the needs of populations with the poorest health and social outcomes
- Make health easier to understand.”

Several elements of Te Pitau’s ‘Purpose’ hint at a change in money flows:

“Planning health care delivery in our District that is amenable to primary and community settings, to make the best use of health resources;

Balancing a focus on the highest priority needs areas in our communities, while ensuring appropriate care across all our populations;

Determining models to be commissioned from delegated funding pools.”

While the Te Pitau Agreement



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**“You can only have a partnership when there’s no power imbalance. There’s a complete power imbalance in this system and Māori don’t have it.”**

BEVERLY TE HUIA,  
MAORI HEALTH ADVISOR  
AND BOARD MEMBER FOR  
TE PITAU ALLIANCE

indicates Te Pitau will “make decisions and recommendations on what services should be funded by the Parties”, the ‘million dollar question’, so to speak, is, what funding pools will be available for new directions? Especially at a time when all units within the DHB are being asked to identify 10% cost reductions to meet budget over-ages. Not surprisingly, given DHB’s statutory obligations, the Agreement specifically notes that DHB will make some funding decisions “outside this Agreement”.

Barber believes the key is indeed redistribution of funding - and power - and mourns the erosion of cultural capital created by inequity in mortality.

“If Māori are dying eight years earlier, you’re actually losing a whole

generation of kaumatua, local leaders. This is not just health, this is across education, across council.”

Barber would like to see Māori empowered in leadership roles. Rather than power flowing top-down from governmental organisations, he wants focus to shift to a Māori worldview, centred on whānau.

Barber champions Alaska’s ‘Nuka System of Care’ model, held up as the gold standard of indigenous health-care. Through the 1990s, Alaska turned around a failing health system by handing over control to indigenous communities; native peoples moved then from ‘recipients of service’ to ‘owners’ of their health system.

“What we’re learning from Nuka is those who are delivering services have

autonomy to shape them to meet the needs of their communities,” he says. “That’s the future of health delivery.”

#### **Talk into action?**

As the conversation moves from those around the boardroom table to those at the coalface, the tone shifts tangibly, from optimism to scepticism. No one disputes the Report’s findings or conclusions, just the likelihood of transforming talk into action.

Totara Health has clinics in Hastings and Flaxmere. Dr Howard Dickson is the managing director. Totara’s practice, which has a huge Māori and Pasifika customer base, recently rolled out free GP visits for women aged 30 and under, funded from their partners’ profits.

“We have to find every avenue we can to support our customers within the resources available to us, and the amount of resourcing available to us is determined by someone else.”

From boots-on-the-ground experience, they’ve identified a need in the community - young women - and decided to do something about it themselves. “This particular group needs help and we’re going to give it to them. It’s our contribution to women and their children.”

They’re also expanding what they offer on-site to include mental health services, ensuring referrals are comprehensively followed-up and acted on.

“If we can take someone by the hand to somebody else who can best

support the customer within an environment they are used to, that must have some degree of comfort for them, because they come.”

Totara Health too has learned a lot from Alaska’s Nuka model, chiefly a shift in the doctor-patient power dynamic. It’s evident in how Dickson refers to ‘patients’ as ‘customers’, is engaged in on-going community consultation, and values the creation of trust relationships.

This is a central message of the DHB report, but one he is sceptical can be achieved on the scale required with the resources available.

“Building those relationships takes time ... more time than is allocated under the current funding system,” explains Dickson. “We’d be delighted to provide that kind of service if someone would fund us to do it. We’ve asked, but it hasn’t happened.”

Totara Health is encouraging a greater sense of belonging by actively increasing the number of Māori and Pasifika on the other side of the counter. One doctor is Māori and a third of the staff is Māori or Pasifika. Dickson has found that creating a culturally inviting workplace with a critical mass is key. “Once we got enough Māori and Pasifika people working in the place it almost becomes self-generating,” he explains. “It took a while for the momentum to arrive but now it’s there.”

By comparison, the DHB employs just 15% Māori and 1.5% Pasifika - far from the regional population mix of 24% and 4.5% respectively. The DHB has not yet reached its target of increasing its Māori workforce by 10% annually until it falls in line with the community.

At Flaxmere’s Kimi Ora Community School, principal Matt O’Dowda is also taking a hands-on approach to making change. Tired of trying to teach

unfit and undernourished children, he instigated a health and wellbeing regime at his school consisting of physical fitness every morning, a family-inclusive free breakfast programme, and a lunch scheme costing parents a dollar a day.

“It doesn’t really matter how good your education has been if you’re dead by the time you’re 25. We feel a massive responsibility for that and it forms a huge part of our curriculum,” says O’Dowda.

Fresh vegetables come from the school garden in which the children work and learn. He’s also instated compulsory classes on nutrition and wellness, and children take learnings home, creating change from the bottom up.

O’Dowda has invested in growing the school as a community hub: the marae is on site, and they have a weekly visit from a public health nurse. Barriers to accessing health services are rife in his community, including transport issues, large families, parents working multiple jobs (and therefore unable to make or meet appointments), and new arrivals to New Zealand unsure of how to navigate services.

“We need to be making things more accessible. School is the obvious place, parents all come, they know people, so if we can have those services based in school that would be much easier.”

O’Dowda sees the compounding effects of poverty on families.

“Poverty and housing are all linked: Fourteen people living in a two-bedroomed cold state house. Any time you’ve got that many people living in close quarters it’s going to cause issues,” he says. “Throw on top of that struggles with money ... it doesn’t matter who you are, that stuff causes massive amounts of stress.”

The knock-on effects are domestic violence, mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, much of what makes up the DHB Report’s ‘failure list’. O’Dowda



**“There’s no quick fix. It’s about building the systems, building the processes, changing the way we’re working, changing the way we’re making decisions so we’re actually going to prioritise the things that will address equity.”**

DR NICHOLAS JONES, DHB  
CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY

knows change can only be effected long term, but is frustrated by a funding model that favours acute cases.

“We can’t keep throwing money at the end result trying to fix people once they’ve fallen over. But it’s really hard to get money up front to get preventative programmes established,” he explains.

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Kimi Ora Community School

### A Māori view

Beverly Te Huia is a midwife by training and helped establish Choices Kahungunu Health Services. She's a health advisor working throughout New Zealand as well as overseas. She sits on the board of the Te Pitau Alliance, where presumably she's in a position to help drive change.

She has links back fifteen generations in Hawke's Bay, a lineage devoted to healing, from traditional tapuhi to nurses and midwives. She blends hands-on healthcare with research, both within the existing conventional healthcare system and as part of a hapū who have retained lands and culture.

"It's very difficult to walk in two worlds all the time. More important than the Treaty is whakawhanaungatanga ... being a society or community ... if someone is suffering we're all suffering."

"We continue on a daily basis to be colonised ... if you're forced to live with that same partner who continues to traumatise you, you build some kind of resistance: cynicism, critical thinking, a way to cope ... it's lived out in how we live today as Māori."

Te Huia supports the conclusions of the Equity Report: to listen to disenfranchised communities and partner

with Māori and Pasifika leaders; and to change the current system to address institutional racism and shift to a whānau-centric model for all.

But experience makes her question whether any more than lip service will be paid to power sharing. "You can only have a partnership when there's no power imbalance. There's a complete power imbalance in this system and Māori don't have it."

Her frustration is compounded by frequent changes in policy, with successive governments shifting the goalposts before change can be actioned and rolled out. For her, the Report displays "a paternalistic view", potentially adding to the issues rather than mitigating them.

"What Māori have been consistently trying to do for the last 180 years is do it for ourselves."

Whereas Alaska's Nuka model has federal funding allocated directly to the people, without caveats, conditions or political interference, the DHB is trying - with all good intention - to replicate that philosophy while still holding the purse strings.

She believes that if the DHB were serious about replicating the successes of Nuka they would lock in a funding stream directly to hapū groups

independent of the DHB.

"The system has disabled us instead of enabling us," believes Te Huia. "If we were enabled to do what we wanted to do for Hauora Māori it would trickle down to everyone. We would create a healthcare model that would be good for everyone."

So, after yet another reminder report on health inequity in Hawke's Bay, will effective change occur in how health services are delivered to our neediest populations? To the cynics, the answer is simple: good intentions aside, follow the money.

On that point Te Pitau chair Bayden Barber gets the final word, noting that as much as \$50 million of PHO dollars and \$250 million of annual DHB funding could be re-directed. The Alliance will "have to make some hard calls regarding how primary and community services are delivered and where they are delivered, with a general intention of moving them closer to the community. In the past the politics of making such moves has often been a barrier too hard to crack. We think that broadening the conversation to include the PHO, Consumer council, Ngāti Kahungunu etc., will help to initiate the action required."

Stay tuned! ●



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A man with short grey hair, wearing a dark t-shirt and shorts, is sitting on a mossy log in a dense forest. He is looking upwards towards the tall, thin trees. The forest floor is covered in ferns and other green plants. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the ground.

**The Kahikatea  
are Dying**  
Kahikatea,  
New Zealand's  
tallest tree,  
dates back to  
the Jurassic  
period  
and once  
dominated the  
forests that  
covered much  
of our swampy  
lowlands ... in  
other words,  
our richest,  
fertile soils.



**Story by Bridget Freeman-Rock.  
Photos by Florence Charvin.  
Ravaged by fire in pre-European  
times, destroyed wholesale  
in the colonial rush to convert  
'wasteland' into productive farms,  
and turned into butter boxes to  
ship refrigerated dairy to the  
Motherland, less than 2% of these  
primordial forests survived the  
last century.**

In Hawke's Bay's last remnant of alluvial kahikatea forest, near Onga Onga beside the Tukituki River, the trees are dying. One hypothesis is that they're a casualty of large-scale irrigation, and the lowering of the artesian water table. But there are other factors too: neglect, exposure, climate change.

I meet with Clint Deckard at 'White Pines' bordering the Inglis Bush Scenic Reserve, a rectangular 20-ha block surrounded by farmland in the Ashley Clinton district. If you haven't heard of it, it's probably because there are no tracks or facilities and public access stops short before a tangle of blackberry and a steep prickly drop into a swath of crack willow. Any feasible entry requires prior permission to cross private land.

Originally from Australia, Clint's lived in the area for some 25 years; his wife, Ngai, is a descendant of one of the earliest farming families here, the A'Deanes of Ashcott Station. But it was not until they moved back into the family home 3-4 years ago that Clint began to fully appreciate what was on their doorstep.

The motivation was a tree-planting day at popular A'Deanes Bush reserve up the road, which has concerted restoration and predator programmes. He was astonished by the birdlife in contrast to the almost-silence at Inglis, save for the possums "we could hear every night". "So, time to get stuck into it," he thought, and started laying traps. He caught 142 possums in that first two months, bought himself a bat detector and at the end of 2017 set up the Inglis Bush Community Trust.

From a garden seat on the Deckard's lawn we survey the reserve: a small wetland ringed by ti kouka in the foreground, to the west the dense dark green of mature forest beyond the willow, to the south-east edge the younger forest regeneration Clint will later walk me through, guarded by thick buff totara and marked by a skyline of scraggly kahikatea crowns.

Along with giant forest specimen like a 450-year-old matai, and the buttressed, intertwined roots of

kahikatea, the reserve is home to a population of thumb-sized long-tailed bat (pekapeka), NZ's only native mammal and critically endangered. Spotless crake, "an elusive wetland bird", also on the critical list, have been sighted.

#### **Diminishing water**

Once part of Inglis Farm, the remnant forest was purchased in 1979 by the Crown Lands and Survey department, given scenic reserve status around 1984 and placed under the auspices of the Department of Conservation. By the early 1990s, local Forest & Bird members noted a significant decline in the health of the kahikatea, coinciding with the drying up of local springs and disappearing wetlands, and the uptake of large-scale agricultural irrigation.

An open intake drain from the Tukituki River, which cuts through the reserve, had been created in the 1950s to supply water to 12 farms; in 1987 a deeper gallery was constructed, inadvertently affecting the groundwater levels on the adjacent flats and draining the wetlands within the reserve. While rectifying measures were made, the open water race (which no longer fills from the Tukituki itself or is now even drawn upon) continues to siphon water away from the visibly struggling kahikatea in the south-east corner of the reserve, as it flows out of Deckard's farm holding.

**"Inglis Bush exists because of the springs – these are wetland kahikatea – and those springs are the most sensitive to the change in the water table. That's the crux: the source of water has diminished dramatically."**

CLINT DECKARD, LANDOWNER AND CONSERVATIONIST

More worrying, however, was the decrease in water feeding into the reserve as a whole. A 1996 Landcare Report observed: "The Reserve should be regarded as having as much right to water as any other land use or user. At present, increased agricultural use is already seen to be prejudicing the Reserve, as manifest in the failure of the seepage springs."

The report recommended



**CHB District Council owns 5.6 ha on the north-west boundary of Inglis Bush – currently leased to a dairy farmer. Clint would love to see that reforested, as recommended in the DOC Restoration Plan for Inglis Bush (Nov 2017), and is petitioning council to take up the cause, or transfer the lease to the Inglis Bush Trust.**

compensating for water lost to the reserve through extraction by irrigating the reserve from upstream river takes (at 10 litres per second), or alternatively incorporating this measure into minimum flows for the Tukituki at the Hwy 50 Bridge.

The recommendation was never acted upon, although the other suggestions were, such as monitoring water levels in the water race. Clint says he's found the pipe trail of monitoring sites but the area's now completely dry, no longer a water way at all.

Over the last two decades since the report, with irrigation dairying has increased dramatically - "There are now thousands of hectares of dairying in the old riverbed and only a handful of sheep-farmers left ... It's hard to think that it's not having an effect."

From 3 million cubic metres in 1990, consents to extract water from the

Ruataniwha aquifer for irrigation rose to the present 28.5 million figure, with a further 15 million applied for under the Tranche 2 provision in Plan Change 6.

More and more trees are dying, says Clint, "With every storm we lose another". The view from his window shows a thinning canopy. Certainly, as he sees it, taking a further 1 million cubic metres of water per year from an already over-allocated aquifer (as applied for by neighbouring farms under Tranche 2) "won't help" the situation.

CHB District Council owns 5.6 ha on the north-west boundary of Inglis Bush - currently leased to a dairy farmer. Clint would love to see that reforested, as recommended in the DOC Restoration Plan for Inglis Bush (Nov 2017), and is petitioning council to take up the cause, or transfer the lease to the Inglis Bush Trust.

Having trees around the reserve would afford it more protection. To this

end he is gradually retiring his own paddocks around the south-east boundary which backs down to the Tukituki, with the intention to replant with seedlings eco-sourced from the area.

"I understand the regional council is looking for river spots for planting; I hope they'll come on board, providing the buffer."

#### **Tukituki Water Taskforce**

The regional council set up a Tukituki Water Taskforce last September, which aims to come up with "a beefed-up Ruataniwha Groundwater Plan", says HBRC's principal hydrologist Jeff Smith, now that the dam is off the table and contention around the allocation of a finite resource has sharpened.

"We don't want to rush into short-term fixes," says Smith. "It's more efficient and effective that we evaluate all the problems, and ideally find the solution for everyone." And while localised solutions to local variability within the Ruataniwha Basin may be required - he says the original 1996 proposal to augment water flow into Inglis Bush is "definitely a consideration ... we're working to find an overall strategy".

Tranche 2 was imposed by the Board of Inquiry as part of a "contestable process", explains Smith. There's always a winner and a loser in such processes; "sometimes everyone loses out ... That's why we're having to revisit Plan Change 6."

"Through our modelling, it's very clear that the groundwater abstraction is having an impact on stream flows." But he's hesitant to draw any correlation to dying trees. With Inglis Bush, "we need to investigate the cause". That agricultural irrigation (through lowering the water table) is impacting the reserve is not conclusive, he says,

but rather “informed speculation”.

HBRC is preparing comprehensive groundwater and surface-water models, as with the Heretaunga Plains, which will enable better understanding of the dynamic.

### Priorities

Hawke’s Bay has one of the most diverse range of ecosystems in the country, with 59 different ecosystems, but it’s also one of our most denuded regions, having lost most of its vegetation (90%) and wetlands (98%) since human settlement. Only fragments remain.

Inglis together with A’Deanes Bush (the 40-ha reserve 3km further west on the Tukipo River, home to the largest totara in the North Island) make up an Ecological Management Unit under DOC’s Nature Heritage Management System, and as such are deemed “a high priority for protection”. But what strikes me is that without individuals like Clint, who actively, boots-and-all, cherish this heritage, nothing much would be happening.

Kay Griffiths, a former DOC ranger and programme manager, is now project coordinator for the restoration of A’Deanes Bush under her own business, The Conservation Company. She concedes work on the ground itself has

been more or less left to philanthropic and community initiatives. The work at A’Deanes, for instance, is privately funded by a generous benefactor and locally supported by the community and Sherwood School.

“As DOC has been more and more squeezed, with restructure after restructure, lots of small places have fallen off their priority lists.” DOC’s Onga Onga Field Station used to have 4-5 permanent staff, as well as temporary staff during peak times, but with funding slashed and management roles prioritised under the previous National Government, DOC was shrunk to one centralised Napier office, meaning no one on the ground in CHB. “And if you don’t have local people pushing the issues,” says Kay, they get forgotten or submerged in the bigger scheme of things.

### Conservation challenges

In these so-called ‘Tukituki remnants’, all the big trees are between 400-600 years old. Kay points out, they are coming to the end of their lifespan anyway so are much more vulnerable to climate change. These are not untouched forests either, logs have been taken out, so they’re “missing age classes”, with not much between the

ancients and the young 100-year-olds. “Whether a forest functions or not also depends on its spread of age-classes, otherwise when the big ones then go, you get canopy collapse.”

Pests are a major impediment. In the Ruataniwha area, deer browse. While deer are often viewed by the wider public as a resource rather than a pest, “the damage they do is unreal,” says Kay. “They take the whole layer of the next generation out.”

While these are relatively small remnants (down nearby Gwavas Road there’s the largest podocarp forest remnant in HB, Puahanui, at 130ha), if you compare them to the QEII covenants on private land, which average 4 ha and in isolation are incredibly vulnerable, says Kay, they are still sizable.

They could be included within HBRC’s afforestation plans, she suggests. With reforestation, the easiest way is to join existing areas up, so the new trees benefit from an established forest ecosystem. “We have lots of little remnants down here in CHB; it’s definitely an area worth considering.”

Riflemen (NZ’s smallest endemic bird and nationally at risk) were introduced back into A’Deanes Bush five years ago, but Kay says it’s “not looking flash” - there are individuals but no



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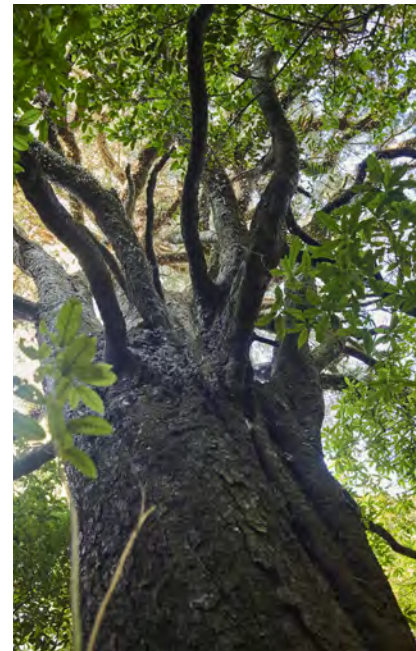
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**“We need to start protecting such sites, to secure them from going extinct because once they’re gone, they’re gone, we can’t recreate them.”**

MARK MITCHELL, HBRC’S BIODIVERSITY TEAM LEADER



families, which suggests that to thrive they need a larger (forested and predator-free) area.

**Once they’re gone, they’re gone**

Mark Mitchell, HBRC’s biodiversity team leader, says “little gems” like A’Deanes and Inglis Bush are hugely important; they show us how the landscape once looked and provide valuable data as well as habitat.

The regional council, together with DOC and ecologists from across Hawke’s Bay, is compiling an ecosystem priorities list for the region as part of its Biodiversity Strategy Plan - so far over 900 potential sites have been identified, each needing active management and work. A finalised list will

be released later this year. It’s not of itself an on-ground strategy, explains Mitchell, but “a way of elevating the importance of these remnants” and will help direct future efforts.

We can plant trees all we like, he says, but we can’t recreate the forests with their root-zone and fungi networks that have evolved over hundreds of years. As science is increasingly discovering, a forest is not just a stand of trees, but a complex ecological community.

At this stage, Mitchell can’t say whether Inglis Bush will be on HBRC’s ecosystem priorities list or not.

At this stage, the outcome of Tranche 2 consent applications, recommendations from the Tukituki Water

Taskforce and how the rights of trees will be included in the Ruataniwha Groundwater Plan are unknowns.

At this stage, with climate change in the mix, potential canopy collapse ahead, and a national decline in forest health, the long-term future of Inglis Bush looks fairly bleak.

But meantime Clint Deckard is learning about seed collecting and propagation. He’s continuing to actively monitor the Reserve and to lay and check traps on a weekly basis. He’s continuing to vocally advocate for the kahikatea. Clint has never thought of himself as a greenie, but he loves this piece of bush and will do everything he can to give them a chance. ●



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The average online purchase was \$109 per customer and \$2,350 over a year. Nearly half of online sales (47%) were with international sites; an increase of 23%, while local revenues grew 9% over 2016, ten times the rate of 'bricks and mortar' sales.

# Digital Consumer Courtship

Story by Keith Newman

Our love affair with online purchasing is intensifying as ecommerce becomes more sophisticated, personalised and persistent, with offshore and local suitors ramping up their seductive tactics to gain our lucre and loyalty.

Like something out of the *Minority Report* movie, smart techniques and tools are mining our data, tracking us on social media and targeting us with a wide variety of enticing goods and services at hard-to-believe prices.

Although Westpac suggests economic confidence in Hawke's Bay is currently the highest in the country, market researchers suggest retailers need to review the performance and the value delivered from their online shopfronts as technology and buying habits shift.

Among the international Lotharios are eBay, Etsy, JD.com, Kogan.com, Asian-based Alibaba, Wish, Banggood, Airbnb, Facebook, Book Depository and of course its owner Amazon.

There's no question New Zealanders are getting the hang of digital shopping. Nielson Media reports that in the year to May 2018 two-thirds of us had made online purchases, up 37% from 2006 with an expectation that'll reach 83% by 2026.

Clicking 'add' to the shopping basket when finding affordable, well-described, sought-after bargains can be an intoxicating experience.

As my adult daughter reminded me on one such spending spree, "Dad, those items are probably made by some poor person that gets paid a pittance in a sweat shop." She appealed to my social conscience.

## Smartphones or tablets are used by three out of every five New Zealanders for shopping research with four in five going on to purchase items in-store.

NIELSON, CONNECTED CONSUMERS REPORT

It was easy to shut down the shoddily made shirts or machine moulded shoes with the chemical smell; not so much the amazing selection of lower cost books and occasional electronic items ... my \$120 stereo amplifier (local equivalent \$NZ300 plus) arrived within seven days.

The march of ecommerce has traditional retailing in a spin with price conscious Kiwis having greater expectations, leaving many bricks and mortar outlets struggling to get enough buyers through the door.

In a 2018 report, Retail NZ's chief executive Scott Fisher said the sector was under "substantial and sustained pressure" with 42% failing to hit sales targets, part of a general trend of underperforming.

Spending in the "low net margin" environment was almost static; then there was growing crime and in-store aggression with owner-operators often struggling for a minimum wage equivalent.

Their prime challenge is the internet and whether to view it with jealousy or as a friend with benefits. Annual online transactions are growing between 7-11% annually with strong evidence

many are using the internet to research and compare product before purchasing in-store.

According to BNZ, New Zealand's annual retail spend was \$49 billion (2017-2018 year) with online spending at \$4.2 billion ... about 10%. That compares well with the 2018 New Zealand Post eCommerce Review asserting \$3.6 billion online in 2017, up 13%.

The average purchase was \$109 per customer and \$2,350 over a year. Nearly half of online sales (47%) were with international sites; an increase of 23%, while local revenues grew 9% over 2016, ten times the rate of 'bricks and mortar' sales.

NZ Post says that men shopped online less often but spent more. Biggest spenders were rural online shoppers and the fastest growing were the regions, up 15% compared to a 13% national average.

Hawke's Bay spent \$113 million (up 17%) with purchases averaging \$108.

Over the critical Christmas period, November-December 2018, Paymark, which handles eftpos transactions for over 80,000 Kiwi businesses, says we spent \$11.4 billion, an increase of 2.7% on 2017.



Photo: Tom Allan

**Airbnb and Facebook ... have set a new bar for user experience. Any website is now competing with them ... if the user experience is poor it's going to be noticed.**

BRENDAN FRY,  
NOW MARKETING DIRECTOR

While growth in ecommerce sales was a "rapid" 17.8%; it was only 1.8% for physical shop sales.

Darren Hopper, Paymark's head of ecommerce and marketing, blamed the slowdown in volume and value on increased pressure for traditional merchants, widespread discounting and ecommerce.

**First impressions count**

According to Nielsen's *Connected Consumers Report*, smartphones or tablets are used by three out of every five

New Zealanders for shopping research, with four-in-five going on to purchase items in-store.

It says retailers wanting a slice of the e-tail boom need to be aware of how attitudes and behaviours are changing, anticipate the trends of the future and look at ways to make online and physical shopping easier and complementary.

Brendan Fry, marketing director with NOW, agrees, saying technology is always changing and businesses need to innovate to improve their online experience and delivery, adapting to customer needs and changes in the market.

NOW is a case in point; it's just completed a forklift upgrade of its web platform and adopted a more efficient and cost-effective content management system (CMS) that doesn't need a web designer to update.

"The challenge with any digital presence is that you can get left behind if you don't continue to invest. We identified that digital technology and experience design had moved a long way since our last website update."

Rather than just a specialist marketing tool, Fry says the new portal is geared for business and expanding

NOW's penetration beyond Hawke's Bay to consumers wanting advice on a better internet experience whether its video doorbells or help with networking and computers.

He says Google, Airbnb and Facebook, the most popular and visited sites in the world, have set a new bar for user experience. "Any website is now competing with them ... if the user experience is poor it's going to be noticed. A site needs to be enjoyable, easy to use and seen as an integral part of your business and brand."

Whether selling local produce or artisan goods or services, Fry suggests taking inventory of whether the operating platform is fit for purpose and how to add value to attract customers outside of Hawke's Bay or overseas.

"If there's little difference between you and four or ten competitors you need to work out how to diversify and build an experience around your offering so it becomes a longer lasting competitive advantage."

Tony Boyte, director of Nielsen Media, says marketers should provide consumers with one consistent omnichannel experience, optimised across devices, platforms, customer service

**Amazon has warned the new tax could cut the range of products sold here, claiming its “unenforceable and unworkable” and it may take two years to “assess the feasibility”.**

touchpoints, and in-store. “It’s the same shopper; they’re just using a different doorway.”

He says New Zealanders now spend 18 hours a week getting their online digital fix, four hours more than in 2015, with mobile devices now commonplace for 78% of Kiwis, up 12% from 2015.

Boyte says 15-24 year olds stay online over six hours a week longer than the average user.

The market however is volatile and to catch their attention and keep it, as much detail as possible should be provided about products and services including the ability to purchase online.

**Digital globalisation**

Over the past year retailers have expressed concern at the likely impact on online and offline bottom lines if, for example, trillion dollar US company

Amazon opens a local branch. Its local apps now exclude products not available to Kiwis and its looking to expand its presence here, including data hosting. A dozen jobs were offered earlier this year including sales reps, an Amazon Web Services regional sales role, and technology specialists.

Currently New Zealand is prohibited from using Amazon’s Melbourne-based store. Although Kiwi sellers can ship their items via Australia, they can’t yet avoid the high US delivery costs using the same shortcut.

Amazon Prime is seeking greater government incentives to film a *Lord of the Rings* series here and it’s pricking against having to collect GST on goods imported by New Zealanders from its US shopping site.

The so-called ‘Amazon tax’, announced in May last year, is viewed by Government and business as a way to level the ecommerce playing field.

Currently imported goods under \$400 are tax-free, but from October all offshore companies selling goods under \$1,000 will have to collect and pay GST unless they’re selling under \$60,000 of goods annually.

While the new levy will increase prices the Government is also removing tariffs, custom duties and other import fees, making some sub-\$1000 imports cheaper.

Amazon has warned the new tax could cut the range of products sold here, claiming it’s “unenforceable and

unworkable” and it may take two years to “assess the feasibility”.

A joint submission from online marketplaces eBay, Alibaba and Etsy stated the tax was “novel, untested and complex” but they would try and make the investment required.

Revenue minister and Napier MP Stuart Nash has said there will be no backing down – the Government had already factored in an extra \$213 million from the ‘voluntary’ tax over four years in its May Budget.

The collective breath is held over whether the online giants comply or block New Zealand consumers, whether Amazon’s predicted local presence eventuates and, if it does, will it then stop access to its US site as it has in Australia?

Meanwhile the courtship of Kiwi customers continues as we test how stable these long distance ecommerce affairs prove or whether Kiwi e-tailers add value to their online attractiveness, improve their customer relationships and keep a bit more of the love local. ●



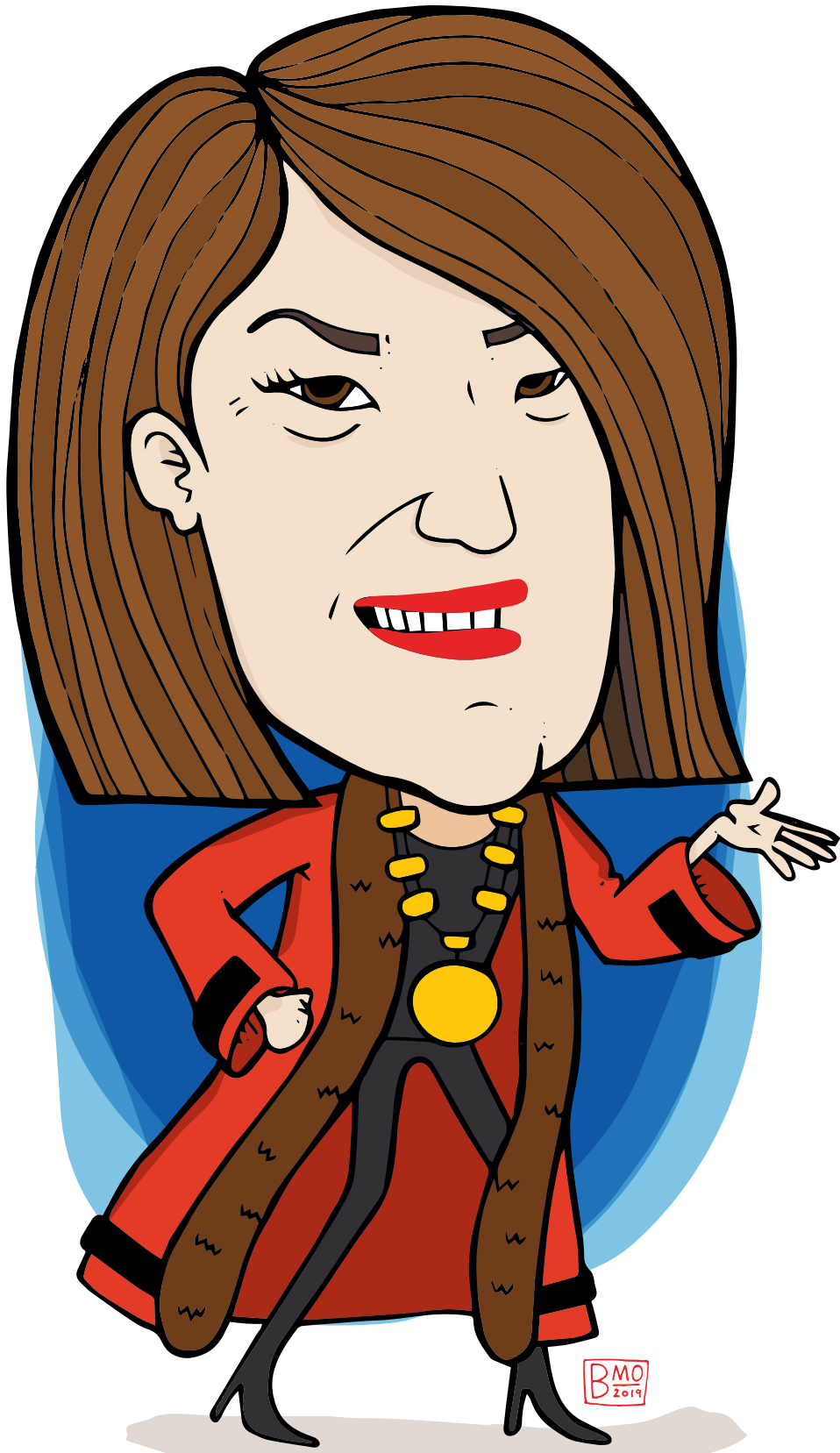
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# Political Update

By Tom Belford

Heaps of political drama is in store for the coming year in Hawke's Bay as we face major developments on key issues ... and of course local body elections.

Also affecting our regional wellbeing will be an array of government initiatives, both programmes and spending decisions. Let's begin with those.

The Government's 800-pound gorilla is the \$3 billion Provincial Growth Fund being doled out by Shane Jones. Anyone in Hawke's Bay can apply, from desperate folks in Central Hawke's Bay trying to resurrect their dam, to iwi, to private businesses, to our five councils.

Lest anyone think there's a regional *strategy* behind the lolly scramble, forget it. Our mayors, Regional Council chairman and CEOs will assert otherwise, but they know it's a joke. Simply a giant logrolling exercise ... 'I'll support your aquarium if you support my tree planting'. The guiding mantra is: "Get in line first, get in line often." Air NZ is mopping up on airfares to Wellington.

I suppose there will be a decent return on that travel investment. Announced PGF allocations so far to Hawke's Bay include youth employment programmes, 3D (LiDAR) land mapping, food innovation hub business case, mānuka planting, Napier-Wairoa rail line repair, pest eradication and rural broadband connectivity.

And as ugly as the process is, whatever dollars Hawke's Bay doesn't get from Minister Jones, some undoubtedly less deserving region will.

Of course other government funding decisions are critical to HB's wellbeing, perhaps the most vital of those involving health care, including mental health support. As other *BayBuzz* articles have pointed out, our region, facing a growing tide of demographic and social stresses, is on the cusp of

**Drawing the most attention will be the mayoral race, where mayor Sandra Hazlehurst, a declared candidate, should carry an upper hand, as long as she can distance herself from every lame action her council bureaucracy seems capable of.**

a health care service delivery breakdown. Transformation in the way services are delivered must occur, and this will stress current funding levels and spending channels.

Policy-wise, government initiatives in areas like freshwater quality, 'three waters' infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater), marine health, afforestation, global warming mitigation and adaptation, and Māori co-governance will also affect plans and decisions our councils make this year.

Our region will simply have to 'roll with the punches' on such matters. I cannot speak for other councils, but with respect to the Regional Council, I can say that our team has been engaging extensively with government policymakers and providing informed leadership.

Government impacts on Hawke's Bay in the coming year aside, here is some council-by-council prognostication on our political future.

## **Regional Council floats shares**

Politically, the bottom line at the Regional Council will be whether a solid majority committed to the strategic priorities of the current councillors is returned to office in October.

It's no secret that a fault line divides councillors Bailey, Barker, Beaven, Belford, Graham and Kirton from councillors Dick, Hewitt and Wilson on many issues. The former have championed a strong environmental re-focusing, with significant additional funding to match; the latter have claimed 'too

much, too fast', if not outright opposition to some initiatives.

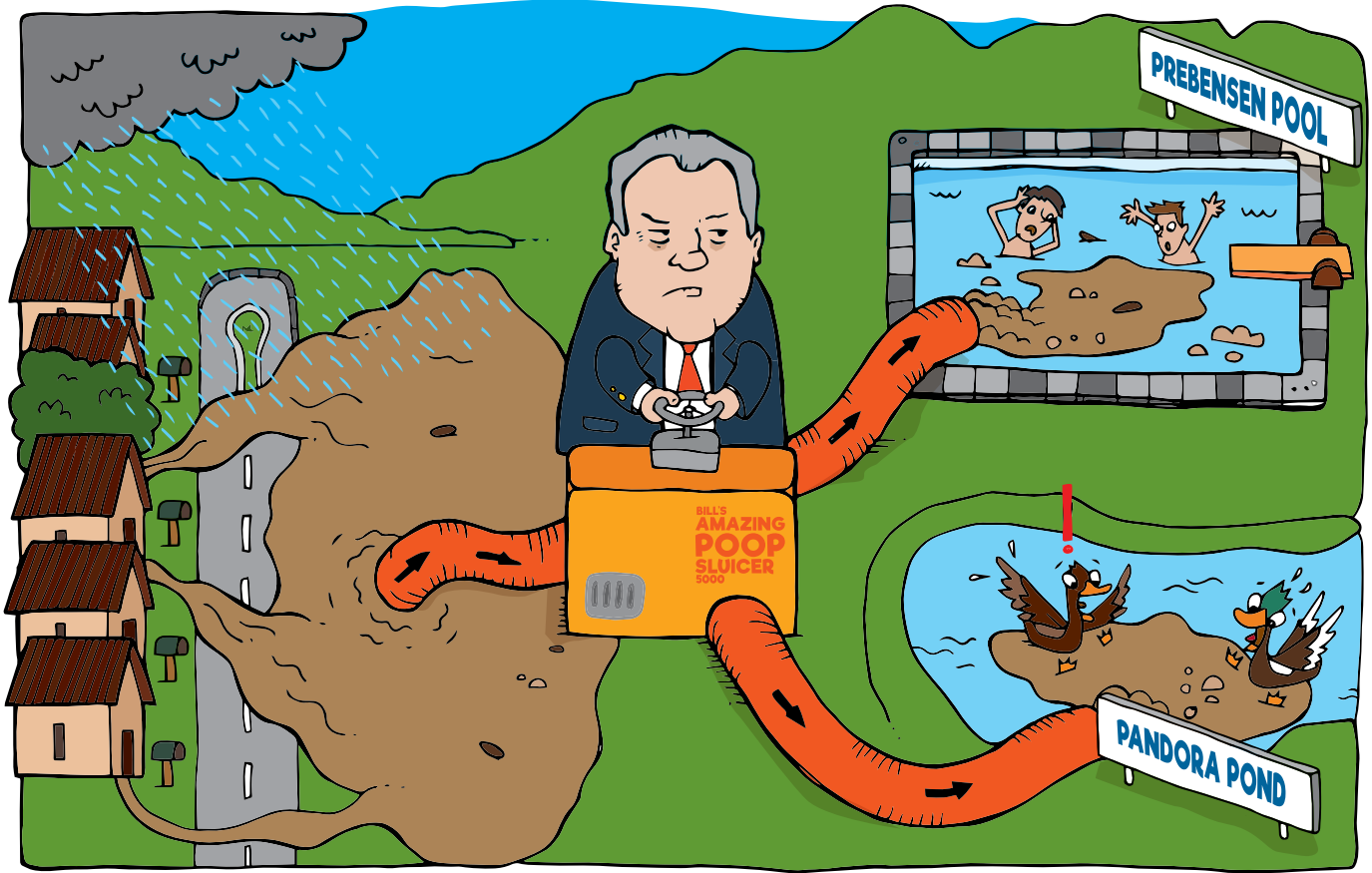
At this point, only councilor Dick has indicated plans to not run again. If frequency of *HB Today* 'Talking Points' is a decent indicator, it would appear attorney Martin Williams is lining up for a re-run at a Napier seat. But an 'open' seat is likely to attract other contenders.

Policy-wise, the huge issue before HBRC is the handling of the Port's needed infrastructure investment, in the context of the Council's long-term revenue requirements.

The Council has signaled its intention to proceed with selling a minority share in the Port, while protecting majority public ownership (via HBRC and its holding company), as well as reserving an initial quantum of shares for Hawke's Bay purchasers.

Preparations for the implementation of this approach is proceeding apace, with a goal of making the share offering in the July/August window. If the sale proceeds as expected, the Regional Council, in addition to growing the Port's capacity, will secure a sizable fund to be conservatively invested (and ring-fenced), with earnings (only) then available for investment in the region's long-term environmental wellbeing.

The other hugely significant Regional Council issue that will land in the public domain this year is the so-called TANK plan for managing water quality and quantity throughout the Heretaunga region. The product of years of science investigation and



interest group negotiation, the plan will be formally notified in coming months, triggering the full RMA process of public submissions, hearings and challenges (if any).

This process will carry beyond the October elections, providing any strenuous opponents an opportunity to take incumbent HBRC candidates to task.

#### HDC felled by trees?

As I write, the chief issues of controversy before HDC - and potential

candidates for that council - would appear to be the fate of several dozen oak trees in Keirunga Gardens, extra cremation charges (\$200 more) for 'heavier' people (weighing more than 150kg), and lingering rancor over ratepayer monies being spent bailing out of the Te Mata Peak track debacle.

Thus are the issues of local politics. Apart from the underlying merits (either way) on such issues, their unifying thread appears to be a strong visceral reaction about process: "How did

this happen? Who made this decision? Why weren't we consulted?"

Nothing offends ratepayers more than bad process (as NCC councillors have also discovered lately), whether the stakes are huge or more confined. Thousands sign petitions and the battle escalates. Fresh candidacies are born on the back of such upsets.

But is there a 'deciding' issue around which Hastings voters might mobilise to seriously rattle the cages of incumbent councillors? My sense is no, not



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unless HDC falls glaringly short on delivering the goods in terms of providing safe, reliable drinking water to all its urban constituents.

So far, there's no sign of any Hastings incumbents not running for re-election, making it very difficult for fresh faces to break in.

Drawing the most attention will be the mayoral race, where mayor Sandra Hazlehurst, a declared candidate, should carry an upper hand, as long as she can distance herself from every lame action her council bureaucracy seems capable of. The six months between March and October provide countless opportunities for *HB Today* photos of the personable mayor presiding over ribbon-cuttings, unveilings, award presentations and other feel-good events.

Will she face opposition? A few Hastings councillors have harbored mayoral ambitions - Simon Nixon, Bayden Barber and Damon Harvey. Someone should challenge Sandra Hazlehurst, if only to ensure that issues deserving of robust debate receive due attention. However, as mayor Yule demonstrated in his most recent outings, an incumbent facing more than one opponent in a mayoral campaign has a lock on re-election.

#### Will NCC fiddle on?

In Napier also, the mayoral race should steal the show. So far, only councillor Kirsten Wise has raised her hand to contest for the seat Bill Dalton is vacating. That's an upsetting thought to mayor Dalton, who has opined that he would like to see a candidate arise from the 'business community' - i.e., anyone other than Kirsten!

With the mayor's seat open, surely other candidates will appear in due course.

The only issue for Napier's mayoral and council candidates will be how far do they try to distance themselves from the Dalton regime record! Most incumbent councillors have slavishly followed the Bill Dalton-Wayne Jack line on all issues, from War Memorial to velodrome to swimming pool to aquarium to repeated contamination of the Ahuriri Estuary.

Surely the most miserable job in the NCC bureaucracy must be the job of predicting the rain! For when it rains, Napier's cosmetic make-up runs.

Napier's decrepit water infrastructure should be an embarrassment to all Napier residents, if not their elected representatives. Substantial funding was provided in NCC's recent

long-term plan to begin repairs and improvements that should have begun a decade ago. But even while the overdue repairs slowly begin, council is happy to approve more building and sub-division that will add even more stress to the over-strained systems.

And so Napier's environment - and specifically the Ahuriri Estuary - will suffer indefinitely.

Half the NCC councillors - Tony Jeffery, Kirsten Wise, Larry Dallimore, Maxine Boag, Api Tapine, Richard McGrath - eventually challenged the party line on the Prebensen pool issue, but it's yet unclear whether they represent a force for some vision for Napier City other than beautifying Marine Parade and welcoming cruise ships. Indeed, the rumour mill hints that Jeffery and Dallimore from this group might not stand again, with councillor Claire Hague also departing.

The stunning year-over-year success of Art Deco Week demonstrates that many Napier residents swoon over the theatrical, so maybe a good costume and a good show is all that's required of Napier elected officials.

#### On the fringes

In Central Hawke's Bay, in the coming year much hand-wringing over failed wastewater treatment efforts and a failed dam scheme will need - finally - to translate into tangible actions.

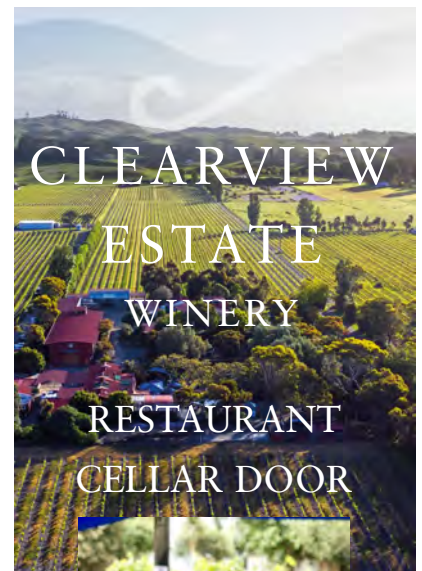
A final report (with recommended solution) is due to the Environment Court in June with respect to wastewater treatment, a dozen years after environmentalists first blew the whistle on CHB plants polluting the Tukituki. Twelve years have gone by!

And with Plan Change 6 taking hold, farmers must begin implementing their required farm plans, which will test the efficacy of PC6 in meeting water quality goals affected by land use.

Still, there shouldn't be much political drama in CHB ... mayor Alex Walker seems well and firmly in charge.

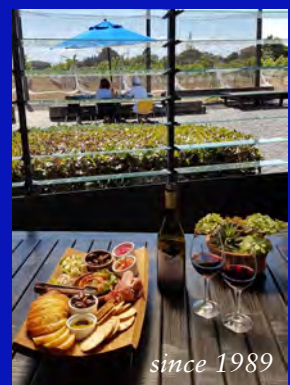
Up in Wairoa, trees will be the emerging issue this year, with HBRC's soil erosion control (tree planting) programme targeting the region, in the face of commercial logging that will steadily increase. Meanwhile predator control and rocket launches will be the priorities in Mahia, while the Wairoa District Council must seek a renewed resource consent this year for its wastewater treatment discharge into the Wairoa River.

Yep, an exciting year ahead ... on all fronts. Stay tuned! ●






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IDEAS AND OPINION  
PAUL PAYNTER

## Plastic ... No Quick Fix

Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane.

Go on, have another crack at it. In a world frustratingly awash with acronyms, we can at least recognise this one - DDT, that brutally toxic and offensively long-lived organochlorine pesticide used most widely in the 50s and 60s.

Like many new discoveries, DDT was initially embraced with great enthusiasm. Swiss chemist Pauly Mueller actually won the Nobel Prize for discovering its applications.

Over time we worked out DDT had horrendous environmental effects and major human health implications. It wasn't banned initially, but became politically and socially unpopular and its use declined quite rapidly. This was seen by all as a great triumph, likely preventing the premature deaths of many thousands of humans and other species.

The only problem was that phasing it out caused the premature deaths of many thousands of people. You see, one of the most important uses of DDT was as a residual insecticide used to control mosquitos and louse, respectively vectors for malaria and typhus. It turns that Mueller really did deserve the Nobel prize and probably saved millions of lives.

The day we stopped using DDT to control disease, we ended up with some serious unintended consequences - the negative repercussions of seemingly positive changes. The lesson here is not to get rid of a bad solution until you're sure you have a better one.

### As for plastic

This relates to the current war on plastic. We've recently seen the demise of single-use plastic bags. There seems no end to the back-slapping satisfaction of getting rid of these hideous pollutants. No doubt it's a good idea, but I fear the superior alternative is proving elusive.

Firstly it's worth pointing out that a number of authorities have stated

**I doubt that our best and brightest are enamoured with the prospect of developing a well-priced, environmentally-sustainable rubbish bin liner, but they should dust off a Nobel prize for the person who does it.**

that the scourge of plastic in oceans generally doesn't come from NZ. While a walk along our waterways demonstrates we have some irresponsible citizens, generally we have a first world landfill system that centralises and contains waste extremely well.

Here in NZ I'm left frustrated by some of these reusable shopping bags. Somehow I've acquired some plastic ones, which have about 40 times as much plastic in them than the supermarket bags. 'At least I'll be in the environmental black on use 41', I thought, imagining that the durable nature of PVC would see them last for years ... until the handle broke off one of them on the second use. It didn't appear recyclable, so into the wheely bin and off to the landfill, seriously denting my environmental aspirations.

I see some good alternatives of late, which seem to be holding up OK. Still, questions must be asked. One of the early movers were the hemp bags and what could be greener than hemp? The only problem is they are very pasty, likely bleached with dioxin, which is dumped in a river somewhere in Asia. I'd like to see a little tag on them explaining how wonderfully sustainable they are, but I bet no one has done any digging there.

My big problem with banning supermarket plastic bags is the premise that they were 'single use'. Every person I

know uses the 'single use' supermarket bags as rubbish bin liners, bags for hiking boots, children's toys, nappy bags while on the road, or whatever.

### Getting to the bottom

Recently our stock of these shopping bags was running low and the first box of bin liners appeared. Ooh, they are nice - a big step up in quality and don't leak like the supermarket ones. But they looked like they might have more plastic in them than the supermarket bags.

Tedious as my life is, I got out the 'drug dealer' scales and set up a Saturday afternoon Weight Watchers session for plastic bags. I was right! The new bin liners weigh almost 30% more than the supermarket bags. I quickly rushed out to buy the lightest, lamest bin liners I could find. To my horror, these were still 12% heavier than the old supermarket ones.

Taking an average of all the bags I had on hand, I suspect my household may now have 20% more plastic heading to the landfill, and we may one day be told that 20% more dolphins suffer as microscopic pieces of plastic cascade through their digestive tracts.

To really deal the deal on environmental progress we need a truly biodegradable bin liner.

Paper ones will leak and fall apart, unless they're coated with wax or plastic. There *are* biodegradable plastics, but most need a 60C industrial composter to do the job. I'm not aware we have one of these in New Zealand.

These 'biodegradable' plastics have two other problems. Firstly, they actually have a higher carbon footprint than petrochemical bags, as agricultural production uses more energy than simply extracting oil from the ground. Secondly, they are made from food staples like corn and the increased demand for these can force the price of corn up, making it unaffordable for some in the third world.



**“The new bin liners weigh almost 30% more than the supermarket bags. I quickly rushed out to buy the lightest, lamest bin liners I could find. To my horror, these were still 12% heavier than the old supermarket ones.”**

PAUL PAYNTER

This phenomenon was well-documented during the biofuels surge a decade ago.

All this is frustratingly complicated, and you and I shouldn't be left to work it out by ourselves. Somewhere out there are people who can do the analysis, build models and find solutions that represent genuine progress. I doubt that our best and brightest are enamoured with the prospect of developing a well-priced, environmentally-sustainable rubbish bin liner, but they should dust off a Nobel prize for the person who does it.

### Winning the war

I'm not joking about how challenging this task is. The low cost of plastic is mainly driven by the relatively low amount of energy used in its production. Even a simple paper bag has a higher carbon footprint than a plastic alternative. Firstly you have to cut down the carbon-friendly tree and then throw a great deal of energy into hauling it out of the wilderness and beating it to a pulp before you even have a raw material with which to form your bag.

The responsibility for coming up with solutions falls to academia, government

and the press - all of which have kept a too low profile on the complexities of the single-use plastic bag issue.

That should have started by gathering some data on what happens to single-use plastic bags, how many are subsequently re-used and what solutions people would seek if this 'single-use' bag source was terminated. I am yet to see any information whatsoever about whether banning them has been beneficial or detrimental to the environment. The only way to avoid the issue of unintended consequences is to rigorously and objectively assess the implications of policy initiatives.

As far as plastic is concerned, I fear the current war can't be won - that is, we won't be able to eliminate it entirely. Plastic is cheap, water and odour resistant, durable, light - a very attractive product in many ways. Your smoked salmon, bacon and milk come almost exclusively in plastic and that won't change any time soon.

What we need are domestic recyclers and they do exist. Flight Plastics in Lower Hutt opened our first domestic recycling facility for PET a couple of years ago. PET is one of the few plastics, sadly, where there is a private sector

economic case for recycling. For many of the soft plastics, we've been shipping offshore ... there is no ready solution.

In cases such as this, it would be great to see the government incentivise, subsidise or otherwise facilitate recycling facilities. What these facilities need to be viable is critical mass. If the war on plastic cuts the volumes by 50%, all that might achieve is to kill off recycling as a viable option.

Perhaps the light at the end of the tunnel are the new generation of Pauly Muellers, who are developing plastics made from waste agricultural products. All those waste apples and grape skins Hawke's Bay produces could be the base on which an alternative plastics industry could be born. So perhaps putting all our resources into getting there might be the best approach, even if it takes a while.

What is certain is that green initiatives driven by superficiality and populism won't get us far. Much deeper thinking and analysis is required. ●

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



IDEAS AND OPINION  
TOM BELFORD

# Mental health system fails stress test

Last year, a report from the OECD offered a sobering assessment of New Zealand's mental health situation, looking chiefly through the lens of its impact on work and productivity.

It observed that poor mental health costs the NZ economy some 4-5% of GDP every year through lost labour productivity, increased healthcare expenditure and social spending on people temporarily or permanently out of work.

New Zealand was given some kudos, including for its mental health awareness campaigns and some innovative pilot programmes, but the report was largely critical.

NZ's youth suicide rate - more than twice the OECD average - was noted, as was an overall failure for promising pilot efforts to be adequately funded and rolled out, absent linkages amongst the wide range of services and institutions involved, and under-investment, especially at the primary care level.

The report credited sound policy thinking, but observed that this had not yet translated into *better outcomes* for affected populations.

With this stage set, NZ released its own comprehensive assessment in November - the *Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction*.

The Inquiry, chaired by Professor Ron Paterson, was a massive undertaking, including over 5,200 submissions; over 400 meetings with members of the public, health and other service providers, iwi and kaupapa Māori providers, NGOs, researchers and other experts; and heaps of literature and overseas practice review.

What exactly was the Inquiry looking at?

It defined "mental health" as "a state...in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope

with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community". And further defined "distress" as encompassing "mental illness, people who are seriously upset, and people who are reacting normally to a stressful situation such as bereavement."

The Inquiry was very emphatic that its review covered the full range of mental wellbeing from mental distress to enduring psychiatric illness and addictions.

Their approach is critical, because the most important conclusion of the Report relates to a very deliberate policy choice, made in the aftermath of de-institutionalising policies of the 1990s, to focus the vast preponderance of public mental health spending on a targeted 3% of the population - those with the most clinically severe mental illness.

## 'Missing middle'

Where that prioritisation brought us in 2016/17 is that the public sector spent \$1.4b on mental health, with \$1.35b ring fenced for those with the most severe challenges. DHBs are told by the Ministry of Health that they must provide mental health care to the 3% who are most severely ill in a given year. Nationwide, currently 3.7% access such specialist services.

Only after they are cared for can any 'leftover' funds be devoted to others who are 'merely' mentally distressed.

That leaves about \$30m of public health funding for people with mild to moderate, or moderate to severe needs - covering things like counseling sessions and extended GP visits, and tightly targeted on the young, Māori and Pasifika, and low-income people.

A further \$100m is spent on nationally-purchased activities - e.g., health promotion campaigns, work force development.

To put this narrow priority into focus, the Report estimates that each year, 1 in 5 New Zealanders experience "mental illness or significant mental distress". And that over 50-80% will "experience mental distress or addiction challenges or both in their lifetime".

Indeed, the number accessing mental health services has increased 73% over the past 10 years; prescriptions for mental health-related medication - too often the only 'treatment' on offer - increased 50%.

Recounting its consultations, the Report observes: "We heard that our mental health and addiction system is not fit for purpose. We have a health system that focuses on *responding* to psychiatric illness, but people want a system that *prevents* mental distress and addiction, *intervenes early* when problems start to develop, and *promotes* wellbeing."

Thus the cardinal recommendation of the Inquiry is that NZ must redesign and expand its mental health and addiction system to deliver effective service to 20% of the population within the next five years, reaching the "missing middle".

The Report comments: "Our mental health system is set up to respond to people with a diagnosed mental illness. It does not respond well to other people who are seriously distressed ... Many people with common, disabling problems such as stress, depression, anxiety, trauma and substance abuse have few options available through the public system."

And recommends: "Access to (and funding for) mental health and addiction services needs to be significantly increased, from the 3.7% of the population who currently access specialist services to the 20% who experience mental health and addiction issues each year."

## “Our mental health system is set up to respond to people with a diagnosed mental illness. It does not respond well to other people who are seriously distressed ...”

REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION

### More robust services

And the two most important corollaries to this expansion are that: 1) a far more robust suite of therapies and services must be offered to cover the full spectrum of needs, and 2) much of this care will be dependent upon a much greater diversity of properly trained providers at the primary/community care level.

Says the Report: “An explicit decision must be made to do this, supported by funding a wider spectrum of suitable and culturally acceptable service options (particularly talk therapies, alcohol and other drug services, and culturally aligned services) ...

“New Zealand needs to stop talking about the need for a continuum of services to address mental health and addiction needs across the spectrum and make action a priority. A clear policy decision is needed to do this, and it needs to be backed up with ... an appropriate workforce.”

The Report is blunt about increased funding, starting in Budget 2019: “Additional investment in services for

people with less severe mental health and addiction needs is required. We cannot simply stretch resources currently allocated to services for severe mental health and addiction needs.”

While most of the Report deals with recommended changes within the health system itself, the assessment emphasizes: “We can’t medicate or treat our way out of the epidemic of mental distress and addiction affecting all layers of our society.”

Clearly the social determinants of mental distress run deep: poverty, lack of affordable housing, unemployment and low-paid work, abuse and neglect, family violence and other trauma, loneliness and social isolation (especially for the rural and elderly) and, for Māori, deprivation and cultural alienation. Mental health, like physical health, is much more than a Health Ministry issue.

Specific recommendations are made regarding especially vulnerable populations such as prisoners, rural residents, Māori and Pacific peoples, children, and those who have experienced

adverse childhood events (ACEs).

The role of alcohol and drug addiction is addressed as well, with the Report insistent that the alcohol-restricting recommendations of the 2010 Law Commission (and subsequent others) be adopted, noting “... the main impediment to stronger alcohol reform is a lack of political will.” And that personal drug use be de-criminalised in favour of more expansive treatment options.

Finally, the Report calls for a Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission to “provide system leadership and act as the institutional mechanism to hold decisionmakers and successive governments to account.”

Health Minister David Clark speaking in December to the *NZ Herald* called the Inquiry a “once-in-a-generation opportunity to rethink how we handle some of the biggest challenges we face as a country”. Adding, “We need to work urgently but also carefully through the recommendations. We have already identified mental health and wellbeing as a priority for the next Budget.”

This Report deserves high marks; hopefully the Government’s response will merit high marks as well. ●



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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IDEAS AND OPINION  
MATT MILLER

## Meet the Hello Cup

Robyn McLean is the CEO of Havelock North's most exciting start-up company, Hello Cup.

Sourcing high-quality medical plastic from Germany, Hello Cup takes orders via a website, manufactures products in a factory in Onekawa, and ships around the world. Robyn is a fearless entrepreneur, her company is a semi-finalist in Theresa Gattung's SheEO initiative.

And she is changing the way women think about 'feminine hygiene'.

You read that right: feminine hygiene. Hello Cup makes and sells menstrual cups. Instead of absorbing the blood flow like a tampon or a sanitary pad, a menstrual cup forms a seal inside the vagina and collects it. There is no other way to describe it.

I have two teenage daughters, and I think it's amazing, but if you're squeamish about this stuff, you might want to stop reading now.

OK. Are you still with me? Many women find menstrual cups more comfortable and convenient than traditional products, and Robyn says they make periods far less painful. Because they are reusable, they are much cheaper, and \$49 for a product that lasts five years sounds like a lot more sensible than spending up to \$200 per year, every year. They are also far better for the environment, with no waste, can be worn comfortably for up to 12 hours, and are especially practical for sport and swimming.

Menstrual cups were invented in the 1930s, coincidentally around the same time as tampons. The rise of disposable culture in the 1950s and 1960s saw tampons take an unassailable lead. Plastic was the new wonder material, and big corporations took advantage of it to make vast fortunes peddling all sorts of disposable hygiene items like nappies, razors, tampons and sanitary pads. Out of sight, out of mind was the

mantra. There was little or no thought given to the pollution that would result.

Now disposable plastic items are objects of scorn, if not worse. Indelible images of dolphins and turtles strangled in six-pack holders and landfills overflowing with plastic waste have galvanised public opinion. The recent pogrom against plastic bags in supermarkets shows how quickly attitudes can change. Within the space of a few months, no supermarket in their right mind wants anyone to see their logo on a plastic bag.

**The puns are endless ("bloody brilliant") and the website features a word-switcher which enables you to enter your own preferred term for the v-word, with hilarious results. What was once a taboo subject is clearly, for this generation, quite normal.**

Robyn had seen menstrual cups around occasionally and had often wondered whether they would be a better option than tampons and pads. They seemed to her they would be either amazing ... or terrifying. "Cups had a reputation as something greenie types would use ... a bit like cloth nappies." But on one particularly bad day her curiosity got the better of her and she stopped at a pharmacy in Havelock North to see what was available. Fortunately for her, they stocked cups.

Robyn tried one that was made in the UK and while it was ugly, Robyn considered it a life-changing experience. It was so much better than tampons that she

wondered why every woman wasn't using one. She contacted her friend Mary Bond, who is a nurse, and said they should start making their own. They created a unique design themselves and very soon they were making cups in a factory in Onekawa, and selling them as Hello Cups.

Since its launch as a "part-time, fun thing" in December 2017, the business has grown extremely quickly. Robyn admits she is not the numbers person, but estimates that they have already sold more than ten thousand cups.

Robyn and Mary now work full-time in the business, and with over 100 retailers now stocking Hello Cups, and a lot of interest and orders coming from around the world, they are shipping products globally and gearing up for further growth. There is commercial interest in Australia, Singapore, the UK, and the US, and soon they will be hiring staff. There is already an office in Wellington where Mary works, and Robyn is working to build a team in Hawke's Bay.

So far, the only marketing has been via the Hello Cup website (thellocup.com), social media posts, and events like trade shows and school visits. A key part of the marketing has been the packaging and the language deployed in talking about the product. One would expect a certain amount of squeamishness, but Robyn isn't having any of that. Hello uses language to make periods positive. Competitor products have opted for bland, hippy-ish names ("Mooncup") or faux-French ("Lunette", "Diva"), but Robyn uses humour.

The puns are endless ("bloody brilliant") and the website features a word-switcher which enables you to enter your own preferred term for the v-word, with hilarious results. What was once a taboo subject is clearly, for this generation, quite normal. During



The Hello Cup and co-founder Robyn McLean.



school visits and trade shows she says boys and men are just as interested in the cups, and there is no prurient interest, just healthy curiosity.

Robyn is very modest about the success of the business, admitting cheerfully that there has never been a business plan, no spreadsheets, and no investors. They have not even sent an email newsletter to their customers, which strikes the digital marketer in me with horror. But it's clear that they are doing a lot of things right. The packaging and brand story are absolutely brilliant, and it's clear that they have

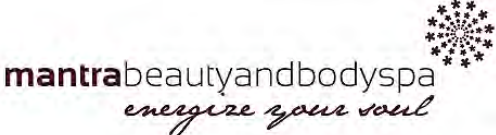
achieved what Silicon Valley likes to call 'product-market fit', when the offering is so compelling and the timing is so right that demand is insatiable.


As the large corporations move away from tampons and other disposable hygiene products and start to design and promote their own reusable cups, Robyn admits things will get more competitive. But the global market for these products is enormous, even for a one-off purchase every five years, and the fledgling company already has other products in the works, including reusable liners, a range of coloured

cups, and hand sanitiser.

"Life-changing" is a phrase Robyn uses a lot and she says the most satisfying thing is to see teenage girls using her products, enjoying life to the full, and not being embarrassed about menstruation. If she has one regret, she wishes she had done it all sooner. ●

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 digital trends and cool businesses.





*Ayurveda literally means "the art of living wisely" or "the science of life and longevity".*

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IDEAS AND OPINION  
PAT TURLEY

# The Value of Trees

The social, environmental and economic value of trees can be thought of as a closely intertwined network of roots in a vast forest. Human sustainability cannot exist without environmental sustainability, and the value of trees extends considerably beyond their direct economic benefits.

Most New Zealand buildings are constructed from timber, our food and beverages would be nutritionally more impoverished without tree-based foods, and the overall health of the planet and the wellbeing of people rely on trees, plants, and healthy water ecosystems.

New Zealand has grown by extracting native timber allowing for farming and plantation forests. During that process, the forestry and orcharding production rotation mindset have sometimes led to poor decision-making for non-commercial trees.

The economic value of trees is straightforward.

Hawke's Bay accounts for about 65% of NZ apple exports exceeding \$700 million annually; meanwhile forestry makes up about \$5 billion (3% of GDP). Commercial forests occupy 1.8 million hectares (7% of total NZ land area), with 90% planted in a monoculture of *Pinus radiata*. Napier Port exported 2 million tonnes of logs in 2018, which is projected to increase by 50% within eight years. Trees are big business for Hawke's Bay.

Tree industries employ large workforces, with forestry alone directly employing around 20,000 people. Add to this considerable investment in land and buildings, plant and equipment, all supported by and benefitting many sub-industries. There are less direct 'socio-economic' benefits as well.

Urban greening is proven to increase workplace productivity, social wellbeing, and health. Lead researcher Daniel Cox (University of Exeter), who references studies by Dr Margaret Stanley

(University of Auckland), published on the matter in *Landscape and Urban Planning* 185 (2009).

The research finds that people working indoors focus their attention on specific tasks and "the presence of a window with a natural scene allows micro-restorative experiences". The more interesting these experiences are, the "more restorative". Researchers say that there is "robust evidence" that indirect experiences with nature have health and wellbeing benefits, including "increased psychological wellbeing, improved cognitive function and concentration, reduced healing times", and better workplace outcomes.

**Notable and heritage trees are many decades in the making and not easily replicated, unlike reinstating a destroyed building. When felled, these trees often leave a hole environmentally and socially, that is not easily backfilled.**

Their studies and others add weight to why heritage and notable trees should be protected and highlight why trees in general need to play a significant role in towns and cities.

High stature trees on private land have community collective value, not dissimilar to significant landscapes like Te Mata Peak. Treasured landscapes, including privately-owned land, are subject to rules that allow for public benefit. Trees of significance (individual trees or groups) are partially owned by everybody.

Private landowners accept

stewardship responsibilities, like being unable to legally pollute air or water, carve up a treasured mountainside, or destroy a protected building. Unfortunately, necessary rules impinge upon private rights. Landholders contract with the community to foot the related costs, including maintaining protected trees.

Land use rights are always partially subordinate to community rights - a limited bundle of rights that governments, councils and the courts may occasionally modify, with landholding constraints and liabilities ultimately adjusted for in property values.

In 2016, Christchurch City proposed to delist 789 private land heritage trees and 742 public land trees. However removing the protection from these significant trees was firmly opposed by the public, led by Christchurch Civic Trust, the NZ Notable Trees Trust, and Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture. The submissions made by volunteer campaigners successfully persuaded the Council to reverse its decision, and the listed status of the trees was reinstated under the District Plan.

Turley & Co gave land economy evidence in support of protecting these trees. Our evidence indicated that private landowners could make a considerable profit from the removal of these trees, should the trees lose their protection status, because of the land's increased potential for higher density housing. The evidence established that environmental values and the collective value of the trees to the community far outweighed that of the individual property owners.

The relatively young heritage trees of NZ and Hawke's Bay include beautiful trees 100-160 years in age. The wildlife habitats, carbon sequestration and broader ecological benefits of older trees are significant. The value of existing trees to birdlife, the environment, and people usually far outweighs the



minute risks of properly-managed older trees. Every well-grown tree within a public place poses its problems, but the key is to manage these problems and approach them sensibly.

While oaks tend to grow quickly in New Zealand, their life potential is unknown because exotic trees in New Zealand are in their infancy. Parks and woodlands in England hold oaks at least 300 years old - 1,000 years being their life potential. It is less for North American oaks, and this longevity is still being tested in New Zealand.

The Frimley Park black poplar in Hastings, at 144 years old, is the largest specimen in the world. It is also New Zealand's largest deciduous tree at 42 metres tall and 10 metres girth. Last year it was initially proposed to be felled due to risk. Council was dissuaded by tree experts, and the poplar was instead trimmed.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Aerial view of part of 5ha of *Cedrus deodara* planted in 2000 on the right, and native trees planted in 1986 on left of farm pond; Bruce and Jane Mackinnon's Tasmanian blackwoods in Bay View; Philip Holt of Maraetara. Photos: Tom Allan.

There were similar risk concerns in 2011 for the 159-year-old, 36-metre-high Tasmanian blue gum, next to St Columba Church in Havelock North. The tree was preserved by independent expert arborists' knowledge and the tree retained with risks managed at acceptable levels.

The Havelock North Keirunga oaks planted by George Nelson on gifted land have triggered the latest local debate. Council proposes felling about 46 oaks, many of which are over 80 years of age, plus another 43 deciduous trees within the Keirunga woodland. HDC's proposal is made in the name of risk management, prior undermanagement, a view the trees are end-of-life, and "a number of requests to remove trees that shade and impact on the [seven recent] adjoining properties along the Kopanga Road boundary".

However, others believe that cutting down these trees could be an irreversible mistake. Experts are assessing the wood and public submissions now close mid-March ... robust debate is underway!

The NZ Notable Tree Trust maintains the online New Zealand Tree Register that holds a growing list of the country's notable trees, 165 of which are in Hawke's Bay. Hastings District Council is a longstanding annual supporter. Turley & Co and others are register sponsors. The public can submit new trees on public and private land for addition to the register.

At the same time, Hawke's Bay has one of the most denuded landscapes in New Zealand. This is mainly attributed to the use of fire to clear cutover bush to bring land into pasture.

In 2018 Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi signed the Kahutia Accord, which set a framework for co-investing in re-cloaking Hawke's Bay's vulnerable landscapes. If HBRC's proposed investment is ratified following public consultation, Kahungunu and the Council will set out to plant 100,000 hectares of Hawke's Bay land by 2030 - 1,000 square kilometres, or 247,000 acres, in re-established multispecies and native forests ... 'the right tree in the right place' the Council promises.

The ecological drivers are to curb erosion and silting of waterways and coastal environments, counter the adverse effects of forestry harvesting, protect landscapes against extreme weather events, increase carbon sequestration, and significantly bolster biodiversity. The economic and social drivers include revenue; new industry,



Pat Turley at Keirunga Wood in Havelock North with his dog Flynn. Photo: Tom Allan

skills, employment; and reconnecting people with natural places.

The regional council has already confirmed a \$30m budget over the next decade for riparian planting, to protect the water quality of streams and retain soil on private farmland by co-funding partnering. Maraetōtara Tree Trust's partnership with HBRC and landowners has been achieving this on the Maraetōtara River for 17 years. Over one-half of 86 kilometres both sides have been reserved and planted in native species.

Hawke's Bay's overall tree cover is set to be significantly improved, its native birdlife and other fauna further repopulated, and its waterways and coastal ecosystems made much healthier.

It is easy to make a case for planting more trees in Hawke's Bay, and it is equally important that we keenly protect longstanding existing trees that offer possibly centuries of value to generations of people, and the environment.

Notable and heritage trees are many decades in the making and not easily replicated, unlike reinstating a

destroyed building. When felled, these trees often leave a hole environmentally and socially, that is not easily backfilled.

Certain trees in New Zealand have reached incredible ages, such as Tāne Mahuta, the largest living kauri. Tāne Mahuta has a girth of 14 metres and is estimated to be an astonishing 1,250 to 2,500 years old. Unfortunately, the Lord of the Forest could one day be threatened by the current challenge of Kauri dieback infection.

Maybe the trees we plant or keep alive today will eventually grow to be as great as, or even greater than the mighty Tāne Mahuta. Certainly, this would be a great legacy for Hawke's Bay. ●

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Pat Turley is current volunteer chair of the Maraetōtara Tree Trust's riparian plantings and principal of Hawke's Bay valuation and property strategy company Turley & Co. His farming background includes pipfruit growing and forest harvesting in NZ and the UK and he grows exotic trees.



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IDEAS AND OPINION  
ANDREW FRAME

## A Sink or Swim Year

2019 is a local body election year, and with a myriad of issues facing Napier ratepayers over the last term, it is set to be an election that will determine whether the city sinks under management misinformation, rising sea levels and broken water infrastructure, or swims in pool facilities the community, not council management, want and an estuary not polluted by waste water.

### Re-warded

In January the Local Government Commission upheld a 2018 council decision to adopt a pure ward system, abandoning the mixed representation system of six 'Ward' councillors (two representing Taradale, two for Nelson Park and one each representing the Onekawa-Tamatea and Ahuriri wards, only electable by those living in the aforementioned wards) and six 'At Large' councillors elected from across Napier.

Napier voters will now only be able to elect councillors representing their ward. Tamatea-Onekawa and Ahuriri gain one extra councillor each, and Taradale and Nelson Park's representatives double from two to four each. Still twelve councillors in all.

This creates some interesting possibilities.

Firstly, there's the prospect of fractious fiefdoms. With two wards having double the number of councillors than the other two isn't it likely that the Nelson Park and Taradale wards will wield more influence ... run the show? Rather than moving the city forward together, this representation method might result in warring voting blocks.

Secondly, it means that all six at-large councillors, including those who have been on council the longest (too long, some would say) will likely find themselves without a seat at the council table come October.

A few older hands may be finally considering giving someone else a go.

And surprisingly, a couple of first-termers have found following or fighting the political current to be too much to endure a second round.

Then of course the mayor's seat will be open this year, with Bill Dalton yielding his gavel.

These changes make for an interesting election and *potentially* for a big shake-up for a council that has been too much of the same-old, same-old for too long.

But there is a reason for that complacency. And whether it continues is in voters' hands.

**“What is the point? The council has already made up its mind on the issue no matter what we say” has become the all too common refrain in public forums and from disenchanting ratepayers.**

### Pathetically apathetic

Napier voters are notorious for apparently just not caring about local body politics.

Less than half of the city's registered voters regularly exercise their democratic right every three years. The last time voter returns squeaked over 50% was in 2001 - *eighteen years ago!* Otherwise turnout hovers between a 2004 high of 47.66% to a 44.88% low in 2010.

Since 2004 our civic representatives have been elected by the majority of a minority!

And why would residents vote?

“What is the point? The council has already made up its mind on the issue no matter what we say” has become the

all too common refrain in public forums and from disenchanting ratepayers.

Swimming facilities provide a prime example of why many shrug-off voting.

Two years ago, Napier City Council asked their ratepayers' opinion on what public swimming facilities they wanted for the city's future. The public's response was to “overwhelming support” a 50-metre pool complex at the Onekawa Aquatic Centre. But, when the Long-Term Plan came out mere months later there was no sign of it. Instead a council management-backed 25-meter pool bordering a state highway and another busy main road in an unused corner of Tamatea was in pole position and duly voted through by councillors.

### Public servants, or a servile public?

You could be forgiven for thinking that somewhere along the line NCC management misinterpreted the term 'Public Servant' as to mean they expect the public to serve *them*, not the other way around!

The public vote in their mayor and councillors every three years, and the CEO, who drives the council day to day and is the head of the council's management structure, is the only member of council staff our elected councillors 'employ'.

But there certainly appears to be a fair bit of 'the tail wagging the dog' going on here.

While NCC management apparently thought they knew what was best for Napier's War Memorial or Onekawa Aquatic Centre and steamed ahead with their own plans, the city's elected councillors remained complicitly or complacently silent, until suddenly speaking up the year before local body elections.

A case of 'too little, too late'. Revealing to the media, after their decisions had been made and votes



Photo: Tom Allan

cast, that the information council management gave councillors to base their decisions upon may not have been true or accurate does not speak highly of councillors' comprehension or capacity.

Transparency, due diligence and accountability must be paramount when public money is financing these ventures.

That these same councillors 'didn't realise the significance' amongst their community of a place called 'Napier War Memorial' is not the level of intellect or empathy you should expect from elected city representatives either.

#### 'Watershed' election

The 2019 elections represent a watershed in more ways than one.

While expensive sales pitches for a multi-million dollar aquarium redevelopment are constructed in council and consultants' offices, news and social media pages are flooded with pictures and videos of brown, potentially hazardous sludge running from Napier rate-payers' taps as the council's ageing pipe infrastructure further deteriorates and waste water is discharged into Pandora Estuary with alarming frequency.

2019 isn't a vote for the past. Napier can't afford to have another term of

compliant councillors, re-elected by less than half the city's voting population, happy to be led from faux-pas to faux-pas by unelected and unaccountable council management.

2019 is a vote for the future! Napier needs councillors who will stand up for what their city and constituents need, not what the council's executive team wants.

How much longer do you want your children or grandchildren - or anyone else's - drinking or swimming in tainted water?

These issues don't affect just the 45% of Napier's population who usually vote. Every Napier citizen is affected - from Taradale and Onekawa-Tamatea, to Nelson Park and Ahuriri.

It's up to you, the voters, to get out and make your voice heard. Surface new candidates. Encourage others to register and vote, too!

Napier deserves better! ●

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Andrew Frame is a 41-year-old husband, father, and life-long Napier resident. He writes the [www.napierinframe.co.nz](http://www.napierinframe.co.nz) website and promotes all things HB on social media.



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# **Do We Have Culture?**

## **Mapping Hawke's Bay's Arts World**

**Ngā Toi Hawke's Bay is the new kid on the arts scene here.**

**Not a gallery, nor a collective, nor a festival. When it**

**comes to art output Ngā Toi doesn't create anything, show anything, programme anything or promote anything.**

**Instead, it occupies this mid-space between maker and market, attempting to provide whatever lubrication creatives need to get their work to audiences.**

**Story by Jess Soutar Barron. Photos by Florence Charvin. It's an infant born from Creative Hawke's Bay and a loose group of arts brains under the moniker CoCo (Coalition of Creative Organisations). With Creative HB's infrastructure and standing (having been around for decades) and CoCo's fresh enthusiasm and impressive collection of thinkers, Ngā Toi is well-resourced to make some big impacts on the arts and culture landscape of the Bay.**

Their 'quick win' is to 'map' the arts community here - find out who does what and where, with the initial intention of creating a directory of providers and a 'What's On' for audiences.

Dr Dick Grant is the chair of Ngā Toi. He's had an impressive 40 year career as a diplomat, was High Commissioner in London and Singapore and a former chair of Creative New Zealand's Art Council. He explains Ngā Toi's fledgling project: "At this stage it is a database, but we can transmogrify that into a map. The map is about the creative side, the events are about the productive side. That won't necessarily work for everyone, but most people want to create or consume, with Ngā Toi you've got to meet both."

#### **Collected information**

Ngā Toi's first task has been to set up the building blocks for communicating about arts in Hawke's Bay, but it's predominantly a passive, pass-it-on capability (website and facebook details

**"If the arts can collect together and get a sense for what it is to work as a sector then that's a good thing. At the moment, most work is fairly isolated, they do their own thing."**

TONI MACKINNON, HASTINGS CITY ART GALLERY

at the end of this story). They've also set about getting some funding to run workshops on the business of art, a phoenix idea that often pops up in early strategising for new advocacy agencies. A third action is reaching out to the arts sector, asking that individuals, entities and outfits get in touch and log their details, to create a user-created register.

Ngā Toi is then self-proclaimed advocate and champion: supporting, encouraging awareness.

"Anything that helps the creative side sustain itself is helpful, giving confidence, spreading word to funding bodies that Hawke's Bay people make good applicants," Dick explains. "The feedback we get is that's what the sector feels it needs most. If we start at the grassroots levels it enables us to judge whether we're on the right track at lower risk of loss or failure."

Toni MacKinnon, director of the Hastings City Art Gallery, is sceptical of the value of mapping exercises. She cautions the fluidity of the sector means it's tricky to capture.

"The cost of keeping it (mapping) dynamic and up-to-date is huge and unless it is, it's a complete waste of time." Toni warns, "It'll take resource, and it could be resource that is sucked up away from the arts community.

"There are reasons to do it, connecting to a bigger picture is important. If the arts can collect together and get a sense for what it is to work as a sector then that's a good thing."

Early, rudimentary mapping exercises look at the clusters of offerings - how many galleries, venues, theatre

groups, youth programmes, actual makers, etc., we have in the Bay.

Knowledge of clusters isn't as useful, though, as the relationships between them. The flow from one cultural activity to the next builds up a far more productive picture. For art to benefit well-being, destinations aren't as crucial as journeys. It's there that value can be identified and begin to be measured.

Pitsch Leiser, manager of Hastings' arts trust Arts Inc Heretaunga, says mapping nodes isn't as useful as mapping linkages. "One of the things that isn't happening is a collective knowledge of who we are and how we impact community, environment, economy. By understanding the depth we can start making connections, start making collaborations, understanding where we live, looking at ways to connect for new exciting initiatives."

He also believes the arts are as deserving as any other regional unique-selling proposition.

"Everyday someone new moves here. We need to not just tell them about good food, housing, wine and weather but that there're people who make amazing stuff here." Pitsch says arts mapping should be more outward looking than it traditionally is.

Mapping is a useful exercise for the cultural community itself, but to have greater reach and usefulness the task needs to be taken up by multiple agencies working together.

"We need to check in on our reason for mapping and how we want to use it," says Pitsch. "All of that mapping work does strengthen our networks, our knowledge and our abilities to



**“If it’s not cross sector then it’ll die. Social, economic, livelihood: if they don’t connect they are vulnerable, otherwise art’s just entertainment.”**

TONI MACKINNON, HASTINGS CITY ART GALLERY



**“Mapping won’t be easy. Things change quickly, but we’ll give it a shot.”**

DICK GRANT, NGĀ TOI CHAIR

lobby to local, central, then private enterprise. But we need to map beyond what we already know about to make sure we capture the breadth, depth and scope, as well as how it impacts health, wellbeing, sense of belonging, pride.”

Toni MacKinnon believes Ngā Toi is currently best placed to undertake any solid mapping work, but only if the creative and cultural community gets behind the initiative.

“We need to give Ngā Toi the resources and the mandate to grow into that lead role. No one else can step into that space,” explains Toni.

“It then becomes an advocacy tool for Ngā Toi. They can say who and what we have here and what needs they’ve got to help with their visibility. Artists have to be a complete business, from financials to making to marketing, and it’s something Ngā Toi can offer to help them with: visibility.”

#### **‘Arts as antidote’**

The value of art and culture to

community is certainly something being highlighted by Treasury’s recent commitment to a Wellbeing Budget and local government’s refocus on the four wellbeings as central to their planning and operations.

As per Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, belonging, esteem and a sense of self are identified as essential to human beings. Arts and culture are a huge enabler of those.

In the OECD’s Better Life Index, New Zealanders say the things most important to them are community, environment, health and life satisfaction. There too the arts play a big part: greasing the cogs of a social community, improving built environment, benefiting health outcomes, brightening up life in general.

There’s more research on ‘Arts as Antidote’ in the UK than there is here. Snippets of findings are intriguing. For example, under-30s cite ‘de-stressing’ as their primary reason for visiting galleries and museums. Not seeing old stuff or looking at art ... but relaxing!

Here’s some more. Music played in neo-natal wards reduces the duration of hospital stays, and music therapy reduces the need for meds in dementia patients. ‘Arts by prescription’ programmes reduce GP visits by a third. Eighty percent of people eat more healthily, engage in physical activity more often and enjoy greater wellbeing after engaging in the arts.

If that pattern fits in NZ, then the shift needs to move from the arts and culture community’s justification of itself and on to wellbeing providers - DHBs, PHOs, TLAs - making arts activities a must-have in their planning. Each of those providers should be ensuring their clients can encounter the arts regularly and often, much like they emphasize outdoor spaces or Push Play-type programmes.

Measurement of the arts community too should come from these wellbeing enablers and adjunct agencies. After all, it’s *their* Key Performance Indicators, Critical Success Factors and Community Outcomes that benefit



**“Everyday someone new moves here. We need to not just tell them about good food, housing, wine and weather but that there’re people who make amazing stuff here.”**

PITSCH LEISER, ARTS INC HERETAUNGA

from a thriving arts scene.

Toni MacKinnon is leading an arts and culture strategy for Hastings (an attempt was made to make this a regional approach, but Napier wasn’t keen). She believes joined-up thinking across disparate disciplines is the life-blood of any useful strategy.

“If it’s not cross sector then it’ll die. Social, economic, livelihood: if they don’t connect they are vulnerable, otherwise art’s just entertainment,” says Toni. “If the arts can collect together and get a sense for what it is to work as a sector then that’s a good thing. At the moment, most work is fairly isolated, they do their own thing. But artists and makers are creative thinkers. They see opportunities for collaboration and they make it happen.”

Much inspiration for the regional strategy, currently called Toi Tu, comes from Dunedin City Council’s Ara Toi Otepoti Arts and Culture Strategy.

“The Dunedin strategy has been held up by Creative New Zealand as one of the most impactful strategies in the country,” says Toni. “It’s cross-sector. In essence it’s a beautiful explanation of how the arts can enrich people’s lives. Make people healthier, connected, positive; make a place a better place to live in.”

Toni explains weaving that thinking into Hawke’s Bay’s own arts and culture planning is essential, but

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challenging from the outset.

“It does need a regional approach. Napier chose to do nothing, but artists work across boundaries. Even if this is a Hastings District implementation plan, then for artists it’s a region-wide implementation plan.”

Tania Wright is a Napier councillor and long-time champion of the Bay’s arts sector; she was the first coordinator of arts trust Creative Napier, now Creative Arts Napier. Her opinion is the arts community itself is doing a great job and doesn’t need ‘strategic thinking’ from local government.

“It was felt that we didn’t need a regional strategy we just needed to understand what was happening in our community and fill in any gaps,” she explains. “I prefer this grass roots approach as I find that overarching strategies while well-meaning often fail to deliver anything meaningful.”

Napier City Council though is beginning tentative steps towards taking a more active approach to arts contribution by replacing their “existing arts policy” with a strategy and implementation plan of their own. Antoinette Campbell, director community services, explains their current approach and it appears it’s focused on built environment, potentially with a skew towards Napier’s position as a tourism destination.

Streetscapes are dotted with public art, much of it in collaboration with private and community funding groups. New council works have a requirement to include an arts element.

“Our arts policy requires council to consider the incorporation of art in all its significant developments during the design and planning stage to avoid considering an artwork as an add-on at the end of the development and with little budget left over,” explains Antoinette.

Where Toni and the Toi Tu initiative are focused on linkages between sectors as diverse as health, housing and business, and into the arts community, Antoinette envisages future builds and reworking of urban space will continue to include conversations about art and culture. Aesthetics may be the first objective, but wellbeing needs are also being met.

“While we have a number of art installations and activations across the city we can always do more,” says Antoinette. “The planning and design of our new library will create some great opportunities to incorporate

some stunning pieces, I expect.”

Tania Wright supports this shift in thinking from ‘arts as add-on’ to ‘arts as essential’.

“Art and creativity are traditionally seen as luxuries and when funding is tight they often suffer as a result ... While this thinking is slowly changing, I don’t think we are there yet. If you look at lottery and gaming funding I don’t think the arts - especially community grass roots arts - are getting their fair share.”

As much as interest by other sectors is important, the arts community too must realise its importance and embrace the responsibility. Each step in the chain - creation, production, dissemination, exhibition, preservation, education, and management and regulation - needs to ensure it is adding value for the public good.

Art for arts sake is not enough; navel gazing is not enough. Acknowledging purpose, hooking in to networks of collaborators, and elevating art beyond making to enabling positive community outcomes do need to be part of the creative conversation.

“With that maturing comes critical thought, discourse, consideration of environment and ecology, design, form and shape.” Pitsch Leiser explains it as a cycle of cultural making and consumption. “Creating all that then is an outlet for more creative expression.”

### Who’s ‘cool’?

Mapping of the art world requires some element of curatorial eye. But that brings in issues of taste ... and whose!

Events programmes and listings (including the What’s On feature on the new Ngā Toi site) ‘owned’ by creative bodies are often pushed through a filter of perceived artistic credibility and merit. They’re subjective as to what deserves recognition or prominence. Creatives by their nature are opinionated, self-centred and egotistical, that’s the raw material of their practice, so being altruistic isn’t in their jurisdiction.

Really useful databases of those who contribute to arts and culture - and how - needs therefore to be held from outside the sector to sufficiently cover all tastes: high-brow and low, pop, mass and elite. In fact, the individuals and entities aren’t nearly as important as identifying opportunities and multiple ways for people to engage with the arts regularly and usefully.

Says Pitsch Leiser: “It’s important we map it in a way that we know it’s not

**“Art and creativity are traditionally seen as luxuries and when funding is tight they often suffer as a result ... While this thinking is slowly changing, I don’t think we are there yet.”**

TANIA WRIGHT, NAPIER CITY COUNCILLOR

just white and middle-class but things happening in all areas.

“If we have diversity within the arts here then we have to reflect that in our mapping. It would be a shame if we did the exercise and there were big gaping holes in terms of culture and who was included.”

Toni agrees: “Mapping is everyone. It’s not a value judgement.

“The time is right for thinking about what the impact of the arts is and how we describe it. If we describe it accurately then we can tell compelling stories of how it impacts health and wellbeing, and then help TLAs and Central Government to understand.”

Dick Grant recognises that broadening the scope to include as many as possible is the challenge, but also an opportunity.

“You are never going to be completely sure that you’ve captured everything, but if we can make a good first start and people feel confident that it’s reliable, then you have to hope they feed in the data.”

Rather than silos of output, collaborations formed across traditional boundaries are the real gold on offer from the creative community. Disruptive thinking that cuts through convention sparks new ideas and makes space for people to get involved, as audience and as participants.

[www.ngatohawkesbay.co.nz](http://www.ngatohawkesbay.co.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/NgaToiHawkesBay](https://www.facebook.com/NgaToiHawkesBay)

**UK Art Fund Report:** [bit.ly/2S9MOvP](https://bit.ly/2S9MOvP)  
**The Arts for Health and Wellbeing All-Party Report:** [bit.ly/2vjGval](https://bit.ly/2vjGval)  
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decrease my medication for diabetes significantly. At my age in retirement I can enjoy venturing around our beautiful Bay by cycling 30-40 km's a day on the cycleways and stay healthy and fit".

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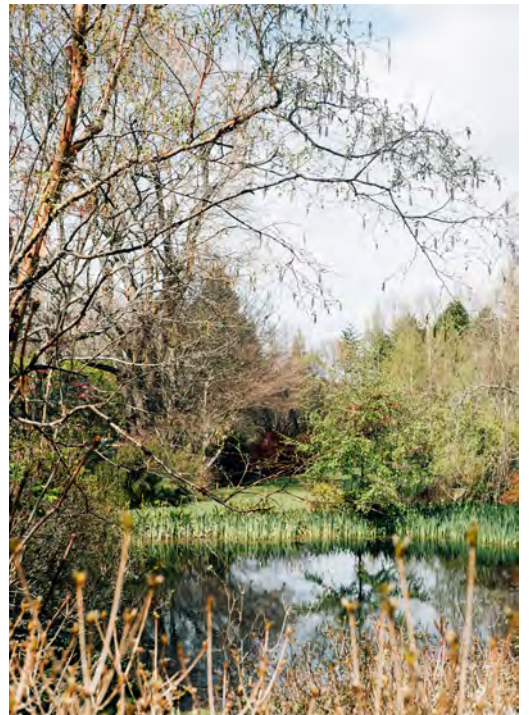


## Exploring Hawke's Bay

This is an area thrumming with ghosts and geological intrigue and an eventful storybook history – from famous rebels (Te Kooti) and celebrated writers (Sylvia Ashton-Warner, Katherine Mansfield), to infamy (bootleg grog, murder) and legend (moa bones and floating islands).

# Te Pōhue





# Exploring Hawke's Bay: Te Pōhue

Story by Bridget Freeman-Rock. Photos by Florence Charvin.

Before the old coach road was shifted further west in 1893, travelling from Napier to Te Pōhue required 43 river crossings along the Esk River route. From Napier to Taupō was a three-day journey with overnight stops at Te Pōhue, Tarawera and Rangitaiki.

By 1913 automobiles had replaced horse-drawn coaches, and Te Pōhue Hotel provided luncheon (notified by carrier pigeon) on what was then down to an eight-hour haul, still hazardous, still steep, but increasingly busy, with up to six vehicles a day passing through!

In the 1980s, Te Pōhue was a rest stop by a lake with black swans before an arduous, invariably car-sick journey to the (now boarded-up) Summit Kiosk tea rooms by Turangakumu (halfway!) on the Napier-Taupō highway. In a 1980s childhood, Te Pōhue was also the turn-off across farmland to Camp Te Waka, with its tremendous rocky outcrops, waterfall and mysterious, dense bush - a remnant of the vast red beech forest that once covered this area.

Now the lake (on private land) is set back behind willows, and Te Pōhue is a smooth north-west curve on a wide sealed road through a panoramic sweep of rolling paddocks and various stages of plantation pine - from the cornbraided rows of baby trees to ravaged, clear-felled hills.

But it's worth turning off the highway for a moment to explore this hamlet nestled 'in the shadow of Te Waka' - the awesome ridgeline to the west that meets at the Titiokura pass with the Maungaharuru ranges in that dramatic run of road down to the vertiginous Mohaka Bridge and across up to Te Haroto and beyond to the highest point on the journey, Tupurupuru (908m).

## Place of intrigue

For this is an area thrumming with ghosts and geological intrigue and an eventful storybook history - from famous rebels (Te Kooti) and celebrated writers (Sylvia Ashton-Warner, Katherine Mansfield), to infamy

(bootleg grog, murder) and legend (moa bones and floating islands).

Te Pōhue is located directly on an old Māori walking track from the interior of the island to the coast. A track taken by William Colenso in 1847, the first recorded European to do so, and upgraded to a road in 1869 by the Armed Constabulary when the Napier-Taupō route became strategically important. Five garrisons were built along it in order to contain the Pai Mārire movement for Māori self-determination, the so-called Hauhau or 'native threat'.

When the Armed Constabulary built their stockade at Te Haroto, a major Ngāti Hineuru village, they were after the resistance leader Te Kooti, who, it is said, was sheltered numerous times by the hapū right under their noses - he himself named their meeting house, Rongopai (peace).

In 1887 the bush at Te Haroto was described as: "full of large sound matai and rimu and white pine, with a beautiful luxuriant undergrowth, and here and there heavy clusters of white star-like flowers gleamed through the green foliage."

By the turn of the 19th century it was a bustling timber town. Now that the forests have gone, it's pared back to the marae and a cluster of homes, several old wooden houses abandoned to the bracken and long grass.

While Te Haroto and Titiokura each got a military blockhouse, Te Pōhue got a pub, which burnt down in 1897. Its replacement blew down in a gale; the third collapsed in the 1931 earthquake; the one left standing has closed. It had better luck with its school, which is still going strong. Curiously no church or cemetery. In its heyday as the closest native source of timber to Napier, it was a thriving community - when the natural resource was exhausted, the place declined, along with the birdlife that had once been so prolific.

In pre-European times Te Pōhue was occupied seasonally. Kereru were plentiful, as well as mutton birds (titi),

and once upon a time, moa (an almost complete skeleton was found here in 1910). At the time of the Ahuriri land purchase in 1851, which opened up the area for European settlement, iwi had sought to reserve 500 acres of the Pohui Bush beside the lake as a bird-snaring ground (a condition neither formalised nor honoured).

With the bush cleared and much of the steep surrounding land, with its friable soils, poor for farming, Te Pōhue pioneered radiata pine in the 1920s. Following torrential rains in the '30s that led to severe erosion, Esk Forest was planted in 1948 to stabilise the hills. It's one of our ex-state forests, owned now by Forest Enterprises under Pan Pac, and about four years away from 'peaking'.

Before the Te Pōhue golf course (established 1967, and famous for its browsing sheep on the fairway), look out for the Old Coach Road, which will take you 5km through Esk Forest to Trelinnoe Park, one of the largest private gardens in the southern hemisphere, with a huge collection of rare and exotic plants, totara topiary, stone cherubs, sculptures.

The land was 'broken in' for farming in the 1950s by the Wills brothers, the first tree planted in 1960. It's for sale, but apparently still open to the public. For two hours we strolled the 12 hectares of landscaped gardens, following paths named 'Walk of the South Wind' and 'Vale of Xanadu' to Daffodil Fields and the Bridge of Reflection. We didn't see a soul, though we heard the nearby sounds of forestry and farm dogs.

Sylvia Ashton-Warner, a pupil at Te Pōhue school 100 years ago, sums up the sentiment of bygone days in her memoirs, written as John and Fiona Wills began planting their garden idyll: "Cars swoop through, soft-tyed and swift, their drivers thinking of something else, not knowing the lost population; not seeing their faces when they stop for gas, not hearing the whispering voices. Not as I who have lived here do." ●

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The view from State Highway 5 near Titiokura; Te Haroto; Trelinnoe Park, one of the largest private gardens in NZ; one of the many artworks at Trelinnoe Park; Te Pōhue settlement beneath the Te Waka ranges; the former Te Pōhue or 'Lake View' Hotel, now a private residence.

## Hawke's Bay Opera House: A place for new memories

**Story by Jess Soutar Barron.** Earthquake strengthening shut the Hawke's Bay Opera House and Arts Precinct in mid-2014. Through the ensuing metamorphosis, what is emerging is more fit-for-purpose, more exciting and interesting, more useful and usable than its earlier version ever was.

Megan Peacock Coyle (left) and Alison Banks in what will become the new Opera House laneway.  
Photo: Florence Charvin







The closure shocked the community, causing consternation and speculation, and biting a hole in the pockets of surrounding businesses. Now the project is in the home-stretch, due to open by this time next year.

What will arise will look familiar - even the same in parts - but two prongs of thinking mean it will be vastly different in its operations and outputs.

From a bricks-and-mortar perspective, the chunks of real estate making up the precinct will be woven together by laneways, creating spaces that fulfil the call for a 21st century build to be a vital conduit between people's home and work lives.

Creating spaces within cityscapes that let people meet up and enjoy each

other's company is good for a community's wellbeing. From a CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) point-of-view a space is safer for all if it's easier to occupy by everyone, rather than just the raggle-taggle few who lurk 'after hours'.

Harder to quantify is the opportunity for the newly-opened facility to be an active participant in the arts, as collaborator, commissioner, and contributor to cultural works. Creating a physical and emotional hub for creativity seems a lofty goal but speaks directly to a growing understanding of what a cultural centre should be in the 21st century.

It's a long way from the hall-for-hire model of the previous incarnation.

### **New memories**

Alison Banks, HDC's group manager for Community Facilities and Programmes, is heading up the project. She's acutely aware of the historic importance of the buildings but is committed to ensuring what happens inside the spaces is anything but old-fashioned.

"We're doing something very different and very new," says Alison, "This is innovative and a chance to be brave."

Consultation with the community brought a wave of nostalgia for the Opera House, but also a call for its heritage value to be balanced by ensuring a bright future as a well-used venue.

This thinking has been spurred on by Hawke's Bay's existing youth

Theatre maker  
Puti Lancaster working  
with Ruby Reihana-  
Wilson on a new piece.  
Photo: Florence Charvin

## “What’s most important is that relationship between space, story and people.”

PUTI LANCASTER,  
THEATRE MAKER

performing arts offering, including Project Prima Volta, National Youth Drama School, NZ Singing School, Takitimu Performing Arts School, and a multitude of dance, music and drama programmes. Ensuring the reopened precinct serves these programmes and enables youth access to the arts is an important motivator.

“This is a place where new memories will be made,” says Alison. “Youth want a place to be proud of, a place to come back to.”

A working group that helped envision what Opera House 2.0 could be, considered the feel of the place rather than the look. Alison explains: “Their thinking was based around emotions and focused on local community and

then visitors. First let’s make sure the community has ownership, that’s the only way it’ll work.”

This means the precinct needs adaptable, accessible, affordable spaces, providing opportunities for everyone in the community to experience arts and culture. “People have seen it as elite, but I want it to be a place that no matter their background, people have an opportunity to be part of it,” says Alison.

### Beyond bricks and mortar

With one year left on the build, there’s plenty of ‘bricks and mortar’ still to do for the core team of 65 builders working on site. There’s also a growing team of Opera House employees working in the background to ensure once the building is ready so too is a programme of events and partnerships with which to fill it.

The new facility will be focused on the needs of community, from hospitality to community spaces, and in this last year of works the community is being asked to get involved through a public awareness campaign.

“All Together Now” will help people understand the future potential of that quarter of Hastings, what spaces will be on offer, what combination of commercial, cultural and community will make up the precinct. As walls, barricades and hurricane fencing come down, laneways and new spaces will emerge, and the community will see possibilities unfold.

Much of that hidden potential lies in the Municipal Building. Originally council chambers, the Municipal houses the Assembly Room at its heart - with its impressive sprung dance floor - and a labyrinth of interconnecting rooms. On the ground floor - for many years a furniture shop - there’s the opportunity for flexible spaces that offer themselves to a range of uses and users from corporates to creatives to community.

From the outside, one of the biggest changes is the Plaza. Constructed as part of the 2007 rebuild, the Plaza was an open space with a retractable awning and a defunct fountain. Now it will be enclosed with a permanent roof. In its early incarnation it had limited use; the new iteration is planned to be far more usable by a wider range of groups.

“There were so many opportunities we missed out on because the Plaza was limited, now it’ll see more action!” says Alison. “It’ll be warm, secure, with better access.”

The Plaza feeds into the Cushing

Foyer that will remain as it was. From there the Theatre foyer has been opened up and brought back to its ‘original majesty’ rather than the enclosed space created during the 2000s rebuild. Moving from the theatre to the Municipal Building is where change will be particularly apparent through laneways and changes in the ground floor.

### The business of ‘show business’

In the past few years, the Opera House has been a sleeping beauty amidst new shops, bars and restaurants, opened by people gambling on Hastings as a fresh and funky place to be.

Alison Banks is looking forward to the precinct waking up and getting involved in this vitality. “If we do this right it’ll be part of many developments in the city that help bring the city alive. It’s already started and we know we can bring value.”

Rather than being another inner-city business, the Opera House is central to its vibrancy. It’s not just that it’s a home for arts and culture, there’s potential too for engaging young people to get involved ... not just in the arts but also in adjunct offerings like hospitality and backstage action like tech, as well as front-of-house.

Since its closure there’s been much conversation happening around what the Opera House complex could be in the future. Money sourced for the rebuild swings predominantly off the need for EQ strengthening; but users, those working in arts and culture, the Working Group and the general public have all expressed a need for something more.

“We’re covered when it comes to EQ strengthening, but we need to find funds to help us deliver what the community’s asked for,” explains Alison. “We thought once the building work was done it would be same old same old, but the community doesn’t want that.”

The Working Group, set up in 2017, came to the same conclusion: creating opportunities to use the available bricks-and-mortar in as many ways as possible for as many people as possible was the priority. The solution was to find a happy mix between commercial and community, with both bringing life and contributing to the success of each other.

Having people move through the space, on a daily basis, is what Opera House manager Megan Peacock Coyle is excited about.



Pauline Hayes and Ken Keys collaborating on a theatre and dance work. Photo: Tom Allan

“People bring life to a building. They might come to a café or be heading to a class or be making a piece of theatre work. We want the place to be buzzing with a whole range of different people. That’s what breathes life into a place.”

Megan explains the move from ‘what was’ to ‘what could be’.

“It’s about changing the vision from ‘building’ to ‘audience’,” she explains.

“Audience is community, it makes up everyone. It’s about how we then nurture that audience so we can see the social value of the arts. That’s the heart and soul of what we’re doing.”

This move from hall-for-hire to 21st century community hub means having a wide view on who ‘audience’ is, and how a facility can be an active participant in a healthy cultural sector.

“Hawke’s Bay can be a leader in how we celebrate, nurture, grow and connect people to their identity,” says Megan. “It gives us an ability to tell our stories. We get high-quality national companies coming here and telling theirs, but we have vibrant stories of our own and we deserve to share them.”

Practical manifestations of this new way of thinking may see the Opera

**“Their thinking was based around emotions and focused on local community and then visitors. First let’s make sure the community has ownership, that’s the only way it’ll work.”**

ALISON BANKS, HDC’S GROUP MANAGER FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

House commissioning work, or proactively engaging theatre makers and performers, as well as ‘buying in’ shows from other places.

“We have to be thinking outwardly towards our community and partnering with them to present work,” she explains. “Programming is essential to ensuring diversity. We need to give people opportunities to see a range of work, and specifically work that represents and reflects the community we live in.”

This move beyond the initial EQ-only focus means, for Alison Banks, it’s more important than ever to loop in community.

“We really need to reach out to the community and ask them to get involved in making these extra elements happen,” she says, citing three main reasons to bring in funds for things like laneways, public art, community spaces.

“From a build point-of-view they are ‘nice-to-have’, but really they are the life blood, they are what makes this a great place to spend time in.”

Also, central and local government funding needs proof of community commitment to raising funds. Thirdly, when the public contributes to a project they are more inclined to use it

once it’s open. They feel ownership for it, literally and figuratively.

**People need people**

With the momentum for adding extra elements to the rebuild coming from the community, the potential of future spaces informs an ongoing dialogue among Hawke’s Bay’s performing arts sector.

Puti Lancaster has taken the theatre scene by storm over the last few years with site-specific, place-based work telling hyperlocal stories from Heretaunga. It’s been a highlight of arts festivals around NZ and received high praise from audiences and industry. For her, making work isn’t simply reliant on facilities but grows more from a sense of comradery and companionship.

“I make work in any place that holds stories; what’s most important is that relationship between space, story and people,” Puti says.

Puti’s work is impressive and innovative on a national level and Hawke’s Bay benefits from having makers of her calibre living and working here. As much as having the right team is central to the way she works, having space in which to create is important too.

“It’s about being in relationship with that space, it’s another collaborator.” Puti reinforces the importance of the Opera House’s central positioning in the heart of Hastings. She too would like to see the precinct take on a more active role in the arts.

“I’d love to be commissioned to make a work! It might be cheeky but it’s about time we were asked.”

Realising the potential of the Opera House is seen by Puti as essential to a thriving future for the arts here, not just a ‘nice-to-have’.

“That’s what the service of theatre is, to grow us as people. We’re figuring that out all the time, how theatre can be of service. That’s the value of theatre, the huge spiritual work of stories,” explains Puti. “We’re talking directly to parts of the human condition, telling our stories is part of what it is to be human.”

Theatre maker and educator Ken Keys’ ongoing and active relationship with the Opera House goes back further than just about any other practitioner in Hawke’s Bay.

Ken set up the original performing arts programme housed at the OH through the 90s in conjunction with EIT. He established and still sits on the board of the National Youth Drama School, now in its 27th year. He was a

member of the Working Group.

“The world of performing arts in Hawke’s Bay has changed in the last two decades,” says Ken. “The change in thinking is that performing arts isn’t just frippery, it’s intrinsic to the heart and soul of the community. Having a facility for expression may sound a cliché but in reality it’s as vital to what a community needs as roads and parks,” says Ken.

“The closure was double-edged. It was tragic, but without it the rethink wouldn’t have happened. We have this opportunity to think about the Opera House and Municipal Building as an integrated venue, alive with - and for - community. That whole area should be buzzing with activity.”

Ken is currently working on a theatre piece with local playwright Pauline Hayes. In the middle of rehearsals (in cramped spaces all over town) they agree having a central home for performing arts would have practical as well as cultural benefits.

Pauline has been making theatre in Hawke’s Bay for years; her work is now being exported to other parts of the country. She’s pragmatic about what artists need beyond the feel-good. “To be honest, we need a big fat space that’s heavily subsidised for emerging artists who have no access to funds.”

“There’s no facility for emerging artists to make work, and you don’t get money from Creative New Zealand to get started so you do need a community facility. It becomes a feeder for making work and lifting it onto a national stage.”

Ken says the wrap-around infrastructure is as important as the space. “It’s not just a venue, it’s supportive and experienced people who can mentor and be a catalyst for getting local work off the ground.”

Pauline sees much unexplored possibility here. “The talent that exists in the Bay but is untapped is world-class. We’re not a rural outpost. We have what’s needed to create a performing arts centre that’s first-rate.”

Bricks and mortar are important but it’s the invisible ‘other’ that makes the real difference. “Creatives make work anyway,” says Pauline. “What’s hard is connecting. But if you’ve got a central place, people know where to go and they gravitate towards that place.”

“The talent here is tremendous,” agrees Ken. “It’s a whole dynamic that exists here. Work creates work, people need people. That’s what the Opera House should be about.” ●





## The Blessed Drink

**It's often hard to find the exact time when an action changes from being something you do every so often, without a lot of planning or forethought, into a fully blown habit. And which after a while becomes more like a cherished ritual that you cling to like you might a lifeboat or a ticket to see Nick Cave.**

I think for most or at least a lot of New Zealanders the ritualistic drinking of espresso coffee at times could match many ancient cult rituals. As for when this change occurred ... well for those of us old enough to remember I feel like it was in the late 80s, early 90s, when with the help of a few hallowed coffee pioneers we sampled for the first time the delights of the blessed drink.

A few factors contribute to a person becoming - shall we say - addicted to their morning coffee. There are the physical ones. That is, coffee does not just contain caffeine, which is highly addictive, but also contains a compound called cafestrol, which has opiate-like properties. And as well as this compound there are numerous others that when mixed together all contribute to one needing - as well as wanting to wait sometimes for quite a while for - your first espresso of the day.

But I think what can really get you hooked is something more metaphysical. It's the constant drive to find the perfect blend, roast and cup. Because, you see, as well as being a science, roasting espresso is very much an art.

Have you ever watched a coffee roaster while they are at work? The way they listen intently with their whole body for the final crack, constantly sniffing the beans while they roast, and the air to check that the atmospheric pressure is just right.

And this is after, skillfully using all of their nine

senses, they have chosen the perfect type, origin and blend of beans!

You see, I have just once or maybe twice almost got there.

I have tasted espresso that is far more than just a drink. It is that perfect blend of bitter and sweet, chocolate and all the other aromatics. It excites your body and your mind and makes you feel like you are the luckiest person alive, like the world and everyone in it is wonderfully interesting and you are quite happy to sit just where you are and observe it all. You can feel and taste the integrity of the bean and the roaster and you feel a part of something very special.

And once you have tasted espresso like this you do not forget and are constantly searching to repeat the experience.

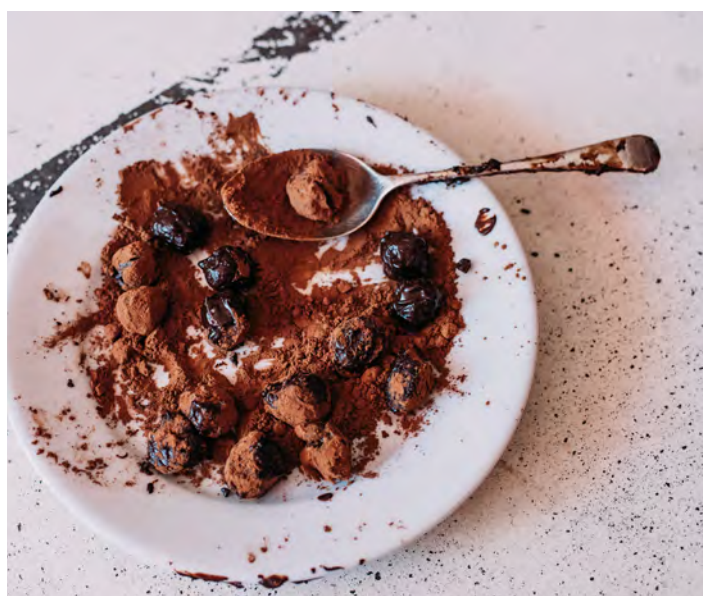
Which is what led me to be so immersed in the process of coffee roasting that at times I would feel that I was absorbing so much of it through my skin my blood must surely have turned a lovely shade of burnt umber. And from this immersion I have gained a deep respect and love for ... the bean, and all that it brings forth.

But I am in no way the first. That title, it is said, belongs to Kaldi, a Ethiopia goat herder who lived in 850 AD, who noticed that when his goats ate the beans from the ancient coffee trees they became very exuberant. When he told his priest about this, the priest tried brewing them up and found them most useful in keeping himself awake during long prayer sessions.

Whether this is really how coffee was first discovered or not ... it doesn't really matter. I am sure if it wasn't Kaldi it was someone very like him. And so, began the long and varied history of the coffee bean and drink.

So, whether you take coffee to keep yourself awake during a night of cramming for exams. Or to take you to heightened states in a religious ritual, as did some Sufi mystics, or simply because you enjoy the taste, I would say jolly good on you.

And while some say it has negative effects on your health, there are just as many listing huge benefits, especially to your liver, as long as it is had in



moderation I suppose. And what is moderation? Yes, well that is the question. I always thought two double shots a day was a good safe and reasonable amount, but then we are all different.

Where is this ramble leading?

Well, often I hear people say 'I should give up coffee' or 'I drink too much coffee' and I find this alarming and a little sad. Our lives are often very complicated and full of things we have to or should not do. But your morning espresso ritual can be one of the few moments where with not much fuss or expense you can have a moment that is yours, before the day crashes in.

Or as Gertrude Stein said so well ...

"Coffee is a lot more than just a drink; it's something happening. Not as in hip, but like an event, a place to be, but not like a location, but like somewhere within yourself. It gives you time, but not actual hours or minutes, but a chance to be, like be yourself, and have a second cup."

So in case you are looking for more ways to enjoy espresso, here is a wee recipe for espresso and chocolate truffles.

### Espresso chocolate truffle

Makes 14-16

200 grams dark chocolate, finely chopped

75 mls espresso coffee

Cocoa for rolling truffles

Put the chocolate and coffee into a bowl and then sit it over a small pot of simmering water, making sure the bottom of the bowl does not touch the water.

When the chocolate has melted, take it off the heat and stir it into the coffee until it is smooth.

Then leave it at room temperature to set.

Then you can take small teaspoon full and roll it into balls, next put the cocoa onto a plate and roll the truffles in the cocoa.

Leave them at room temperature for a few more hours and then store them in the fridge. ●



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# Hakikino, Window to Māori Culture

Story by Kay Bazzard. Photos by Tom Allan.

“Waimārama is so much more than a seaside resort,” says Robert MacDonald, kaumātua of Ngāti Kahungunu (tribe) and Ngāti Kurukuru (sub-tribe), the tangata whenua of Waimārama.

“For those of us who live here and call it home, the landscape holds so many memories, legends and ancestral stories - cultural knowledge that needs to be kept alive and shared with our youth, and with others who are interested to learn the history of this place.”

Of particular significance is Hakikino, a limestone hill and ancient pā site on the family farm in the coastal hills - a 14th century site that has been extensively surveyed by archaeologists providing evidence that some 5,000 members of the Rangitāne tribe lived in the area in that century.

MacDonald’s vision has long been that Hakikino be known about and understood by as many people as possible in order to keep it safe and intact. His first priority has been to gather and maintain the knowledge for the young members of his whānau who are by now quite dispersed and disconnected due to the necessity of going elsewhere

**“We asked ourselves, ‘Do we let people know what is important to us here and share it, or just quietly continue living our own lives quite separately in Waimārama?’ which is what most Māori do.”**

ROBERT MACDONALD

for education and employment.

“We asked ourselves, ‘Do we let people know what is important to us here and share it, or just quietly continue living our own lives quite separately in Waimārama?’ which is what most Māori do. Because when we are ‘out’ in the mainstream we are different from our normal selves it’s like living in two worlds and it’s a lot to ask of our whānau.”

Ten years ago Waimārama Māori Tours was established, a venture that takes visitors out to Hakikino, either in individual or small group tours or





Robert MacDonald

on a 2½ hour cruise ship tour with larger groups. The tourism venture was intended primarily as the medium for creating youth employment at home, to develop work skills in tourism, hospitality and in horticulture in the native plant nursery set up to reestablish native plants on the site.

Although early attempts to bring youth into the venture proved unsustainable due to the seasonal and irregular nature of the tours - something outside their control - today the young do return during the summer holidays to play their part when they are not working. For the most part, the tours are lead and supported by the older family members who work for the love of it in the interests of keeping the dream alive and in helping to fund the wider Hakikino project.

While providing viable employment was a high priority, the driving motivation was and is cultural, the integrity of the Waimārama history and culture through understanding the old ways of Māori, learned at home on family land with the aunts and kaumātua,

sharing the mores and values of good living, te reo Māori, while fostering a sense of identity, pride and cohesion.

#### **Whakapapa**

Robert introduces me to his ancestors in sepia photographs lined up on the living room wall; of moko-ed highborn female relatives and chiefly males; his great-grandmother and great-grandfather; his own mother as a young child seated at the feet of her parents, with her six big brothers standing tall behind, the photograph taken in 1921. [MacDonald's mother is Ngāti Kahungunu, his father Rangitāne.]

His mother has passed on now, but he understands her worry (spoken of many times) that as a young mother in the 1940-50s she was not allowed access to her placentas by the uncomprehending medical and midwifery staff. "Anyone who asked for it was treated with contempt," Robert says, "it was a great sadness to my mother that the land would not know her children when, after their deaths they would be returned to the earth. Mum's

mother had taught her that by burying the placenta on their ancestral land, the land would know them, just as they knew their land.

"I'm really glad that today, mothers are returning to Hakikino to plant the placentas under the whenua tree [whenua is both placenta and land]; just as the bones of deceased whānau are disinterred from foreign grounds and brought here to be reburied. This is the spiritual cycle, this is our land-tie and it's very, very important."

There are many such customs and spiritual practices known to him through his mother and aunts that were not openly discussed on the marae in their lifetime. Customs that were further undermined during the 20th century, largely by work-related movements of Māori away from the marae into the cities and the powerful influences of the Pākehā-dominant NZ European education.

Underpinning the interpretation of how the ancestors lived has been recent research on early Polynesian migrations and Māori settlement,



**As he ages Robert is conscious that succession planning is necessary to ensure continuity and survival of the WMT venture.**

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adding to whānau and tribal oral histories, the known major historical pre-European events and the Māori tradition of whakapapa.

Scholars of Māori history, life and custom have long maintained a body of information on which to draw and one of those is Dr Rangi Matamoa, an expert in Māori astronomy and a Professor of Māori and Indigenous Studies at Waikato University. His research fields are Māori astronomy and star lore, Māori culture and language.

Studying this research has inspired MacDonald to plan his next project, a matai whetū at Hakikino, ‘a place to study the stars’ especially Matariki, the rising of the star cluster Paleides, signaling the Māori New Year. This encompasses the Māori lunar calendar, or maramataka, with markers of the way the sun, moon and stars rule our lives. “This keeps our history alive,” he says, “and it is practical for our people, for the growing of food, fishing, planning ahead, it is part of who we are. Matariki is a time for reading the

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TOP: Robert MacDonald with nephew, Ike Wallace.  
LEFT: Hinengatiira, the mother of the tribe.





Hakikino, a limestone hill and ancient pā site.

stars and what they tell us about the year ahead, but it also signals that it is a time of letting go and for moving on.”

### Cultural immersion

As he ages Robert is conscious that succession planning is necessary to ensure continuity and survival of the WMT venture. He is hopeful that his nephew, Ike Wallace, who has joined him to do the day-to-day management of the business of Waimārama Māori Tours, will be the one to carry on the leadership after him. “I don’t know if that will happen, but it will be wonderful if it does.”

*The Arch of the Ancestors* is the WMT tours cruise ship tour lasting 2½ hours, while the individual small group tours are more customized and flexible. *A Walk with the Ancestors* is a two-hour tour.

*A Day in the Life of the Māori Elder* is a six-hour tour that allows for visitors’ interests and time frames to be considered. It usually starts at the 13th century Tākitimu waka arrival location on the beach at Waimārama, before heading inland to Hakikino and includes imagination-stirring historical stories, and a visit to the marae. This tour includes a visit and lunch at Robert’s family home.

The stories told beneath the

dramatic limestone crags touch on early Māori survival in Aotearoa, of food sources such as the long finned eel and birds, discovering plants that were nourishing or medicinal, of warfare, ancestral heroes and abductions, survival on minimum rations in winter, and the use of plants for clothing and making shelter.

“You had to be very tuned to your environment. You had to understand the seasons, know the plants, some of which are poisonous at different times of the year,” says MacDonald. “There were two important things - the summers were spent gathering, growing and harvesting food to get through the winter, and knowing medicinal herbs.

“The other major concern was warfare; if you weren’t ready you would be defeated. Inter-tribal battles were always about survival. If one tribe’s crops failed or for some reason they were running out of food and not able to get through the winter, then one of few options available was to go and steal someone else’s.”

Then, in the 14th century, Kahungunu and his warriors travelled down the East Coast, fighting, plundering and recruiting as they went. They arrived in Northern Hawke’s Bay

and established themselves at Wairoa. From there the new tribe, now named for Kahungunu himself, extended their influence into the rest of Hawke’s Bay and on into the Wairarapa. Hakikino, the heavily defended fortress at Waimārama was the site of the last major inter-tribal battle between Ngāti Kahungunu and Rangitāne.

Although the Rangitāne people were well prepared within their fortress pā, they were not battle-hardened after years of peace and were overwhelmed by Kahungunu’s superior forces.

The fierce battle was waged in order to capture the high-ranking Hinengatiira for marriage to one of his general’s sons, Rongomaipureora.

MacDonald explains, “A high-ranking woman did not necessarily lose possession of her rights and lands. Marriage ensured that all children would inherit by right of succession.” This early colonisation merged the Rangitāne and Kahungunu tribes and peace was achieved. A few generations later the fortified site of Hakikino was abandoned.

Until its restoration to play a role in keeping awareness of Waimārama’s cultural history alive under Robert MacDonald’s determined leadership. ●



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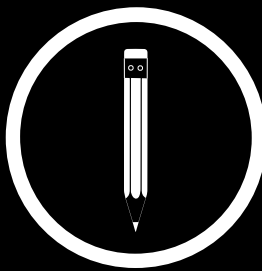
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IDEAS AND OPINION  
MARY KIPPENBERGER

## Sexy Onions

It's 11 pm and The Frank Burkitt Band have sung their last encore to rapturous acclaim. Cars can be heard bump, bump over the culvert, homeward bound. The band, fed and watered, are ready to jam into the night, reluctant leavers sit in corners chatting and I have slipped away to write.

About onions.

When people question my love for growing onions I have, with some small measure of smug, explained that onions are one of the supermarkets' most sprayed vegetables. Apparently they are one of the *least* sprayed, but whoever let a fact get in the way of a good story. Not me.

I love onions. If I was only allowed to grow three things it would be onions, potatoes and squash. Or maybe, onions, potatoes and tomatoes, or cucumber, or garlic, or kumara. Too hard. But onions and potatoes. Growing magic.

I plant my potatoes deep down. When the first shoots eventually push through, involuntary gasps greet their entry. Waiting and patience are not my super powers and it is all I can do to control myself as harvest nears.

I fear I am addicted to digging up potatoes.

Perfect lumps of white gold. Treasure. I try so hard to just dig what is needed but I am weak. Just one more plant, oh go on then, another one and so it goes until finally I wrest myself away and take my laden bucket home. Sometimes I feel so guilty keeping the joy to myself that I head off around the farm scooping up any mokopuna willing to play potato pick with me. Sometimes they pretend not to be willing.

So, onions. We grow hundreds and I imagine them stored in long lines of plaited beauty, but both my growing and creative ability stops short of such

rustic charm. An observer would more likely tut tut than thumbs up. We hang our walnuts in pantyhose, another effective but expensive option, so it wasn't looking good for my ever-accumulating allium bulbs.

It wasn't looking good until I found myself at the WhyNot shop in Auckland. If your heart elevates at the thought of a bargain and buying in multiples is where it's at then this is the place for you.

I entered my cavernous, concreted heaven. Seasoned eyes scanned left to

**I found myself at the WhyNot shop in Auckland. If your heart elevates at the thought of a bargain and buying in multiples is where it's at then this is the place for you.**

right, up and down. The trolley was filling nicely and that's when I saw them. Stockings. Sexy fishnets. Black. \$2.00 for four pairs. My breathing quickened as I began the great gathering in. The trolley was already spilling with 360 badges, perfect badges for our festival participants. Nothing says music festival registration more than 'Courage of a Cowboy' or 'Shine like a Mermaid'.

Twenty-six pairs danced happily atop the laden trolley and suddenly common sense paid a visit where common sense suggested if these stockings were indeed sexy then maybe they would not be robust. I halted mid flow and headed to the counter. A young thing looked at me and I looked at her and



Photo: Mary Kippenberger

we both looked at the 26 packets of long legged seduction on a stick.

Wrinkles wobbled as I smiled at her. "They're for my onions," I explained.

Nothing.

"I saw it on television."

Nothing

"I grow onions you see."

Her eyes wandered to the 360 badges she would have to count.

Nothing.

I looked in a basket next to the counter. Little wind up horses for 50c each. Fifty would be useful. Another young thing was called in to help and finally I was away and heading home.

And now for the devastating conclusion to this riveting tale.

Those sexy stockings were as robust and as tough as old boots. The fishnet allowed the onions to breath and dance in the cooling breeze.

When I went back a week later fully expecting the enormous supply of stockings to be waiting for me, they were gone, all of them.

There must be a lot of onions in Auckland.

Thanks a bunch common sense. ●

Editor note: We omitted some key lines from Mary's column last edition, *Dancing Lessons*. Mary's stories are always worth a second read. You can read the perfect version at baybuzz.co.nz/2019/02/01/dancing-lessons.



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