

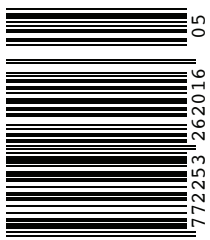
BAY BUZZ

№49 • SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2019 • HAWKE'S BAY UP CLOSE, IN DEPTH

Candidates Want You!



\$10.00 INC. GST



Local firms tackle carbon • Stunning eco-home • Battling for health services • Chlorine gets 'No' vote • Radiation treatment for HB • Man Bike Dog



Kiki Abel, Sales Associate at New Zealand Sotheby's International Realty in Hawke's Bay.

“ We moved here a year ago when we realised the kiwi dream was within reach and we'd been ignoring the opportunity. This place is us consciously deciding to put family and happiness first. It's the best change we've ever made. ”

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BayBuzz September/October 2019

Council campaigns underway. DHB elections need attention. HB companies aim for carbon zero. Stunning Hastings eco-home. Penetrating the social service bureaucracy. Rural mobile coverage still spotty. Radiation therapy promised to Bay. Voting 'No' to chlorine. Fringe Festival coming to town. Bistronomy paying the 'Living Wage'. Discover ghostly Pukeora. Dogs versus bikes. Translating stories to dance. Slowing down!

Cover photo: Mayoral candidates Damon Harvey, Sandra Hazelhurst, Kirsten Wise and Chris Tremain. Photo: Florence Charvin. Above: Pepper the dog. Photo: Tom Allan

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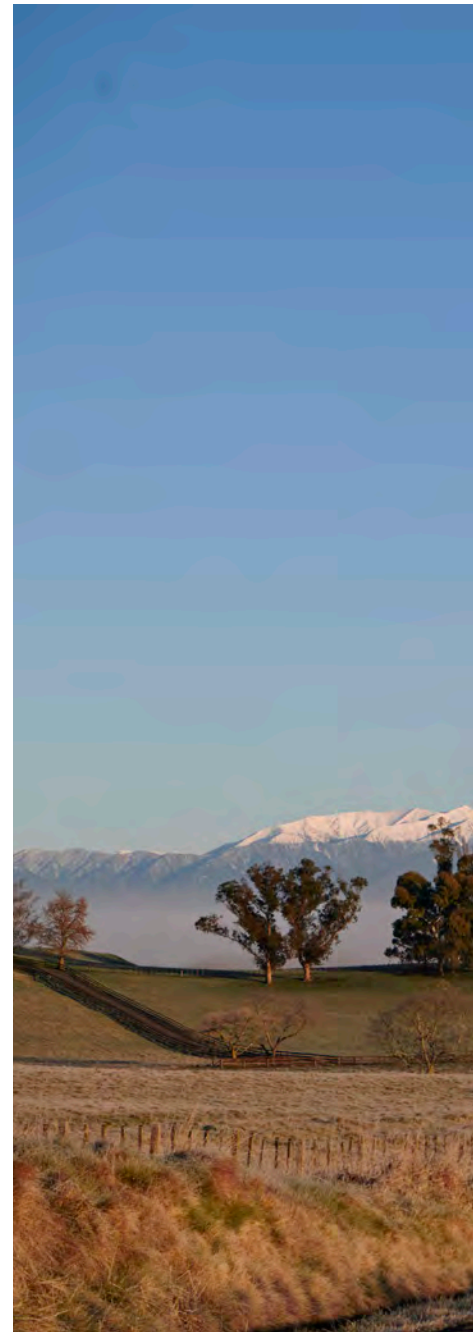
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Articles online at:
baybuzz.co.nz

Editorial enquiries
editors@baybuzz.co.nz

Advertising enquiries
Mel Blackmore
mel@baybuzz.co.nz
021 911 098

Reach BayBuzz by mail
BayBuzz, PO Box 8322,
Havelock North



The BayBuzz Team

EDITOR: Tom Belford
ASSISTANT EDITORS:
Bridget Freeman-Rock;
Lizzie Russell
SENIOR WRITERS:
Rosheen FitzGerald;
Bridget Freeman-Rock;
Keith Newman; Sophie Price
COLUMNISTS: Kay Bazzard;
Andrew Frame; Mary
Kippenberger; Matt Miller;
Paul Paynter; Jess Soutar
Barron; Pat Turley;
Alexandra Tylee
EDITOR'S RIGHT HAND:
Brooks Belford
PHOTOGRAPHY: Tom Allan;
Florence Charvin
ILLUSTRATION:
Brett Monteith
DESIGN: Unit Design -
Max Parkes; Giselle Reid
DISTRIBUTION:
Mel Blackmore
ONLINE: Mogul, Liz Nes
BUSINESS MANAGER:
Bernadette Magee
PRINTING: Format Print

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Featured Contributor



Sophie Price

I first came to write for *BayBuzz* during the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme debacle. The scheme was at the tail end of an arduous court process between Forest & Bird and the Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company and DOC over 22 hectares of conservation land which HBRIC needed to build the dam. If Forest & Bird lost a dangerous precedent would have been set that could have seen conservation land traded away for capital works projects. However, it didn't and the RWSS was quietly shelved. I find myself writing about the dam again because it was this issue that reignited my love for council reporting – showing me how important grassroots politics is to the people and how important it is to report on it.

Photo: Tom Allan

BayBuzz Regulars



Tom Allan

Tom Allan is Hawke's Bay born and bred. He's a designer, photographer and videographer, and yoga practitioner. When Tom's not behind the lens, he runs Studio Ossian, a co-working space in Ahuriri.



Florence Charvin

Hawke's Bay is the adopted home of French photographer Florence Charvin. Florence likes to photograph people and what they are passionate about.



Andrew Frame

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



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.



Paul Paynter

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



Keith Newman

Keith is a journo with over 45 years' experience across mainstream and trade media. He's won awards for writing about hi-tech, produced music programmes for Radio NZ and published five books, one on the internet in New Zealand and four on New Zealand history.



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
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
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
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
5. Have you 'Liked' our Facebook page?
Check it out: facebook.com/baybuzzhb
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
7. Do you have/know of a store or shop where *BayBuzz* magazine could be sold?
Email 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.
9. Would you like a 'bulk rate' for *BayBuzz* subscriptions for your employees, clients, members? We'll offer a super deal!
Email editors@baybuzz.co.nz
10. Give a gift subscription. Sign the lucky person up at www.baybuzz.co.nz/gift



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FROM THE EDITOR
TOM BELFORD

As signs around the community indicate, I am standing again for the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, seeking to represent Hastings, Havelock North and Flaxmere.

In this current term, I have had the privilege to work with a team of councillors united in purpose - refocusing the regional council on its primary environmental mission.

The changes we have made have required heaps of 'course correction' at the Regional Council over the past three years, the most obvious being 'moving on' from two previous councils' unfortunate and all-consuming devotion to building a \$300 million dam in CHB. And restoring basic trust in Council decision-making.

What are the results of this team effort?

We candidly front-footed the unmet and urgent needs of the region for environmental renewal. We proposed a step-change in focus and funding for environmental initiatives in our new long-term plan, and were strongly supported by most ratepayers.

Supplementing our own investment, we have secured over \$56 million in government funding in support of our leading-edge environmental initiatives.

For example, we are committing \$30 million over ten years, alongside funding from property owners and the Government, for erosion control, riparian planting and stock exclusion from waterways. Real action for healthy, swimmable waters.

With an unrelenting focus on water quality, we have pressured our territorial authorities to step-up and speed-up their upgrading of woefully inadequate wastewater treatment and stormwater systems.

This tough stance doesn't endear the HBRC to our fellow councils, but it is absolutely essential to improving the health of key water bodies like the Tukituki and the Ahuriri Estuary. To say nothing of creating the modern urban water infrastructure we need for safe - chlorine-free - drinking water.

We have also developed a new water quality and allocation plan for the Heretaunga Plains, soon to be notified, which will underpin environmentally-sustainable future food production in our region's economic heartland.

Since before becoming a councillor, I have championed a Hawke's Bay Future Farming Initiative, finally winning approval for it in our long-term plan, and now serving on its governing trust. This farmer-led initiative aims to make our province NZ's leader in adopting and celebrating 'state of the art' food production approaches that marry superior productivity with sound environmental practices.

We have ensured the capacity of Napier Port to support our growing export economy (at no cost to ratepayers), while maintaining HBRC control, attracting nearly 8,000 local ratepayer investors, de-risking the Council's asset concentration, and, with over \$100 million in net proceeds to invest, providing increased financial earnings for HBRC to apply to further environmental improvements.

And most crucial for the long haul, a journey already overdue, our Council has committed to carbon neutrality by 2040 for the region, recognising the steeply accelerating threat posed by global warming and our moral and practical obligations to mitigate its impacts. Our action plan will begin right at the Council, lessening our energy use and travel and sponsoring prudent forestry, but then expand outward as we aim to mobilise all ages, institutions and companies in the region for this cause.

So, with that record, for the term ahead, I hope voters will endorse my candidacy and the positive direction our current team has taken for HBRC, and capitalise on our present momentum.

Personally, I am challenged and energised by the opportunities ahead.

The region's environment and growth challenges are not issues that simply 'pop up' on my agenda at election time or because I'm bored with

retirement. And they are not issues that can be resolved by casual attention, off-the-cuff analysis and behind-the-curve thinking, and 'drop-in' councillors.

As a two-term regional councillor, I listen daily to people's concerns, including the critics. As chair of the Environment Committee, I've done the homework, read the reports, challenged staff, dug into the issues, and provided particular leadership on water quality, sustainable farming, and climate change. And, as editor of *BayBuzz*, I've reported on these difficult issues with depth, independence and persistence.

I live these issues.

What are the opportunities ahead?

If given another term on the Regional Council, I will focus on:

Getting it right on water, whether the issue is ecosystem protection and mauri, safe drinking water, swimmable rivers and beaches, water bottling, chlorine, protecting aquifers and marine fisheries, or water security for growers.

Protecting and enhancing our irreplaceable soils, which *should* serve as water and carbon sponges, but now erode by millions of tonnes per year into our rivers and ultimately our marine environment, fouling both.

Helping our food producers prosper by creating more sustainable long-term value.

Making Hawke's Bay the leading region in NZ in terms of responding to global warming.

I ask for your support.

Tom Belford
tom@baybuzz.co.nz

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.



TOM BELFORD

FOR REGIONAL COUNCIL



Speaking up for YOU!

We Support Tom Belford

John Scott

Tom is driven to protect and enhance our environment for the benefit of all the residents of Hawke's Bay. For all the years I've known Tom, I've found him to be a straight-shooter in all things, open to debate and a believer in transparency. We have been well-represented by Tom.

David Trubridge

Tom is the voice of conscience for HBRC. I am very happy to endorse him as a candidate of rare integrity, who has no personal agenda other than the good of the community and the environment.

Jess Soutar Barron

Tom backs what he believes in, researches issues, never goes off half-cocked and always sticks to his guns. No battle is too big and no person too small to be significant and worth the fight. He is a steadfast champion of the environment, an holistic thinker with an eye for micro-details, and he's unflinchingly honest. Tom's the voice I want for my region.

Chris Perley

Tom's record on raising issues relating to our environment is well known. He is the most recognised advocate for the environment sitting around the HB Regional Council table. He also has an excellent record in highlighting the importance of quality governance and administration within our councils, and in raising debate within the Hawke's Bay populace - a vital function for any healthy democracy.

Doris & Urs Blum

We have come to know Tom as a very hard worker, keen to be well informed before making a decision. We also appreciate that his approach to 'progress' is not only about increasing the GDP and creating jobs, it is also about caring for the environment and protecting our precious resources. It is about what is the best for everybody affected by the HBRC decisions. And as evident in his *BayBuzz* magazine, Tom is one of the rare politically active people in the Bay who speaks out passionately about issues that lie at his heart. Tom will have our full support!

Jacob Scott

I see Tom Belford as a man I can trust. While he has an eye on the bigger picture he seems to also understand and value the small things that can make a difference to our region and our world. Tom's a professional communicator, proven in practice, who we need to be at the table.

Sarah Whiten & John Schiff

Tom is a passionate advocate for the Bay - fighting for transparent decision-making for ratepayers; pushing for sensible environmental policies; and promoting creativity and healthy debate through *Bay Buzz*, New Zealand's most informative regional magazine. He has been instrumental in refocusing the Regional Council on its core roles of protecting and enhancing the environment and the sustainable development of our region.

John Bostock

Tom has been a diligent councillor. He understands the issues and has found a balance between the competing interests of environment, social and productive sectors. The issues are complex and Tom deserves another term.

Jon & Jo Eames

We strongly endorse Tom for re-election to our regional council. His input ensures a strong voice for maintaining and improving the environmental and financial status of our region. He keeps the people of HB well-informed on important regional issues and works hard to strengthen and maintain regional council accountability and honesty.

Phyllis Tichinin

Our HB environment has a long simmering soil and water crisis. As a councillor, Tom has been devoted to reversing the institutional neglect of our most precious resources. We have a long way to go to put this right again and we need Tom, the real deal for the environment, to be there - informed and dedicated - to stand up for us and our environment, economy and community.

Margot Wilson

Tom is an environmentalist and activist, and also a humanist and as such is prepared to walk the talk to help others on their journey in life. A man of action, true to his values and beliefs. It is so important that our regional councillors not only hear and act on the voice of the people, but also weigh up the cost to our environment. With Tom involved you know that this will be happening.

Please Join Us!

Todd Dawson

With a mighty crew at his side, Napier Port chief executive Todd Dawson launched the Port into the occasionally choppy waters of the New Zealand (indeed global) sharemarket last August 20. Nearly 8,000 Hawke's Bay residents had already joined the crew by taking up priority shares.

On the opening day, sale of 45% of its shares netted the Regional Council \$234 million, as the market valued the Port at \$520 million when trading began. HBRC will retain about \$108 million of the proceeds, which will be invested for earnings to fuel its environmental programmes, while continuing to earn dividends from its remaining 55% Port ownership. The Port will use the balance to increase its

capacity in the face of strong regional export growth, chiefly through a major new container wharf.

Todd joined Napier Port in January 2018, bringing over 20 years of broad commercial experience across the international transport and logistics sectors, at firms like Kotahi Logistics, UK supermarket Sainsbury, IBM, Toll New Zealand and Mainfreight. He is a member of NZ's Institute of Directors. ●



Eat the Core!

Good news for those of us who live in Apple Country: one apple contains about 100 million bacteria—a more diverse range than any dietary supplement.

While the trend right now is for including fermented foods in the diet, for the sake of the gut microbiome, researchers have suggested that surely there is a simpler answer to gut health than supplements, kombucha and kimchi. And the answer is here – apples.

Research recently published in *Frontiers in Microbiology* found that the average apple contains about 100 million bacteria. They come from many different taxa (unlike most probiotic-supplement pills, which usually contain just type of bacteria).

Of all those millions of bacteria in an apple, most are innocuous or even beneficial. The researchers explain that these bacteria join and interact

with the trillions of microbes that are in our guts already, aiding digestion and metabolic health, and the functioning of our immune systems.

Most of the microbes are in the core. If you eat around the core and throw it away, you are passing up on 90% of the bacteria, with the seeds of the apples containing the most microbes of any part.

You might ask: How many 'apple bacteria' produced here in Hawke's Bay? We produce about 360,000 tonnes of apples annually, making our region a true mother lode of bacteria: $360,000 \text{ T} \times 55 \text{ boxes/T} \times 110 \text{ apples/box}$ equals about 2.2 billion apples \times 100 million bacteria per apple ... The maths froze our calculator!



Did You Know?

1.

Dates to note for the local body elections:

20-25 September

Voting papers delivered to households

12 October

Voting papers must be at the council before voting closes at 12 noon.

(Preliminary results will be available as soon as possible afterwards.)

17-23 October

Official results declared.

2

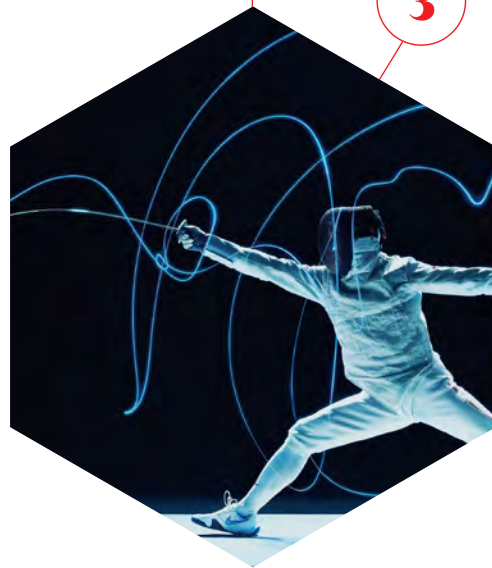


2.

Dates for **Te Wiki o te reo Māori** (Māori Language Week) are September 9 – 15 and the theme will be 'Kia Kaha te Reo Māori' (Let's make the Māori Language Strong!)

3.

Hawke's Bay has a fencing club. **Hawke's Bay Blades** (one of 26 clubs in the country) has recently been set up in Havelock North and has a membership of around 30 people across all ages. The club will host the New Zealand Central Open tournament on October 12 – 13. Find out more about the club at hbblades.com.



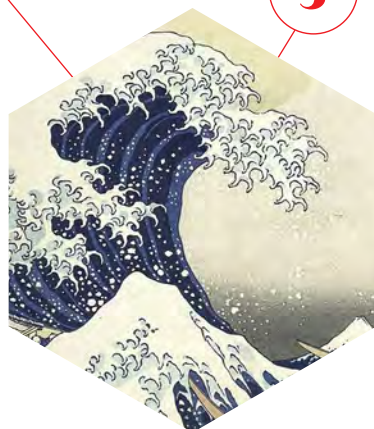
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4.

The 2019 HBRC Resident Survey found that overall, 64.6% of residents were from 'somewhat' to 'very concerned' about the impact of climate change. Wairoa residents (72.0%) were the most concerned and CHB residents (49.3%) were the least concerned about climate change's effects in the region.

5.

The same survey reported that the threat or disaster of the highest concern for residents in Hawke's Bay was Earthquake (74.9%), followed by Flooding (47.3%) and Tsunami (43.3%).



5

6



6.

Hawke's Bay singer-songwriter Stretch is currently working on a new album, to be completely written and recorded in Hawke's Bay. He's planning to bring in collaborators from around New Zealand to work with local talent, set up a make-shift recording space and produce an independent record that is totally of Hawke's Bay.

7



7.

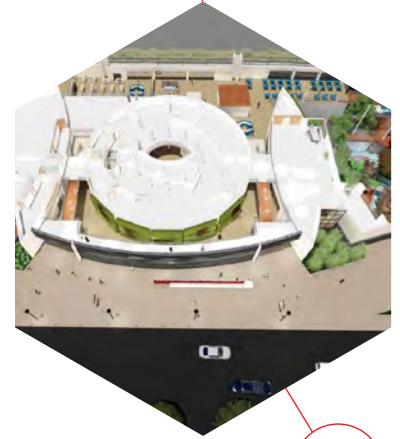
NZ Police now has a new phone number for non-urgent calls: 105.

10.

Every year, around **6 million cigarette butts** are discarded in New Zealand, and around 4 trillion globally.

11.

More than **700,000 international** visitors visit New Zealand wineries each year.



11



14

10



12

8.

Bellyful is a national charity providing meals for families with newborn babies and families with young children who are struggling with illness, and 2019 marks 10 years of work in the community. You can contact the Napier branch to volunteer, donate, request help or refer a family by visiting bellyful.org.nz/napier.

9.

You can sign up to Hastings District Council's handy **Waste Awareness e-newsletter** at bit.ly/wastenews

12.

In Hastings, work on the **Opera House** complex is steaming along. The Opera House and Plaza are set to re-open by February next year, with the Municipal Building (undergoing earthquake strengthening) to re-open in 2021.

13.

Hawke's Bay was founded in 1858, making this year's HB Anniversary (celebrated on 25 October) our 161st birthday.

10



14.

The expansion of the National Aquarium is now known as **Project Shapeshifter**: Redefining our National Aquarium. The name is emblematic of Māui – the 'shapeshifter' and great East Polynesian ancestor-explorer of the Pacific Ocean. Consultation with stakeholders has begun, with a business case planned to be submitted to Government in November.

15.

New Zealand exports more than 12 different **apple varieties** to 75 countries with a total value of \$730 million.

BayBuzz Event Guide

August 29 – September 15

New Zealand International Film Festival at MTG Century Theatre and Event Cinemas Havelock North

Soak up the last of winter by staying indoors for the annual feast of local and international cinematic magic. nziff.co.nz

September 1 – November 2

Spring Fling, Central Hawke's Bay

Celebrate springtime in CHB throughout September and October with a series of diverse events from historic homestead visits to coastal walks, and the highlight of Taniwha Daffodils.

thespringfling.nz

September 11

A Taste of Ireland at Napier Municipal Theatre

Featuring the World, All Ireland & National Champion Irish dancers, and musicians from around the globe, *A Taste of Ireland* explores magical tales spanning generations of Irish storytelling and culture. eventfinda.co.nz

September 13

Same Same but Different at St Andrew's Church Hall

The 2019 Heretaunga Women's Centre Forum includes keynote speakers Georgina Beyer and Mereana Pitman, and workshops by Sophie Handford, Tabby Besley, Sam Ede, Ngaira Harker, Carole Gordon, Rizwana Latiff. heretaungawomenscentre.nz

September 13

The Queen Celebration at Paisley Stage

The Queen Celebration consists of a five-piece band, seven guest vocalists and a unique light and visual show spanning the entire Queen songbook. eventfinda.co.nz



October 3 & 4: Stretch – 2 Nights Together at Common Room and Urban Winery

September 13

A Tribute to Cat Stevens at The Cabana

Skilled guitarist and vocalist Erik Graham honours the legendary Cat Stevens in an intimate solo acoustic performance. eventfinda.co.nz

September 13 – 15

Hawke's Bay Home and Garden Show at McLean Park

Get all the ideas and inspiration you need for transforming your surroundings at the Home and Garden Show. Enjoy show-only specials, prize opportunities and expert advice to get you cracking on your house and landscape updates. homeandgardenshow.co.nz

September 13 & 15

Opera Spectacular Choral Concert at Waiapu Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Napier

Napier Civic Choir presents a selection of works by Wagner, Verdi, Mascagni, Puccini and Dvořák. eventfinda.co.nz

September 14

Hastings Blossom Parade

Once famed for the coronation of the Blossom Queen, the Blossom Parade has more recently come to represent spring and Hastings in all its diversity, colour and creativity. Find your street-side position early to cheer on the cultural groups, dancers, artists, community organisations and local businesses aboard their creative floats. artsinc.co.nz

September 14

Funkadelic Monks play Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Red Hot Chili Peppers at The Cabana

After sold-out shows across New Zealand, Lounge Apes, Funkadelic Monks and Nothingman return to Napier for a nostalgic night of late-90s and early-2000s hits. eventfinda.co.nz

September 14 & 15

RNZB: Bold Moves at Napier Municipal Theatre

RNZB presents three major international works by George Balanchine, William Forsythe and Andrea Schermoly spanning eight decades, each capturing their time through bold and boundary-defying choreography. eventfinda.co.nz



September 14: Hastings Blossom Parade

September 15

Wedding and Event Expo at River Park Event Centre, Waipawa

Here's your chance to check out everything you need for a Central HB wedding – from wine to photographers, and celebrants to venues.

eventfinda.co.nz

September 16

Stan Walker – Springboard Tour 2019 at Napier Municipal Theatre

Former Australian Idol winner Stan Walker hits Napier with some of his

biggest hits including 'Black Box', 'Unbroken', 'Take It Easy', 'Bulletproof', latest single 'Give' (co-written by Matiu Walters of SIX60).

eventfinda.co.nz

September 19

Heretaunga Women's Centre Ribbon Walk

Also known as the suffragette walk, here's your chance to explore the park and learn the history of the suffragettes.

heretaungawomenscentre.nz

September 19

Storytelling Night: "Did I really Say That" – A binge of teenage cringe! at Common Room

Take a trip down memory lane as adults read the often cringeworthy and sometimes stunning things they wrote as teens. heretaungawomenscentre.nz

September 21

Windsor Park Plate – Bostock NZ Spring Racing Carnival at Hastings Racecourse

Celebrate the return of the warm weather with one of the pivotal racedays on the calendar. Enjoy a picnic on the home straight lawn or push the boat out and head for the Premier Lounge.

hawkesbayracing.co.nz

September 21

Arahi – The Space Between Us at Haumoana Community Hall

Hawke's Bay folk singer/songwriter Arahi teams up with some of the Bay's finest musicians (Anton Wuts, Matiu Whiting, Joe Dobson, Nick Castles and Eilish Rose) for a show which explores the "no-man's land that lies between lovers and the loved, the native and the foreign, the speaker and the listener, the audience and the performer."

eventfinda.co.nz



September 14 & 15: Royal New Zealand Ballet, *Bold Moves*



October 5: Livamol Classic – Bostock NZ Spring Racing Carnival at Hastings Racecourse

September 21

The Blossom Ball at Central Hawke's Bay Municipal Theatre, Waipawa

East Coast Young Farmers present a springtime ball – a chance to dress up and dance the evening away to the band Hidden Agenda. eventfinda.co.nz

September 21

Hawke's Bay Free Yoga Day

The yoga teachers and studios of Hawke's Bay join forces again to provide a full day of free yoga – in a range of offerings at a range of venues. facebook.com/hbfreeyogaday

October 3 & 4

Stretch – 2 Nights Together at Common Room and Urban Winery

Support the creation of Stretch's next album (to be made right here in the Bay) by joining him and his musical collaborator Paula Sugden, and her 300 year-old cello at one or both of these intimate shows. The performances will also feature other talented HB musicians, and present brand-new material. facebook.com/stretchsongs

October 5

Livamol Classic – Bostock NZ Spring Racing Carnival at Hastings Racecourse

Hawke's Bay's biggest and favourite raceday returns with a flutter of fun and fashion, and some great hospitality options for a smashing day out. hawkesbayracing.co.nz

October 5

RAM – The Paul McCartney Tribute at The Cabana

After years of performing and recording in the United States, Kiwi singer John Kempt returns with a five-piece band and all McCartney's hits. eventfinda.co.nz

October 10 – 12

Fringe in the Stings

Run on the smell of an oily rag by a bunch of brilliant Hastings locals, FITS returns for another year with a mad and rad line-up to challenge and delight. fringeinthestings.co.nz

October 12

Cole Murray Cape Kidnappers Trail Run at Clifton Bay Café

This event offers a variety of distances to suit everyone, with a mixture of individual and team options, and all across mostly private land, including windswept beaches, native forest, waterfalls, river gorges and stunning coastal farmland. capekidnapperstrailrun.co.nz



October 10-12: Fringe in the Stings. Photo: Simon Cartwright Photography Ltd

October 15

Postmodern Jukebox 2019 at Napier Municipal Theatre

The multi-talented collective returns for their fifth tour with their brand-new *Welcome to the Twenties 2.0* show.

October 23 – 25

New Zealand Royal A&P Show at HB Showgrounds

Check out Hawke's Bay's largest day out, and see the alpaca, beef cattle, dairy cattle, dog trials, equestrian, fleece wool, pigs, sheep, shearing, wood chopping, poultry and home industries competitions. Plus hundreds of trade displays, Animal World, rides and sideshow fun. showgroundshb.co.nz

October 25

Grayson Hugh & Polly Messer at The Cabana

American singer/songwriter Grayson Hugh's songs have been called "a soul/rock stew with a dash of blues and a pinch of country". He performs here with his wife Polly Messer, presenting hits from radio and film as well as previously unreleased songs. eventfinda.co.nz

October 26

Angus and Julia Stone + Special Guests at Church Road Winery

Award-winning Australian folk rock/indie duo Angus and Julia Stone kick off the summer outdoor concert season. eventfinda.co.nz

November 2 & 3

Women's Lifestyle Expo at Pettigrew Green Arena

Over 120 businesses will be onsite for the weekend, offering everything from fitness products to business information. The expo also includes a hair-styling lounge, beauty bar, taste zone and fashion zone. womenslifestyleexpo.co.nz



Pitch's Picks

The 5th Harcourts Hawke's Bay Arts Festival runs from October 15 – 28. Below are Festival director Pitsch Leiser's five special picks:

Family show: **Kaput** (image below). Brings back the spirit of silent movie stars like Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, the best antidote to children's screen time. Comedy: **Topp Twins**. Dames Jules and Linda Topp are NZ's most iconic comedy duo, activists and country music stars.

Dance: **Ida y Vuelta**. This twelve-piece troupe of international performers will take us on a journey of flamenco from India to Southern Spain, via South America.

Music: **Shooglenifty**. Scottish folk music on steroids with influences from around the world.

Multidisciplinary (music/dance/AV/theatre): **Meremere**, a most moving story of Rodney Bell's journey from principle dancer at Axis Dance company to homelessness on the streets of San Francisco, with live music by Eden Mulholland.

(Obviously there are many other shows I would like to pick: **Limbo** – best circus cabaret, night out. **Portraits in Motion** – best intimate storytelling. **Cellfish** – most relevant conversation, **An Iliad** with Michael Hurst and Shane Carter – most engaging theatre performance. **Julia Deans: Both Sides Now** – most extraordinary take on Joni Mitchell's songbook. **White Night** – best community event featuring our local art scene with special guests **Pitch Black**.)

You can find the full festival programme at hbaf.co.nz



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We're Doomed!

The World Economic Forum's annual Global Risks Report is out. It presents the results of nearly 1,000 decision-makers from the public sector, private sector, academia and civil society assessing the risks facing the world, and lists our greatest collective risks, in terms of likelihood and biggest impact.

Top 10 Risks by Likelihood

1. Extreme weather events (e.g. floods, storms, etc.)
2. Failure of climate change mitigation and adaption
3. Major natural disasters (e.g. earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, geomagnetic storms)
4. Massive incident of data fraud / theft.
5. Large-scale cyber attacks
6. Man-made environmental damage and disasters (e.g. oil spills, radioactive contamination, etc.)
7. Large-scale involuntary migration
8. Major biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse (terrestrial or marine)
9. Water crises
10. Asset bubbles in a major economy

Top 10 Risks by Impact

1. Weapons of mass destruction (oddly, doesn't even make the 'likelihood' list!)
2. Failure of climate change mitigation and adaption
3. Extreme weather events (e.g. floods, storms, etc.)
4. Water crises
5. Major natural disasters (e.g. earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, geomagnetic storms)
6. Major biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse (terrestrial or marine)
7. Large-scale cyber attacks
8. Breakdown of critical information infrastructure and networks
9. Man-made environmental damage and disasters (e.g. oil spills, radioactive contamination, etc.)
10. Rapid and massive spread of infectious diseases

Big surprise to *BayBuzz*: nuclear weapons disaster and deadly virus pandemic don't even make the 'likelihood' list. Does that make you feel safer?

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The Heat is On! Global Warming Update

The *BayBuzz* Team believes a global warming crisis is indeed upon us. So every edition of *BayBuzz* will now include this update on climate change developments. Hopefully this will include good news on occasion!



Above: Rhys Flack from Arataki. Photo Tom Allan. Right: the 257 new solar panels in place at the Havelock North plant.

Buzzing!

Congratulations to Arataki Honey. Not only is the family-owned business celebrating 75 years this year, but soon it will halve its power bill and lessen its footprint by investing in solar power. The Havelock North plant's solar panels feature new technology which produces power from both sides of the panel. Once complete, Arataki will have a total of 257 panels covering the bee-keeping and storage facility, and the production and packing plant. The project is being developed by Hawke's Bay firm Ecoefficient Solutions NZ.



Home emissions

New Zealand company Enviro-Mark Solutions has developed a Household Emissions Calculator, so now we can easily see what levels we're producing on our own domestic scale, and figure out how to off-set, if we're so inclined. The calculator allows users to compare their usage to the average New Zealand household of the same size, and to see the effects that travel, electricity and waste have on your output.

Check it out at bit.ly/2MFkYEt



Above: Costa Rica boasts 99% renewable energy

1st Zero Carbon Country?

In July Costa Rica President Carlos Alvarado announced the country would be banning fossil based fuels by 2021, making Costa Rica the first country in the world to commit to completely decarbonising. It's a lofty goal for a country operating on a deficit for the last decade, but Costa Rica already derives 99% of its energy from renewable sources. The challenge will be in the transportation sector, with the demand for cars continuing to grow. If the Costa Ricans can pull it off, carbon-free 2021 could be a stunning way to celebrate 200 years of independence.

Plane emissions

According to a recent study from the Institute of Atmospheric Physics in Germany, air travel is responsible for around 5% of global warming. By 2050, air travel is predicted to be four times higher than it is currently.

Anaesthesia

The anaesthetic gases released by just one hospital annually in New Zealand has the carbon footprint of 500 return flights between Auckland and London. 5% of these gases are actually used and metabolised by patients in surgery and operating theatres, while the remaining 95% vents out into the atmosphere.



Submerging nations

Rising sea levels have seen at least eight islands in the Pacific swallowed by the sea in the last century, with Tuvalu, Kiribati and the Marshall Islands feared to be the next low-lying nations to be wiped off the map.

Climate ed for kids

climatekids.nasa.gov/ is a useful international online resource for presenting the issue of climate change to kids. Featuring games, activities, videos and easy-to-understand graphics, this is probably a good place to send some of our leaders for a refresher too!

How bad will it get?

A quarter of the world's population is living in regions of extremely high water stress, according to the World Resources Institute (WRI). 17 countries are in the 'extremely high water-stressed' category, meaning they are now consuming more than 80% of their available water every year.

Qatar is ranked as the world's most water-stressed country, followed by Israel and Lebanon, Iran and Jordan. In Africa, Libya and Eritrea are highest on the list. Chennai has become the first



Top: South Tarawa, Kiribati. Above: Flooding in South Tarawa in 2015

major Indian city to face an acute water shortage. India is ranked 13th in the world for water stress.

"Water stress is the biggest crisis no one is talking about," says WRI's Andrew Steer. "It's consequences are in plain sight in the form of food insecurity, conflict and migration, and financial instability."

www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-08-08/farmers-tree-cutters-also-add-to-climate-change-report-says?

It's us humans

It's not just a part of the earth's life cycle. Three studies recently published in *Nature* and *Nature Geoscience*, using extensive historical data, have scientifically put to bed (once again) doubt around human-caused climate change. The studies show that there has never been a period in the last 2000 years when temperatures changes have been as rapid, and as significant, as in the last few decades.

Previous arguments had been made that similarly dramatic changes to temperatures had occurred in the past – such as the Little Ice Age and the Medieval Climate Anomaly, but recent studies use reconstructions based on 700 proxy records of temperature change, such as trees, ice, and sediment, from all continents that indicate none of these shifts took place in more than half the globe at any one time.

Mark Maslin, professor of climatology at University College London said the studies, "Should finally stop climate change deniers claiming that the recent observed coherent global warming is part of a natural climate cycle. This paper shows the truly stark difference between regional and localized changes in climate of the past and the truly global effect of anthropogenic greenhouse emissions."

Cities heat up

A recent study conducted by the Crowther Lab at ETH Zürich University projects that by 2050 London's climate will resemble Barcelona's, Madrid will feel more like Marrakesh, Seattle like San Francisco, and New York like Virginia Beach. A fifth of the cities mentioned in the report including Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, and Singapore, are facing conditions so extreme they don't currently exist anywhere in the world.

Late start!

The best time to start reducing emissions was in the 1970s, when scientists first began to converge on the danger. The second best time is today.

A few choice words about BayBuzz ...



And ... two more key words ...

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Political Update

Tom Belford

With the region awash in political hoardings, it might seem strange that I don't begin this update with campaign news.

But lacking any winners as I write, I thought perhaps the most significant 'political' news has been the successful IPO of Napier Port.

I consider this 'political' because the Regional Council's decision to proceed with a partial sell-down of shares was not without public controversy, and therefore political risk to councillor supporters of the move like myself.

Regional councillors looked at the options every which way from Sunday over the last two and a half years, receiving heaps of expert counsel ... all of it cross-examined by other reviewers. And plenty of advice over coffees and beers from our constituents!

In the end, the IPO proposal stood strongly on the merits and won solid support during the public consultation process. That process gave clear direction to the Council with regard to maintaining majority public ownership and providing preferential pre-listing share access to Hawke's Bay residents.

So, what has been done?

Pre-listing, the HBRC's full 100% ownership of Napier Port had a book value of \$291 million. But with HBRC selling 45% of its shares for \$234 million, the full value of Napier Port has been better established, unlocked and leveraged. With the market valuing the Port (instead of accountants), the Port was valued at \$520 million as trading began. As I write, post-listing Council's (i.e., ratepayers') remaining 55% share is worth \$339 million in the market, and on its balance sheet, substantially more than the original book value of its 100% ownership.

Of course, the Port itself is the most direct beneficiary, securing \$110m from the sale which will be used restructure debt and enable construction of a new wharf capable of servicing the significant



growth in trade (mainly the food and fibre our region exports) projected for the immediate years ahead.

This future-proofing of the Port was accomplished at no cost to the region's ratepayers. Indeed 7,587 residents and four iwi groups took advantage of the IPO to purchase priority shares themselves, 20% of the offering. This includes the 97% of full-time Port employees who were eligible to purchase priority shares.

Moreover, HBRC (on behalf of ratepayers) secured an additional \$108m from the transaction that can now be otherwise invested. An important objective of the partial sale was precisely to diversify and thereby 'de-risk' the Council's asset portfolio, while generating new investment earnings from an earmarked 'Future Fund' to support Council's environmental activities.

[Unless an election change in the Council's make-up derails that strategy, as I'll discuss later.]

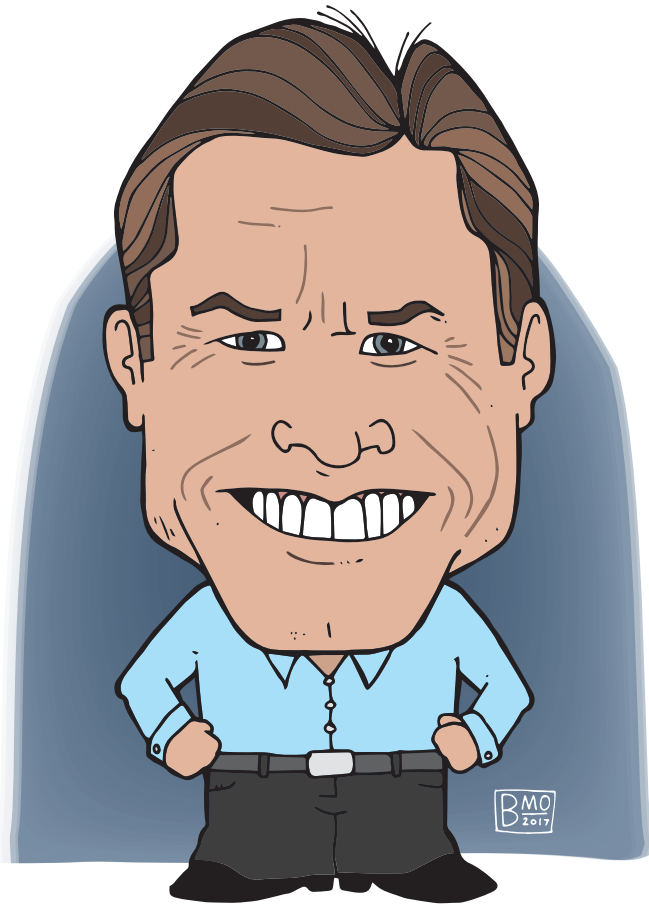
In addition to the new earnings alternative investment will provide, the HBRC will continue to receive regular dividends from its Port shares, thus continuing to subsidise Council activities. Over the next decade, HBRC revenue from Port dividends and the Future Fund are projected to more than double.

Finally, in addition to its 55% shareholding, HBRC will have two direct appointees to the Napier Port Board ... maintaining direct 'line of sight' and clear control of this strategic regional asset.

All in all, benefits for local investors, ratepayers, exporters and all those whose jobs are generated by our export-dominated primary sector. As summed up by HBRC chair Rex Graham: "The listing of Napier

ABOVE: NZX CEO Mark Peterson gifts a mere to Napier Port CEO.

An open seat for mayor, with really two major contestants battling head-to-head, Chris Tremain and Kirsten Wise. Plus a raft of retiring councillors, including some of the most senior, opening the door to major change in the seating chart.



Port today is a win-win result. It puts the Council in a strong financial position, enabling us to protect rate-payers from Port development costs and enabling it to focus on its work as the region's primary environmental agency."

Now to electoral politics.

Local body elections

Arguably, all elections boil down to two simple questions, firstly: Do we need to make a change?

On the one side are candidates arguing, "No ... we're on the right path, doing the right things ... stay the course!"

On the other side are other candidates arguing, "Yes ... they've botched things up, or they're moving too slowly or in the wrong direction, or they simply lack vision."

And generally, those desiring change need to work up a fair amount of intensity to generate the noise and alarm that will stir voters enough to in fact rally for change - especially in local body elections, where less than half of those eligible do participate. Thus the second question for those favouring change: "How badly do I want it?"

So, as we look at a number of the local body elections this season, those might be the key questions for voters - change or not, and if yes, how intensely do I feel about it?

Obviously, this simple framing doesn't capture all the motivations (from personal agendas to

single-issue passions) of each and every voter (or candidate), but it's a helpful lens to view the contests.

HB District Health Board

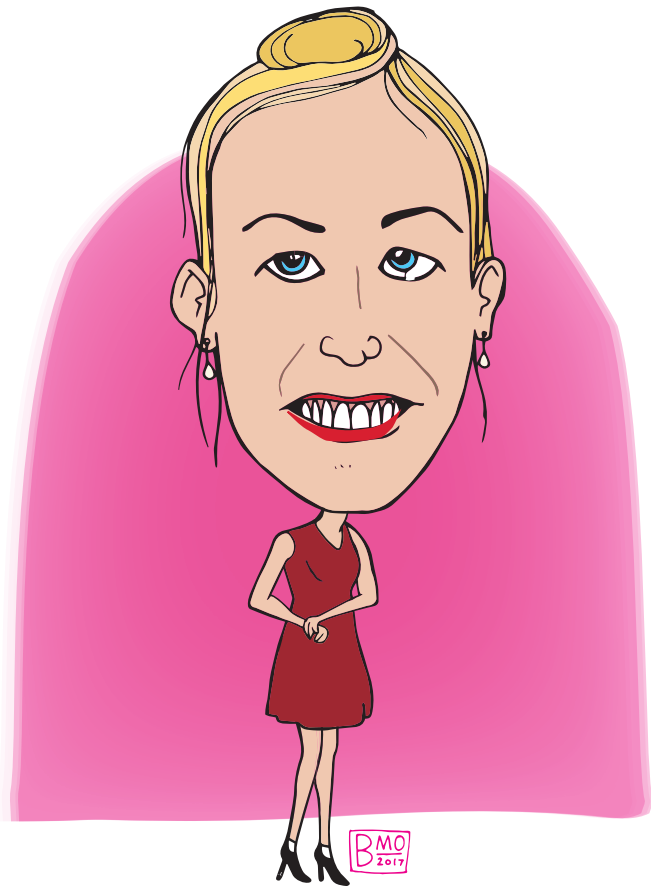
The neglected stepchild, but with a high possible 'change quotient'.

Hardly anybody focuses on the DHB election, despite the fact that HBDHB is the region's biggest 'business' and employer by far, and has a rather major influence on our very lives. I won't go more into those issues, as they have been examined in Sophie Price's article herein, *DHB - Do We Care?*

However, what's different this time is the degree of change that might occur, simply due to long-serving incumbents leaving the scene.

Fully 25 candidates are vying for seven elected seats on the DHB, and the only widely-known name among them is the current chairman, Kevin Atkinson (IMHO, a model public servant). Five other incumbents are standing again, but they face challenges from some individuals well-known in the community like Anna Lorck, Graeme Norton, Claire Vogtherr and Garth Cowie. Plus others with impressive health sector credentials.

Uniquely amongst our local bodies, each candidate for DHB must run across the entire Hawke's Bay, a heavy burden that 'loads the deck' in favour of high profile and better-resourced contestants as against 'niche' players who might have more relevant experience. There's something to be said for the potential contribution of each ... the trick is getting the balance right.



I urge you spend more time than usual on getting to know the full range of candidates, even if that just boils down to studying their profiles in your voter's guide more closely. Eleven of the candidates responded to *BayBuzz* by our press time and they are profiled in Sophie's article.

Napier City

Here we have probably the highest change atmosphere of all the local elections.

An open seat for mayor, with really two major contestants battling head-to-head, Chris Tremain and Kirsten Wise. Plus a raft of retiring councillors, including some of the most senior, opening the door to major change in the seating chart.

With a change in mayor a given, it's the intensity of public disquiet that will decide the mayoral outcome and thereby the direction of NCC for the next triennium.

Of our local bodies, Napier has had the largest share of contentious issues in recent years - the velodrome, the War Memorial, the aquatic centre, drinking water quality and chlorination, an unhealthy Pandora Pond and polluted estuary, the aquarium ... even its handling of dogs in the dog pound. With several of these issues surrounded by claims of due process abuse, disregard of citizen input, and even allegations of information manipulation.

Clearly a recipe for change, but how and who to manage at the top? Back to intensity.

enlighten

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



A whiter, brighter smile can make me look healthier and younger ... but is it for me?

With so many options available, it is difficult for the average kiwi to know where to start. Often people are left with more questions than answers when it comes to tooth whitening.

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Anyone who wants a whiter smile, but an assessment with a dental professional is advisable as each person is unique.

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No, with in-house whitening you can achieve an optimal result while still having a natural look.

Does it damage my teeth?

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How long does it last?

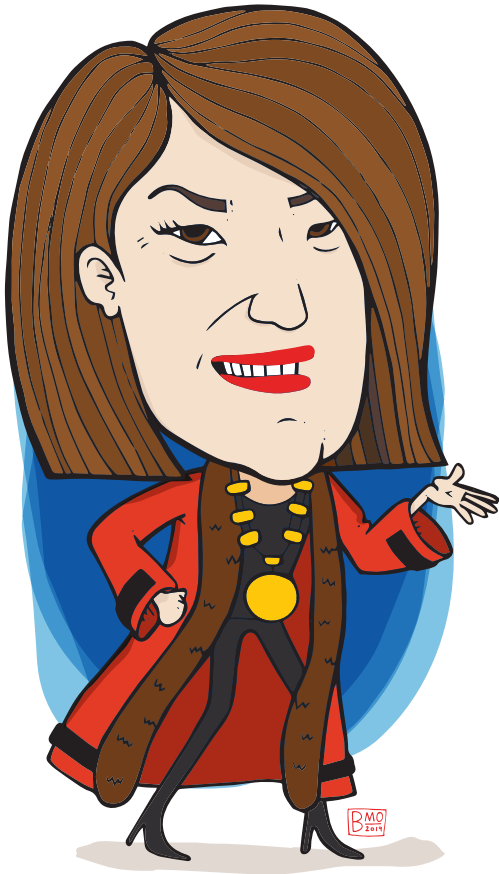
Results vary but when performed correctly it can last for years.



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The less drama in this race, the more favoured she is. Hence her safe 'I love Hastings' campaign ... but doesn't everyone (in Hastings, that is)?

My 'read' is that those voters *most* upset with Napier's recent past will support Kirsten Wise. With her views well-established, she appears the most determined to knock heads. Those not as upset (or not upset at all ... all 113 of them) will prefer the 'safer' appearing hands of Chris Tremain, albeit with perhaps less clarity about outcomes.

Do Napier voters want a fighter or a mediator? This promises to be a most enjoyable race, one I submit Napier residents cannot lose, whoever wins.

Hastings District

Here the playing field appears more stable, with a lower 'change quotient' than NCC.

For one thing, while there are 26 candidates vying for 14 council seats, only two incumbent councillors are retiring, 12 are standing for re-election. Plus an incumbent Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst, running against first-term councillor, Damon Harvey ... not an open seat.

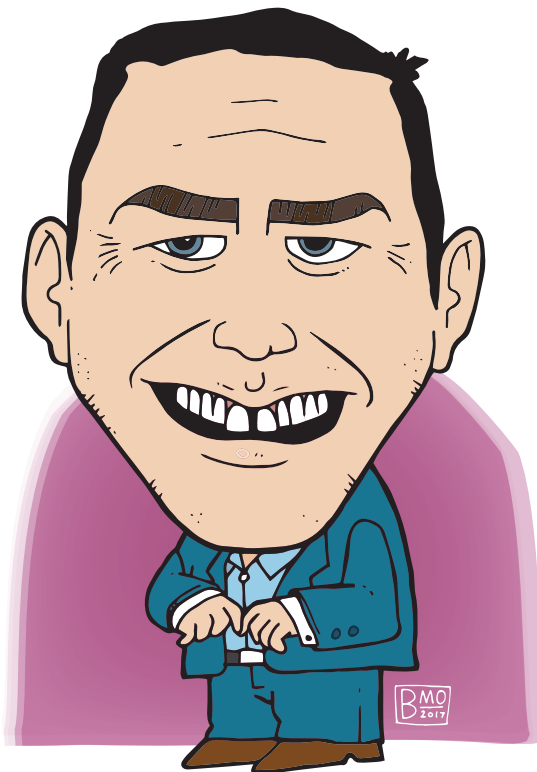
As in Napier the 'main event' is the mayoral race, made more competitive this time by having only two candidates. Mayor Yule enjoyed longevity in no small part to continually facing multiple opponents in each

race, splitting the 'change' vote (no matter its intensity) and allowing him comfortable margins.

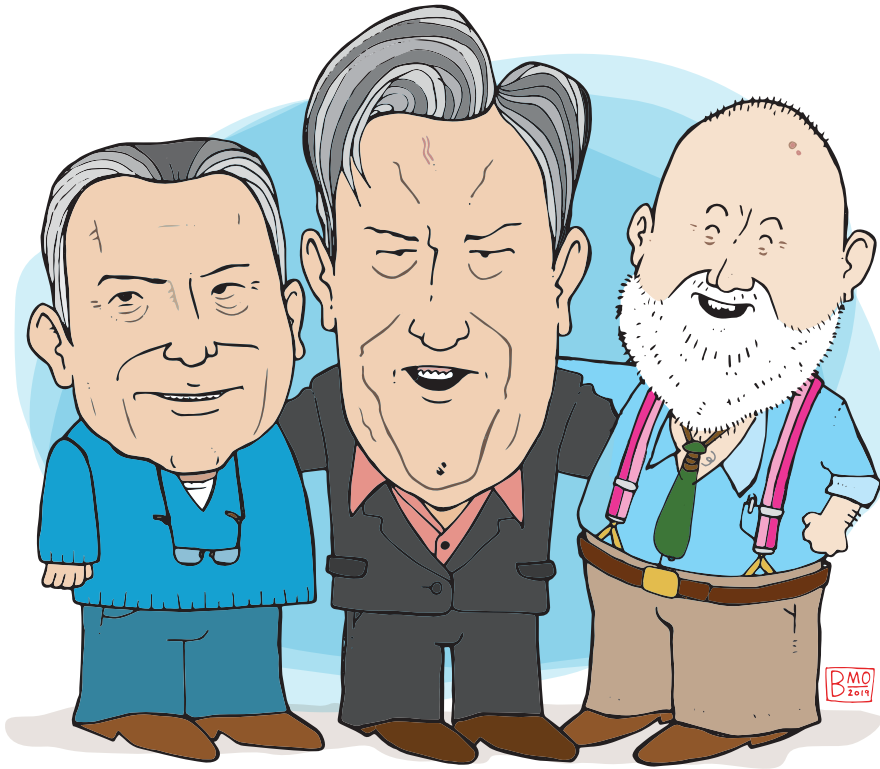
This time the incumbent mayor will need an outright majority to win, but with all the PR advantages her office carries, most would say it is Hazlehurst's race to lose. The less drama in this race, the more favoured she is. Hence her safe 'I love Hastings' campaign ... but doesn't everyone (in Hastings, that is)?

I don't detect nearly the same change intensity as in Napier. Despite her choking over Te Mata Peak, voters lack a ready-made, highly contentious, 'in your face' reason to 'toss' the mayor. And that requires Harvey to create and mobilise a constituency around some sharp and significant point(s) of differentiation he must effectively articulate, be those around issues, leadership, style, whatever.

He's certainly able, has a devoted base in the business and sport communities, and is a communicator by profession, so he has the opportunity. But not a lot of time to belt out his case. To win he will need to bring the Hazlehurst love ship down with a major torpedo ... death by many small cuts won't suffice!



He's certainly able, has a devoted base in the business and sport communities, and is a communicator by profession, so he has the opportunity. But not a lot of time to belt out his case.



Now, in 2019, the candidates standing for HBRC offer a very clear choice – some seek election to stay the course; others to derail it, and take it ... where?

Regional Council

Most readers will realise that I am an incumbent regional councillor seeking re-election. To that end, I've said my personal piece in my *From the Editor* column up front.

But I do think the change/intensity framing usefully applies to the HBRC situation as well.

There, in 2013 a group of four councillors fought our way onto the Council, establishing a foothold and the means to access information and challenge the prevailing thinking, especially with regard to the Ruataniwha dam. But still, we were a minority of four.

Then in 2016, others joined us and we became a majority of six, changing the council's leadership and priorities, re-focusing on the environment.

Now, in 2019, the candidates standing for HBRC offer a very clear choice – some seek election to stay the course; others to derail it, and take it ... where?

For example, four major candidates for HBRC – Craig Foss, Tim Gilbertson, Martin Williams, Fenton Wilson have been strong, unrelenting supporters of the Ruataniwha dam. They yearn for yesteryear ... perhaps a resurrection of the dam.

Is that the kind of change voters now want? That's what's at stake. Whoever said elections don't offer real choice? This one certainly does!

Stay tuned.

Wherever you stand on the issues before our various councils, please be sure to exercise your right and privilege to vote this season. ●



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FROM TOP LEFT:
Hayley Anderson, Ana Apatu,
Annette Brosnan, James Crow,
Peter Dunkerley, Rizwaana Latiff,
Anna Lorck, Graeme Norton,
Umang Patel, Jacoby Poulain,
Julia Wilson.

District Health Boards – Do We Care?

Story by Sophie Price

District Health Boards (DHBs) are the ‘neglected stepchildren’ of elected local bodies. Sophie Price looks at what they do, whether or not they are doing the job they were created for almost 20 years ago, and who is standing for the Hawke’s Bay DHB.

What are DHBs?

According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) DHBs are “responsible for providing or funding the provision of health services in their district”. Boards, led by a chairman, are comprised of anywhere between 7-11 members, seven of who are publicly elected and four who the health minister of the day may appoint.

The New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 requires DHBs to “improve, promote and protect” the health of all members of the community they serve by promoting the integration of health services and by seeking the best arrangement and delivery of health and disability services to meet the needs of its community.” Boards are also expected to show

a sense of social responsibility and foster participation from all sectors of the community in health improvement.

DHBs are Crown entities. As such they do not work in isolation as the government of the day determines the outcomes it expects from the health sector. So although some board members are elected by the public, they are responsible to the minister first, then to the people who voted them in. Board members are held accountable by the MoH through mechanisms such as an annual plan and a regional services plan.

The latest figures show the 20 DHBs have a combined budget of more than \$13 billion. According to the MoH this represents 75% of the government’s total health spend. Health boards are one of the largest employers in any region, with 60,000 people employed by them across the country.

However, despite the importance of health boards economically and (literally) in terms of life or death responsibilities, the voting public just doesn’t seem interested in them ... they’re an afterthought in already-low turnout local elections.

And who can be elected to what could be argued is the most important board in the region? The answer - as with councils - anyone who votes, and it doesn’t even have to be their DHB.

To run what often is the largest business in any given region across New Zealand, the MoH says candidates “don’t need to have experience as a director to stand and [they] don’t need any particular qualifications”.

The MoH does suggest a list of ‘generic skills’ that a board member should have which includes financial literacy and critical appraisal skills, strong reasoning skills and a “wide perspective on social, health and strategic issues”. Any board member unfamiliar with their obligations is expected to undergo training and keep a record of it.

Once on the board, members are paid for their work with fees varying from \$16,320 to \$26,520 per annum, not including board associated costs and an extra \$2,500 per annum for every committee they sit on. The board chair and deputy receive a higher fee.

Currently 18 out of 20 DHBs have the maximum number of board members. Southland and Waikato’s DHBs have been replaced by commissioners at a cost of around \$3,000 a day each. Canterbury DHB has a Crown monitor sitting alongside the board members.

Are DHBs worth it?

Earlier this year a team from Lincoln University - David Sheard, Gregory Clydesdale and Gillis Maclean

- published a paper on their research into the Canterbury District Health Board. The paper examined how healthcare provision was governed and looked at the CDHB for answers.

The team posed questions at the end of their study that they felt should be asked in future research:

“First, is public input necessary at the level of governance? Second, is there a better alternative structure to facilitate public participation? Third, do voters understand the skill set needed at board level and whether the background of those elected meet those needs? Finally, given that healthcare management is now a highly specialised area, is the desire for public participation a reflection of effectiveness or ideology?”

They are questions worth asking, considering the half billion worth of debt the country’s DHBs have racked up. Managing public health is such a specialised area that universities offer master’s degrees in it. So, is the man off the street up to the task?

Former associate minister of health Peter Dunne echoes these questions. He says it is time to look at new models where the “focus is on providing the best service, in the fastest time, in the most cost-effective manner and in the place of best convenience for the patient”.

So, why have boards racked up so much debt? Does the problem lay with central government and the Health minister of the day, or with inadequately-qualified local governors?

At the time of publishing, the DHB debt, to the end of June 2019 was expected to blow out past \$500 million. The New Zealand Council of



“I’m under no illusion that you need people on the ground to advocate for the people. I believe in democracy really strongly. I believe that you need people who live in the area to at least oversee management to make sure that the people are getting the best deal they can.”

BARBARA ARNOTT

Trade Unions *Working Paper on Health No. 22* reports the MoH has set aside \$139 million under capital for DHB deficit support in what the Council says is “an acknowledgement of the ongoing financial stress in the DHBs.” However, it estimates that \$234 will be paid out for this purpose after an additional \$95 million already provided during the year.

Hawke’s Bay DHB

A Crown entity, the HBDHB is the region’s largest business. With a budget of nearly \$557 million and a staff of almost 3,000 (2,926, according to the HBDHB’s latest annual report) the board serves a population of 165,610 people.

Hawke’s Bay’s population tends to be older than the national average, we have more Māori residents than the

national average and proportionally more people in the more deprived segments of the population ... all factors contributing to higher healthcare costs.

Going into this year’s election, the HBDHB’s 2018-19 underlying operational deficit came in at \$12.1 million - \$7.1 million more than the planned \$5 million. According to the latest board report, these figures would be revised as “more and better information becomes available”. However, advice from the MoH is that the HBDHB’s financial performance would be evaluated on the operational deficit of \$12.1 million and against the planned \$5 million.

How did we get here?

Retiring HBDHB member Barbara Arnott believes the government got it wrong 20 years ago when it came to

Vote 1 ANNA LORCK
HB District Health Board

Make your health vote count more!

Authorised by Anna Lorck, 10 Donnelly Street, Havelock North

Put simply, Arnott thinks there is just not enough money spent on health. “I think genuinely we’re underfunded. I think health is underfunded.”

creation of health boards. She believes back then the government should have funded DHB capital expenditure – such as new builds and facilities – and left boards with a budget to spend on the healthcare of their respective populations. While it hasn’t worked out that way, Arnott is adamant that the health sector needs DHBs in the regions.

“I’m not sure what the future is,” she says. “[But] I’m under no illusion that you need people on the ground to advocate for the people. I believe in democracy really strongly. I believe that you need people who live in the area to at least oversee management to make sure that the people are getting the best deal they can.”

And she has nothing but praise for the DHB staff who are doing just that, saying all the staff have got one purpose when they come to work – to do the best job possible for the people they are serving at the time. She says for this reason more empowerment

needs to be given to the people who actually do the work.

“This board has tried its very best to manage its budgets without risking patient health. And there comes a time where you can say we cannot make any more savings.” She says if the board continued down this path the risk is that part of our population – albeit a small part – would not get the services they need.

“The government needs to take away the feeling that we just can’t manage our budget,” she says, noting that the Board she has been a part of and the management she has worked with over the last nine years have been incredibly prudent. Not only delivering health services, but also building capital from funding that did not come from government. (Arnott noted that the government recently released some money for the radiology department “and we are always grateful for that”).

“We posted a deficit last year which we strove not to,” she says. “We strove

to make savings. But we have been making savings for the last seven years. You can’t keep on making savings because [then] you are constraining people at the other end such that they start not to be able to do their jobs.”

Put simply, Arnott thinks there is just not enough money spent on health. “I think genuinely we’re underfunded. I think health is underfunded.” She says health hasn’t kept up with the expectations of New Zealanders or the needs of the over 65 or the needs of the equity issues facing the Bay’s Māori and Pasifika population. “Our funding doesn’t go far enough,” she says.

Health Minister Dr David Clark says current DHB deficits are a result of underfunding over the nine years of the National Government.

“This Government doesn’t accept that deficits are inevitable, nor do we accept DHBs cutting services to manage their financial position,” says Clark. “We’re focused on ensuring that New Zealanders get the health services they expect and deserve and ensuring DHBs are on the path to sustainability.”

Clark noted some DHBs managed to post small surpluses, break even or only post small deficits while maintaining services, showing that “it can be done”.

He says his Government is committed to funding health better, and Budget 2019 included an extra \$2.8 billion for DHBs over the next four years, adding that it’s “a record \$695 million increase in funding” for DHBs this year.

“But I do want to acknowledge, once again, that after years of underfunding, it will take time to get them all back on the path to sustainability,” says Clark.

Make your health vote count

VOTE 1

KEVIN ATKINSON

HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Authorised by Kevin Atkinson, 102 Russell Street, Hastings

HBDHB Candidates

Despite the post-election problems that a new board will have to deal with, 25 people from across Hawke's Bay are vying for a place on the HBDHB. The candidates are as follows:

Hayley Anderson, Ana Apatu (incumbent), Kevin Atkinson (incumbent), Paul Bebbington, Garry Brian, Annette Brosnan, Garth Cowie, James Crow, David Davidson, Peter Dunkerley (incumbent), Hine Flood (incumbent), Trish Giddens, Leona Karauria, Rizwaana Latiff, Anna Lorck, Graeme Norton, Umang Patel, Jacoby Poulain (incumbent), Heather Skipworth (incumbent), John Smith, Gerraldine Kelly Tahere, Hinenui Tipoki-Lawton, Claire Vogtherr, Julia Wilson, Jason Whaitiri.

Eleven candidates responded to *Bay Buzz* by deadline. This is what they had to say about the state of health in Hawke's Bay and why they are standing to run the biggest business in the region.

Hayley Anderson

Anderson says everyone in Hawke's Bay should have access to good health care. "We know the most vulnerable and Māori and Pasifika miss out."

She says she comes to the role with experience - from being a front-line nurse at Hawke's Bay Hospital and the chief executive of Hastings Health Centre, to being on the board of Hawke's Bay Primary Health Organisation (PHO) and Te Matau ā Māui Health Trust.

Anderson says she is supportive of a representative board with the right mix of skills to govern effectively and with accountability. "My experience in health tells me that local governance; consultation, planning, funding and decision-making matters to people."

"We must put people at the heart of health. Everyone needs to live in a warm, dry home with clean water, nourishing food, employment and safe social connections. This requires greater cross-sector collaboration, community and public health support."

Ana Apatu

As a current board member, Apatu

wants to emphasise that the HBDHB needs to keep the focus on supporting people to be well.

"We need to be more in charge of our own healthcare and wellbeing. We need to better work together to address housing, employment, education," she says.

"We have a clear mandate from our community to not keep increasing resources with our hospital services but to ensure we have better preventative and primary healthcare closer to our communities."

"Equity of care for those that need healthcare the most delivered in the most effective way is the most pressing thing we are facing as a board in a financially constrained environment," she says.

"We need to listen to our community and be brave to make changes. I am excited by the calibre of Māori leadership in our community and the opportunities this brings."

Annette Brosnan

Napier City councillor Brosnan believes with her governance experience she will work well within the DHB to bring about positive change for Hawke's Bay health.

"I think I would add value to the DHB," she says. "I really want to delve into some of the challenges that we've got in the health sector and look at the opportunities for improvement."

She says DHBs are driven by where the money comes from - central government. "This is why DHBs are important," she says. "By having elected members on a board, by the way, it does provide an opportunity for community members to contact someone who is approachable and like them to be able to voice concerns and have those concerns heard. And so if nothing else that provides a way for that communication."

Brosnan says she is keen to promote the transparency and communication channels between the Napier City Council and the DHB. "I think that will be increasingly more important, especially with the introduction of our new drinking water regulator."

James Crow

Crow wants to look for ways to create healthier, happier communities. "In the past 18 months I have seen calls by nurses, doctors, specialist technicians and even patients for better treatment under the DHB's governance. This speaks to a need for genuine focus and attention on those who care for our

community and some new approaches to achieving this."

He believes his 16 years business experience will help to address the board's financial woes.

"There may exist a possible need to reassess how DHBs are funded or structured, or for increased budgets to meet rising demand," he says. "But a primary concern for any DHB should always be the impact of this higher workload on the health status of staff and how this affects day-to-day patient care."

He says a top-down solution needs to be looked at if institutional racism is to be addressed properly to "cater to our over-represented Māori and Pasifika communities".

Peter Dunkerley

Long-serving board member and retired pharmacist and CEO, Dunkerley says he is standing again to ensure the plans the HBDHB have advanced over the last term are put into action. "Particularly given our ageing population and the need for equity for our disadvantaged residents," he says.

Dunkerley says change is needed in the healthcare sector. "There needs to be more care delivered out of the hospital which will ensure that the main hospital services are available for the people who really need them," he says. "[This] has the advantage of providing care nearer to people's homes and places of work. That change is a critical part of the board's plans."

Is the health board model the best way to go? He says it is what we have to work with, despite its challenges. He says he is not convinced a different model health board will deliver better results. "The problems will be the same and managing them logically and sensitively will always be the best course."

Rizwaana Latiff

Latiff is running for the HBDHB because she wants a more truly representative health board for Hawke's Bay - both with women and the ethnic community she is a part of. She says the needs of this community are vastly different and often not addressed. "The board and upper management do not reflect the demographic of people who are involved in the DHB," she says.

With more than 30 years' experience in health systems across the globe, Latiff - a nurse and midwife - has been involved with the DHB since 2004. "I have seen the many changes with the DHB. Some I agreed with, some I didn't," she says.

I was born in Napier, I own a business in Napier, I intend to retire in Napier.

Napier is where my heart is and this is why I am putting my hand up to be the next Mayor.

I have been working towards this for years, in fact I was three years old when I told my parents I was going to be the first woman Prime Minister of New Zealand. Leaving school halfway through my final year because my family couldn't afford to send me to university I have worked hard and done the hard yards for everything I have achieved over the years.

I was very fortunate to get an accounting internship with Ernst Young after completing a six month government funded training scheme, I studied extramurally whilst working full-time and attained my degree in five years. I have worked as an accountant locally, nationally and internationally over the past 28 years including seven years as a senior management accountant with Hawkes Bay District Health Board overseeing a \$500m budget, through to starting up my own accounting practice nine years ago and working with local business

owners to achieve success in their business. This experience has been invaluable in my role as Chair of the Napier City Council Finance Committee for the past six years.

Although sound financial management is at the core of everything I do, this is not my primary driver for seeking the Napier Mayoralty. Looking back to my childhood dream of being the Prime Minister it has always been about working on behalf of others and being the voice for those who are unable to speak for themselves.

I intend to lead a council which actively engages with people to ask where they see our city in 5, 10, 20 years and what does a thriving future look like to them. Truly listening to the community and putting them in the driving seat to set the priorities for our city. A council people can trust to hear their needs and do what we say we are going to do.

My goal is to make Napier simply the best city in the country to live, work and play; the opportunity capital of New Zealand.

Vote wisely.
**Kirsten
Wise**
for Mayor.





She does believe the DHB model needs to be re-examined. “We don’t want people in Wellington to be telling us what we need in Hawke’s Bay. And that is across the board.”

Anna Lorck

From personal experience, Lorck says she knows the health system and its challenges well. “One of our five daughters has a life-long condition, diagnosed from age six, we’re in and out of hospital, from paediatrics and Starship to now adult clinics, seeing nurses, specialists and GPs.”

She wants to see a community-led health strategy, “transforming how we deliver greater access to affordable healthcare, including well-resourced mobile services and clinics into our most vulnerable areas with more nursing teams on the ground. ... I’d love to see every HB teenager leave school with a health plan so they’ve got the tools and support in place to keep active and stay well.”

Prevention-minded, she says to relieve increasing pressure and costs we’ve got to “help people stay well, active and out of hospital.”

Regarding governance, “We do need democratically elected members, but at the same time best governance requires having the right mix of experience, skill sets and board structure. Ultimately the public must have trust in those representing them and know that they are there to always serve in the best interests of HB.”

Graeme Norton

With 40 years in business, Norton comes to this election having chaired both the HB Health Consumer Council and the Health Consumer Council of New Zealand. He believes the HBDHB has a “track record of designing really good plans and never getting them done”.

In order for the DHBs to achieve what they need to do the 150-year-old

biomedical system must change. “By now we should have moved to something which is underpinned by wellbeing,” he says.

Norton says it is primary care’s job to support people to be as well as they can be. “So, 8,760 is the number of hours in a year that my multiple long-term conditions live with me. One [hour] is four 15-minute appointments with the GP.” Consequently, he says, the patient should be in charge of their health, not the primary care practitioner.

“Because I’m the one who’s likely to have the most impact on how well I live. Many of us, we don’t need a GP, we need a coach. Yeah, somebody to support us to do the right things, not to tell us what to do. Because we know, lots of us have become experts in their own condition.”

Umang Patel

As medical director at Napier’s City Medical 24-hour health service, Umang Patel says he is focused on reversing the “ambulance at the bottom of the cliff model” and instead will focus on health promotion, prevention and improved access to care.

“I am standing because I want to improve the health and wellbeing of all people of Hawke’s Bay and reduce inequalities in health outcomes. The current ways of thinking have not delivered the health outcomes our communities and whānau need or deserve.”

He says while previous board members have brought with them considerable business and financial expertise it is not clear whether this has translated to improved health equity, access to care, reduction in disease burden and progress in other patient and community focused outcomes.

“Simply throwing money at the problem is not the right answer as we have deep inefficiencies and waste in the current system. Health promotion and prevention and patient/whanau education need to be at the forefront

of any care delivery model. Investing in this line of thinking will lead to tremendous savings, as the old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. Healthy individuals lead to healthy families and to communities.”

Jacoby Poulain

Incumbent Poulain says the HBDHB needs to move towards a system that’s more decentralised and more responsive to the needs of the Hawke’s Bay community.

“We need to put the resources into the hands of more diverse providers and increase the competition.” As an example, she suggests not tying patients to one GP practice. A patient could go to any GP and if they are not happy with that doctor, they could go to another. Consumers would be using their dollars to vote for their best healthcare, and this competition would provide them with better care.

Poulain wants to change the system so that board members could spend more than one to two days a month overseeing the region’s largest business. The healthcare system needs more attention than that from the eyes of governors.

As a councillor, Poulain said she gives the Hastings District Council two days a week of her time. “It is a bit out of whack when the revenue stream is about 10 times as much as the local councils. The time and attention we put to [the DHB] is tokenistic. But the model is driving that not the desire.”

Julia Wilson

Pharmacist Wilson is standing so better health decisions can be made. “The main thing is to get better community healthcare set up,” she says.

Wilson says with the ageing population only going to increase over the next ten years, it will be her generation that will be dealing with it if the right decisions are not made at a board level and if money is not spent wisely by DHB management.

She says although the DHB might be a closed governance system and people cannot interact with them like they can with local councils, she wants people to know that she is a part of the community and as such people can approach her. “I am a member of this community, and I will work for them. I’m really here for Central Hawke’s Bay.”

The DHB might be the most important board in the Bay. Consider that as you vote this year. ●

LIVE HERE GIVE HERE



HAWKE'S BAY
FOUNDATION



Manager Deborah Grace (on left), with volunteers Helen and Kathy at Citizens Advice Bureau, Hastings.
Photo: Florence Charvin

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU HASTINGS

The issues may have changed but the need for free, impartial advice remains as strong as it was when Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) first opened its Hastings office 43 years ago.

Manager Deborah Grace says in the past year alone, the centre has helped 5,000 people with a wide range of issues, including online shopping, consumer rights, travel and transport, finances, mobile shopping trucks, and fraud and scams.

"We've done everything from providing a staple for a client rushing to a meeting, through to a four-and-a-half-hour interview supporting a client to fill in an immigration form," says Deborah.

The recent move by government departments away from hard copy forms has put enormous pressure on Citizens Advice Bureaus, adds Deborah, with many clients lacking the IT skills or equipment to complete complex forms online, resulting in added cost to CAB.

"Imagine trying to complete a 32-page visa form on a smart phone - we can spend hours sitting with clients completing online applications."

Thanks to a 2018 grant from Hawke's Bay Foundation, CAB Hastings upgraded its "ancient and unreliable IT equipment." A new laptop aids volunteer training and allows staff to present to community

groups, attend expos or even host pop-up CAB clinics.

People of all ages and demographics access the free and confidential service, including youth who may need help buying a car or dealing with tenancy or employment issues. The centre also offers a weekly Legal Advice Clinic, an Immigration Clinic and provides telephone advice to prisoners at Mangaroa Prison.

"We're finding that our clients' issues are becoming more complex and taking longer to resolve," says Deborah. "We have a huge database of resources available to us and having reliable technology has made a huge difference to our ability to effectively help our community."

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

As with many not-for-profits, volunteers are the lifeblood of CAB, with 33 volunteer staff providing more than 5,300 hours of advice every year.

In June, CAB Hastings was presented with the Team Award at the Volunteering Hawke's Bay Excellence Awards 2019, while long-serving volunteer, Carol Weir, was nominated for a Volunteering Excellence Award.

Carol began volunteering with CAB in 1996, when her oldest child started university. "Even though

I still had another two children at home, I didn't want to lose the feeling of being needed - I felt I had more to give," says Carol.

With no two days ever the same, Carol says it's stimulating learning new information and a privilege to work with such an amazing team. "I love the variety of questions we get and the feeling of being able to help people that are sometimes in such terrible situations," adds Carol. "People seem to be very comfortable talking to me and I often get a much bigger, and quite different situation, than is first presented."

"We give clients hope and empower them, which is very rewarding."

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 income 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

BAYBUZZ

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Who wants to be Napier mayor?

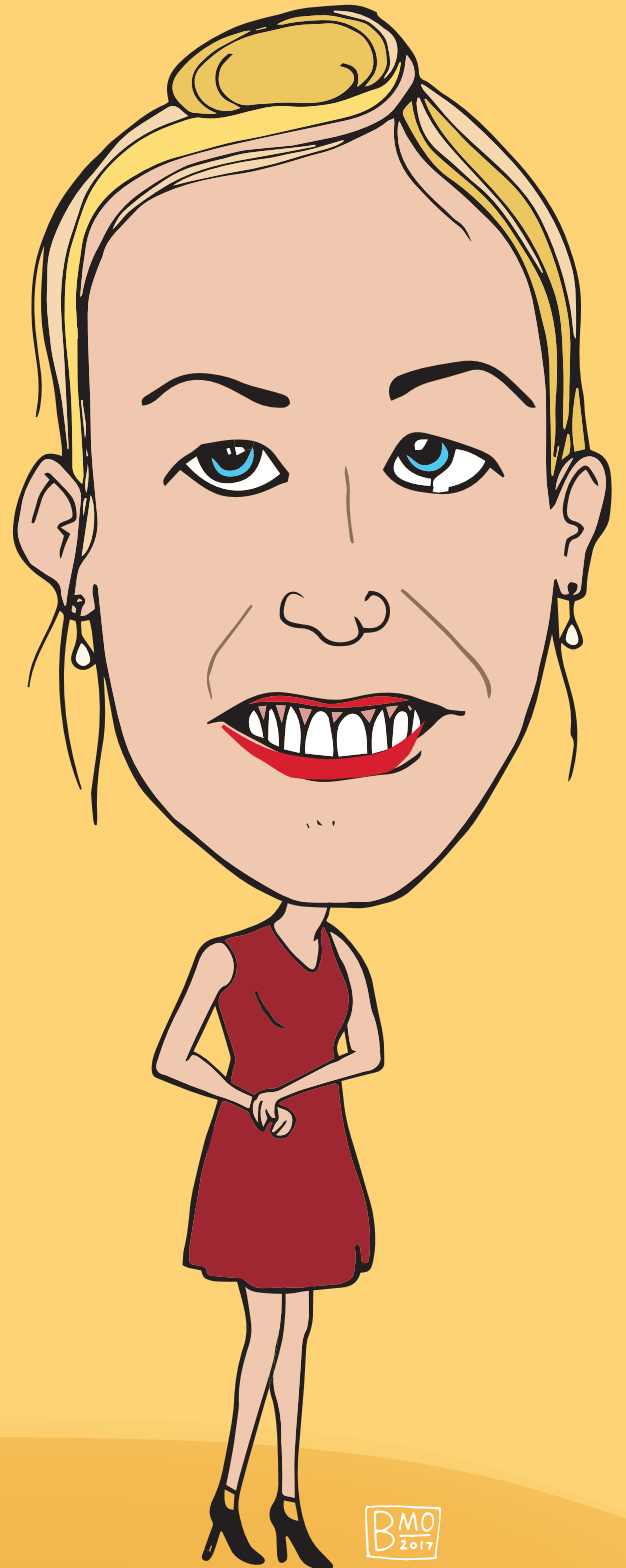


Illustration: Brett Monteith

Andrew Frame

In the last three years, our little jewel on the east coast of '100% Pure NZ' has gone from having crystal-clear, artesian tap water joyfully flowing from our taps, to gunky brown, manganese-laced, chlorine-smelling liquid, discolouring baths and hand basins in many homes.

Our council's governance and decision-making process has become even murkier during that time as well.

Napier's War Memorial was desecrated and re-branded a "Conference Centre" without public consultation. Napier ratepayers are currently staring down the barrel of at least \$41m for a public swimming pool they didn't ask for in a place they didn't ask it to be.

Councillors have been led by the nose by unelected management.

Stand for mayor? You'd more likely think anyone involved in these matters would be running for the hills, chased by an angry mob wielding pitchforks and torches!

Yet, as I write this, three people have set their sights on the seat at the top of the NCC table. Our very own *Game of Thrones*, without the dragons.

Two-term Napier city councillor, Kirsten Wise, former Napier National Party MP Chris Tremain and Napier businessman and social campaigner, David Hannay, have put up their hands for the job.

BayBuzz asked their thoughts on some of Napier's most prominent election issues.

Water

The underlying problem with Napier's "Three Waters" issue is that the city's water infrastructure all needs replacing and upgrading before we could even think of removing chlorine from our water under new government watchdog guidelines. No mean feat given the size of the task and massive financial or health cost that ratepayers will inevitably have to bear.

What will you do to lead the city out of rusty-coloured running water? Is chlorine here to stay?

Chris Tremain has announced his plan for a mayoral taskforce on freshwater. "My aspiration is to remove chlorine from our water supply. The taskforce will expedite the removal of sludge and consider options to remove chlorine. Any recommendation will need to meet the Public Health Standards of the newly proposed Government Water Regulator. There will be full consultation with the community before any final decision is made by the full council."

Kirsten Wise says "Clean drinking water is a basic human right. The people of Napier are fed up with dirty water and are sick of the talkfest about chlorine-free water - it is time for action. I have spent months talking to local water experts - scientists, engineers and well-drillers - to gain an understanding and learn as much as I can about our aquifer and water network. Based on this research I firmly believe that chlorine-free water is an option for our community."

David Hannay is more sceptical: "Anyone promising to remove chlorine to gain favour will use this 'Three Waters' review as the reason why they didn't do anything. Our water is the purist in the world. However, the standards are shaped by those who wish to gain control of the resource and are trying to justify their actions from the knee-jerk reaction to another situation (the Havelock North Water Crisis), which was caused by a whole different problem."

Democracy and trust

"What's the point of voting/making a submission, the council has already made its mind up" is an all too common remark these days from Napier people. No Napier voter requested the Napier War Memorial to be removed, yet it was. No Napier ratepayer suggested the Onekawa pools be demolished and relocated to Tamatea, yet that was what appeared in the council's Long-Term Plan.

There have been plentiful examples of 'the tail wagging the dog' - council management leading councillors (and ratepayers) astray on numerous occasions - yet the majority of councillors seem complacent or complicit enough to let it continue.

What will you do to reinstate the democratic process into Napier governance and regain the trust that the council has lost?

Hannay thinks there needs to be a major change in how Napier's council is managed: "Whoever becomes mayor must acknowledge this past council's autocratic behaviour. An open review of projects from 2013 onwards needs to happen and to question if our council CEO's KPIs are value for money. We need less management with more authentic community involvement and a working ethos where councillors are given the tools and freedom to grow without fear of reprisals."

"I am constantly being told by people that they do not feel they are being listened to and there is a massive disconnect between the community and council," says **Wise**. "I truly believe the role of the mayor and councillors is to listen and to ensure the public are setting the future direction for our city - not councillors and not the staff. I intend to take back control and lead a council which actively engages with our community."

"Democracy is delivered by this election," says **Tremain**. "A new council will constantly consult with Napier's citizens to fully understand public sentiment. Complex issues, however, can be gazumped by slogans. In my opinion leaders must, at times, bravely vote for what is in the best interest of our city, despite popular opinion. Please exercise your democratic right at the upcoming election."

The Pool

Acting mayor Faye White claimed the court injunction made by Friends of Onekawa Pool would “threaten to undermine the democratic process to date”, but doesn’t bypassing public recommendation in creating the Long-Term Plan, then ignoring public petitions undermine it more?

It’s literally Napier’s \$41 million question: Where do you stand on the Pool?

Hannay is against the Prebensen Drive pool case and thinks “it sits nicely as an example of council management manipulation... The same pattern that saw the closure of Napier Skating Club’s Sk8 Zone. Take a successful venture, ask for a meeting only to gain your intellectual property, then alienate the players from the public and re-brand that successive idea and thoughts as their own.”

Says **Tremain**: “I have announced ‘Time-out’ on Napier’s Pool decision. There are advantages and disadvantages for each currently proposed location which we need to better understand. I have reservations about moving the pool from a ‘much loved’ location, close to the heart of vulnerable communities. I also believe our city has other key priorities at this point in time. Back to the basics for me.”

Wise agrees council’s actions in pushing the Prebensen Drive pool site “undermines the democratic process”. She does not believe the proposed Prebensen Drive design adequately future-proofs Napier’s aquatic space needs, nor does the current Onekawa facility: “Wherever the pool is located, the overall pool space being provided needs to be seriously looked at and we also need to consider the Taradale Community Pool, which is re-opening early next year, and Ocean Spa as a part of this planning.”

Environment

Many New Zealand councils, including HBRC, have announced a ‘Climate Emergency’.

As a sea-side city Napier is particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, with lots of low-lying and reclaimed land. Our high sunshine hours and constant sea breezes could, potentially, be harnessed to generate renewable energy resources.

Should Napier declare a ‘Climate Emergency’ and what can the city do to protect itself from climate change? What local environmentally-friendly alternatives can you see being enacted in the next three years?

Tremain declares: “We need to take real action to clean up our environment and fight climate change. My environmental plan involves cleaning up our estuary by removing sewage spills and planting a bird/tree corridor. We will transition the council’s vehicle fleet to Electric Vehicles and set an aspirational target for our council to be carbon neutral ahead of New Zealand’s national target. I will personally lead solar, cycling, and walking initiatives.”

Hannay thinks short-term gain shouldn’t trump long-term targets: “When you are focused on forced excuses for economic growth over and above natural growth you are blind to anything that will slow down that process.” He says, “An example of this would be a port that will be built to still be operational and effective in 2050, while its access roads and the surrounding area only have a climate view of 1998.”

Says **Wise**: “Every single one of us has a responsibility to our future generations to work together to tackle the ever-growing threat that climate change poses for NZ. It is a very emotive issue, in some areas people’s homes are under threat and we must understand this and treat people with honesty, respect and trust. I think the local area councils can have the biggest impact with regards to environmentally-friendly initiatives and in the management of waste.”

Where to next?

Napier is quickly running out of space. With a surge of out-of-town buyers snaf-fling up houses in the city and prices and rents rising astronomically with demand, finding a place to live is a major issue for Napier (as is homelessness). As we ride the leading edge of a wave of business innovation and enjoy popularity as a place for families and business to move to, people need somewhere to go!

What are your solutions to Napier’s housing shortage and homelessness issues?

“The need for more social housing is a priority in both Napier and Hastings,” says **Wise**. “I am committed to ensuring council retains, if not grows, the number of social/pension houses it provides. Council is also working with a number of private developers, such as Marist Holdings Ltd who own the land above Mission Estate, to meet general demand.”

Tremain says: “We need a broad-based plan to address the housing issues in our city. This includes working closely with central government and the private sector to unlock the huge opportunity to build social housing on bare government land and under-utilised sections in and around our city. We will investigate the need for and funding of a city shelter to provide our most vulnerable a roof over their heads at night.”

“We are lucky to be living in one of the best cities in NZ, so everyone wants to move here,” opines **Hannay**. “However, rating people on fixed incomes off their property and with a goal of gentrification is not the way to do it!”

There you go. Just opinions on some of the big issues facing Napier this election.

If you have further questions of the mayoral, or council hopefuls ... Ask them! With so many seats at the council table being vacated, this will potentially be one of the most transformative and interactive elections Napier has had in many years.

Please ensure you are enrolled on the Electoral Roll and vote this month. Napier’s future depends on it! ●

Andrew Frame is a 41-year-old husband, father, and life-long Napier resident. He writes the www.napierinframe.co.nz website and promotes all things HB on social media.



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WILD ABOUT SAFETY



At Hawke's Bay Airport, safety is paramount. The team continuously analyses risk, monitors hazards, and promotes a safety culture across the business. Wildlife management is a key component of maintaining optimal safety for all – including the birds!



Gareth Mentzer, Operations Manager

A SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT

There is a delicate balance to be found in establishing a safe airfield for passengers, pilots and planes, and managing pests while encouraging other species to thrive. With an Airport committed to the long-term sustainability of the coastal and pastoral environment it is housed within, there's been an even greater focus on its wildlife management strategy over the past year – with some interesting outcomes.

The Airport recently engaged external consultancy Avisure, an Australian based company specialising in mitigating bird strike risk, who assisted in drafting a plan relevant to the bird breeds and native species that gather near the Airport.

Although bird strikes at Hawke's Bay Airport remain relatively rare, they are nonetheless an important consideration, and a sound wildlife hazard management plan is key to reducing risk.

PLANNING AND PROTECTION

Avisure's expertise, coupled with input from the Airport team, has seen the resulting wildlife hazard management plan adopted and well understood.

Gareth Mentzer, Operations Manager for the Airport, is the person tasked with implementing the plan. "I've learned a lot more about birds than perhaps I'd anticipated I would," he says.

One of Gareth's areas of responsibility is minimising any risk to aircraft from bird strike. Where once, using shotguns to scare birds away was the most common method of wildlife control, Gareth takes a systematic and logical approach to "discouraging birds from being at the airport but encouraging them to be elsewhere."

In the completion of the wildlife management plan with Avisure, Gareth has explored many facets of bird behaviour including the different feeding, nesting and laying patterns of various species – and he's had to cover a lot of ground. "Birds move from point to point and over quite a large distance," he explains, "so we went out over a 20 to 23-kilometre radius from the Airport to see where our potential wildlife sources are. As an example, to understand red billed gull behaviour, we took a look at Omarunui Landfill and what impact that might have on the Airport.



“Aircraft are on approach from quite a distance and they start getting low over some potential trouble spots within that radius, so we keep a watching brief on land use around the Airport as well as any changes outside the Airport that might introduce a new hazard.”

Within the Airport environment, Gareth also utilises different treatment methods to discourage a range of species. One mitigation is grass height. “A number of birds don’t like long grass so we manage the pasture and the length of the grass to keep them away. We’ve noticed a drop in the number of spur winged plovers this season and as they nest on the ground, we think our pasture management might have something to do with that.”

Another way of dissuading bird activity is to remove food sources – like insects – from the Airport environment.

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HALLMARKS OF SUCCESS

This new thinking when it comes to the treatment of pests around the Airport, together with a growing emphasis on reporting and analysing any incidences as they occur, are just two markers of the success of the wildlife management plan’s implementation so far.

With the help of the Fire Rescue team, who visit seven birdlife sites around the Airport each Monday and note the populations they find, the Airport’s understanding of wildlife is growing all the time. “It means that if there’s an incident, we can delve deeply into what’s happened, why it happened, the species of bird, its size, even what the weather was doing. We aim to have a well-informed idea of what has occurred,” Gareth continues.

Native birds pose no real threat – kuaka, for example, don’t fly over the airport. It’s Canada geese that are the major risk to aircraft. With no natural predators close by, and weighing around five kilograms apiece, they can do considerable damage to jets, propellers and aircraft windscreens. Hawke’s Bay Airport recently engaged local wildlife consultant Tony Billings to undertake a study focused solely on the management of this bird population, with a view to influencing their behaviour and thereby minimising their potential risk to the airfield.

“As part of our ongoing commitment to the local environment, we’d like to see these birds managed in such a way that they are prevented from taking over the wildlife reserve neighbouring the Airport, which then causes a problem for local Councils and conservationists as well.”

Airports around New Zealand regularly share knowledge on their individual wildlife management plans and collaborate on their methods. “Often the way you’ll treat a starling in Nelson will be similar to how you will treat it in Napier.

“The more we learn about the birds in our region,” Gareth concludes, “the more we can do to encourage good habitats for them, and make them less interested in settling around the Airport, where they pose a risk.”





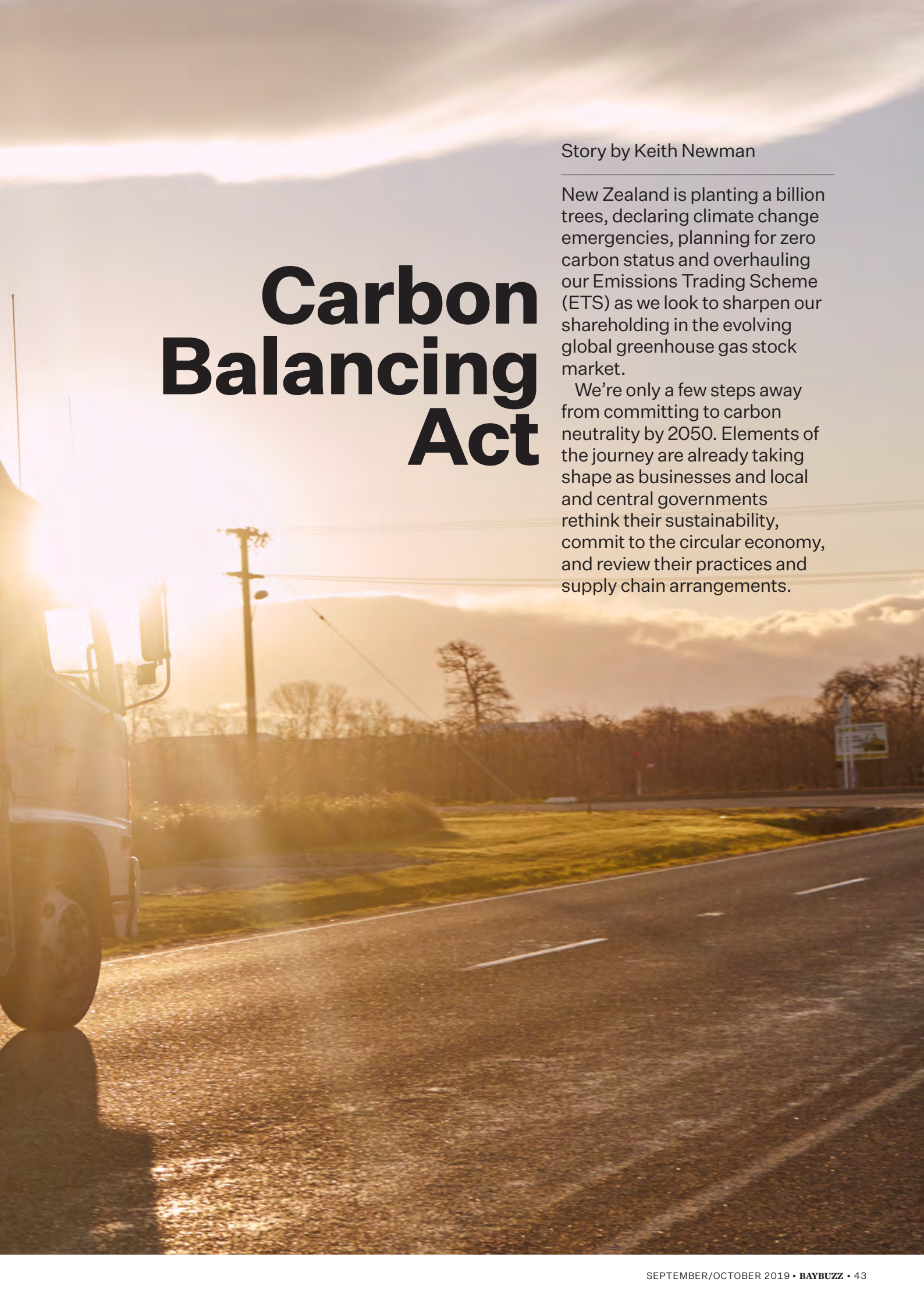
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Photo: Florence Charvin

A white truck is partially visible on the left side of the frame, parked on a paved road. The background features a landscape with rolling hills and mountains under a dramatic, golden sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare effect. The overall scene is bathed in warm, golden light.

Carbon Balancing Act

Story by Keith Newman

New Zealand is planting a billion trees, declaring climate change emergencies, planning for zero carbon status and overhauling our Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) as we look to sharpen our shareholding in the evolving global greenhouse gas stock market.

We're only a few steps away from committing to carbon neutrality by 2050. Elements of the journey are already taking shape as businesses and local and central governments rethink their sustainability, commit to the circular economy, and review their practices and supply chain arrangements.



“We needed to practise what we were preaching.”

3R GROUP CEO ADELE ROSE

Key to managing and monitoring our progress will be the ETS mechanism currently under review, which will allocate and pool our local carbon credits and offset the emissions balance by funding equivalent carbon savings elsewhere in the world.

The amount of carbon created by audited activities and their global warming potential will be converted to a carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), to determine the trading value on the international market.

Voluntary programmes like the Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme (CEMARS) and carboNZero, run by government-owned Enviro-Mark Solutions, are doubling year on year as more participants commit to reducing their carbon footprint.

Josephine Rudkin-Binks, Enviro-Mark Solution’s commercial sector general manager, says since the change in government and ratification of the Paris Agreement “there’s definitely been a big upturn with people realising this is no longer a fringe issue but something businesses need to do.”

Local leadership lagging

Hawke’s Bay has only eight CEMARS and carboNZero certified businesses, but while it’s lagging behind Otago or Bay of Plenty, she insists there’s still time to take leadership.

Local success stories include Hawke’s Bay District Health Board (HBDHB), Mr Apple, Summerset Group, The Clean Crew, the Youth Hostels Association, Pyroclassic Fires, HB Technologies, and 3R Group.

Hastings-based 3R Group was self-auditing for many years until it became CEMARS certified in 2013, with a plan to reduce carbon emissions by 20% before 2020.

In 2016 it became carboNZero certified, meaning it can offset remaining carbon by purchasing credits from New Zealand’s Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI).

3R Group, employing 26 people from Christchurch to Auckland, is an advocate for the circular economy, runs a number of product stewardship programmes and helps other businesses dispose of used products and packaging.

It jumped in at the deep end, gaining ISO1401 Environmental Planning Process certification to better understand the impacts of its own business and how to plan for carbon mitigation.

The company looked at the positive and negative environmental impacts of how its suppliers acted and how it acted as a supplier. “We needed to practise what we were preaching,” says CEO Adele Rose.

That meant looking at procurement, the efficiency of vehicles, logistics, fuel reduction, driver training, choosing the most effective routes and back-loading to ensure delivery vehicles weren’t empty on their return journey.

Waste and value lens

Rose says her main message is not to go straight to an audit but recognise emission reduction is often about logical changes in business processes including viewing everything through a lens of value and waste, including people’s time.

While having external verification and auditing through Enviro-Mark Solutions is valuable, she says there’s

shattky

OPTOMETRISTS

Meet Ryan: Shattky's New Optometrist



Ryan is one of the passionate Optometrists at Shattkys. Ryan has recently relocated back to New Zealand from Australia.

A southern man who had dreams of becoming an Optometrist since the age of 12. The idea of giving people the gift of sight and helping prevent the deterioration of vision are real motivating factors for Ryan.

When he's not practicing Optometry, Ryan enjoys the wilderness. Whether it's climbing Te Mata Peak with his young daughter in the front pack, or exploring the Kaweka Forest Park hoping to find wild game.

Ryan also hosts a podcast 'The Stag Roar' exploring the topics of health, well being, success, business pursuits and hunting.

Special Interests

Myopia Control Therapy

A specialty that is focused on slowing down or stopping the progression or worsening of myopia in children and young adults.

Dry Eye Management

With the aid of IPL, Nutrition and Therapeutic Interventions to try improve the ocular surface.

Behavioural Optometry

Under the mentorship of Mark Eagle, strive to enhance childrens ability to learn.

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)

Having suffered a serious head collision in rugby, Ryan uses Optical, Behavioural and Nutritional Interventions to improve symptoms and function following ABI.

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HB Technologies finance manager, Neville Smith and Enviro-Mark's, Josephine Rudkin-Binks



plenty of room for businesses to look at how they might offset their own processes and impacts.

A key can be moving from a competitive mindset or attitude to collaboration and sharing resources in a way that benefits all parties. 3R Group is one of the driving forces in the Climate Leaders Coalition (CLC) formed in July 2018 to help the country reach its zero emissions goals.

It was an Enviro-Mark Solutions Carbon Reduction Exemplar in June 2018, having made a 35% reduction in emissions between 2013 and 2017.

The nascent CLC, in its first annual report, claims 90% of its 107 signatories are measuring carbon emissions in a goal to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Another optional pledge urges members to switch their fleets to electric vehicles, work with supply chains, reduce waste and trial biomass.

CLC signatories represent 60% of New Zealand's gross emissions, employ more than 170,000 people and represent nearly one-third of private sector GDP.

Emissions escalate

In April, according to the New Zealand's greenhouse gas inventory, our 2017 emissions had edged up 2.2% on the previous year to 80.9 million tonnes of CO₂e despite the goal of 6% annual reduction and halving fossil fuel use by 2030.

The biggest emission sources were methane and nitrous oxide from the agriculture sector (48%), fossil-fuel generated electricity production (41%) and road transport at 18%.

Those areas will be specifically targeted by the Climate Change Response

(Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill expected to pass into law before the end of the year.

The Zero Carbon Bill proposes that we become largely carbon neutral with targets to reduce livestock and fertiliser emissions by 10% within the next decade and up to 47% by 2050.

Forest and Bird says it gives too many concessions for the agricultural lobby, while Beef and Lamb and Dairy NZ claim that what they regard as excessive methane restrictions will place unachievable limits on their production capabilities.

Some argue New Zealand will be forced to make deeper farming sector cuts than our trading partners, which could put the brakes on economic growth, or that it will simply add to our bureaucracy and do little to reduce actual emissions.

Some suggest that carboNZero might be just another way for businesses to carry on doing what they've always done, as long as they pay for the privilege through carbon credits. That is viewed as extremely cynical by Enviro-Mark's Rudkin-Binks.

She says carboNZero and CEMARS certification programmes require companies to show they are making reductions.

"You can't just pay for the privilege of being dirty ... you have to change your behaviour. After things have been in place for a while you can't keep looking at the low-hanging fruit you have to continue innovating."

Carbon accredited

In New Zealand, both carboNZero and CEMARS have brokered carbon credits.

In 2013 both were folded into Enviro-Mark Solutions which now operates

"You can't just pay for the privilege of being dirty... you have to change your behaviour... you can't keep looking at the low-hanging fruit you have to continue innovating."

ENVIRO-MARK SOLUTIONS
COMMERCIAL GENERAL MANAGER,
JOSEPHINE RUDKIN-BINKS

in the UK, Australia, Chile and United Arab Emirates and has to date processed over 200,000 carbon credits.

While other consultancies and groups are gearing up offerings in the carbon space, Rudkin-Binks says Enviro-Mark Solutions is the only New Zealand body with international accreditation.

A number of universities, councils, district health boards and hospitals in the UK, the Scottish Parliament, Chile's Department of Agriculture, Eurostar High Speed Rail and over 30 of the largest construction and utilities companies in the UK are clients.

Rudkin-Binks insists the scheme has always been fit for purpose but the drivers for participation haven't been there. "We have strict rules around our carbon credits which are more stringent than anyone else's."

She says "there's momentum and urgency" with business doubling in

the past two years and greater uptake expected with the introduction of the new Bill.

Point of difference

Onekawa-based HB Technologies is closely monitoring emissions generated through fuel consumption, electricity use, waste to landfill, its photocopier 'fleet', freight and other transport costs.

Finance manager Neville Smith says a core focus is waste reduction and recycling everything from packaging and polystyrene ... obsolete machines go to the Hastings Environment Centre.

The Ricoh dealer, specialising in printing, scanning, IT and communications, has been carboNZero accredited since 2011 and sees it as a point of differentiation that delivers bottom-line cost savings.

Its vehicle fleet is fitted with GPS to schedule regular maintenance and ensure technicians are sent out in a "geographically logical" manner.

Smith says carbon usage might be as simple as better lightbulbs, vehicle efficiency, driver training "so people don't plant their foot and waste fuel" or turning photocopiers off when they're not needed.

HB Technologies is still weighing up the pros and cons of adding EVs to its fleet, including battery life and disposal. The Government's agenda around this may make a difference, he suggests.

Rudkin-Binks says emissions reduction should be seen as part of a profit centre rather than a cost centre that can easily translate to efficiencies and savings in the procurement and supply chain.

More than box ticking

She suggests those who put their hearts and minds into the process rather than just ticking boxes are making the biggest reductions.

The average carbon-footprint reduction across both Enviro-Mark Solutions programmes in New Zealand is 17%. "We have a 98% retention rate of clients which demonstrates that people see value in doing this."

Pyroclassic Fires in Hastings, part of the Fourth Element group, has lowered its emissions annually and over the past five years has achieved a 15% reduction.

"Everyone agrees we need environmental awareness and to take responsibility for what we're doing. We can't keep doing what we're doing and expect everything to be okay," says director Rick Chalmers.

Pyroclassic manufactures two ultra-low emission burners (ULEB) designed and developed by scientists at the DSIR in the late 1970s. They feature a single cast-iron cylinder that burns more like a kiln environment than a conventional brick-lined steel box.

The company has 50 dealers in New Zealand, distributes in Australia and the UK, and is the world's first wood-fire manufacturer to be certified by carboNZero.

Chalmers says carboNZero helped Pyroclassic rethink its processes and through annual audits has halved waste output and eliminated almost all non-recyclable packaging. The remaining carbon load is offset through carbon credits.

Chalmers initially investigated buying forests to manage his own carbon credits but discovered how involved that was. "We decided to leave it to the farmers, forestry companies and large organisations who can recoup their investments."

He says businesses need to consider how much of a priority carbon reduction is before engaging.

Cost of compliance

"For a small business it's a reasonably big undertaking, including time spent by staff on carbon-centric issues. It can seem arduous if you are not passionate."

His advice is not to engineer a business as carbon neutral but identify what needs to happen now, and let understanding grow.

"Carbon can be generated in a vast number of ways so it's hard to make an arbitrary brush stroke; carboNZero is good at identifying this."

For smaller businesses certification might cost a few thousand dollars plus annual audits and staff recording monthly data. The Enviro-Mark Solutions website suggests \$4,600 annually for a non-complex small office-based organisation with under 15 employees.

Rudkin-Binks says being carboNZero certified has marketing and branding advantages. "It's all about corporate responsibility and how your customers might feel if they see you doing business with dirty partners as opposed to procurement with a low-carbon hat on."

If moving to EVs isn't on the agenda, checking staff driving habits ought to be. "Driving like a nana is actually good for the environment and safer."

Rudkin-Binks says increasingly people are asking how to acquire carboNZero certified products and services.

"Everyone agrees we need... to take responsibility for what we're doing. We can't keep doing what we're doing and expect everything to be okay."

PYROCLASSIC FIRES DIRECTOR
RICK CHALMERS

She cites EcoTricity which sells carboNZero electricity, generated from wind, hydro and solar, a service 3R Group in Hastings uses to offset its carbon.

Healthy reductions made

The health sector is responsible for 3-8% of New Zealand's carbon emissions.

Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB) ramped up its own in-house efforts in March when departing chief executive Dr Kevin Snee committed to CEMARS to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at its Hastings, Napier, Wairoa and Central Hawke's Bay sites.

Snee believed the hospital's high use of energy resources could be reduced by making small changes consistently. It now has annual targets for energy, carbon and sustainable waste management, including reducing waste to landfill, improving recycling and disposal of medical gases.

Champions have been appointed across departments and staff educated on wiser use of energy, including alternative travel to and from work and when attending meetings.

The DHB's Go Well Travel Plan, implemented in 2015, has increased sustainable vehicle transport by 15%, single occupancy travel by 18% and increased use of public transport and cycling by around 7%.

The team has installed a third secure bike store, established a bike pool and maintenance stations, installed e-bike charging and an EV station and increased the subsidy for staff bus transport.

As vehicle leases come up for renewal

“For a small business it’s a reasonably big undertaking, including time spent by staff on carbon-centric issues. It can seem arduous if you are not passionate.”

PYROCLASSIC FIRES DIRECTOR
RICK CHALMERS

the DHB is moving to EV hybrids. A full electric vehicle is being trialed and could result in other acquisitions.

An integrated strategy across facilities management will reduce emission impacts and the DHB procurement team is reviewing its use of consumables, moving away from single-use disposable products to recyclable and compostable items.

It already has a food composting policy and a waste audit in September 2018 removed all polystyrene items from its catalogue with 50,000 less cups going to landfill each year.

Upgrades to policies and its building management system have meant more environmentally sustainable and efficient buildings. For example, the hospital’s boiler is being replaced to make it more energy efficient.

At the end of July, Associate Health Minister Julie Anne Genter, in releasing a new guide, *Sustainability and the Health Sector*, recognised the HBDHB for its leadership.

Warning from past

Businesses and organisations of all sizes are being urged to reduce their carbon footprint, with evidence-based reporting likely to be a requirement.

As the various pieces of this emerging climate change jigsaw evolve, the reworked ETS, and the global value placed on our progress and the value of our credits will be critical to how we are perceived on the world market.

The Morgan Foundation reports in April and August 2016 gave us a roasting when economist Geoff Simmons revealed we remained the biggest buyer of “junk carbon credits” long after the international scam was exposed in 2013.

The Climate Cheats report labelled

NZ “a willing participant in wholesale climate fraud” with local companies acquiring emission reduction units (ERUs) from Ukraine and Russia through the Government’s ETS programme.

Trying to meet our international emissions targets with ERUs that did not represent any true emission reductions, and allegedly undermined our reputation as a clean, green, corruption free nation.

Consequently, the value of our ETS carbon units plummeted with many investors pulling back from carbon forestry and much land reverting to dairy.

A follow up report, *Climate Cheats II: The Dirty Dozen Businesses*, named those who purchased \$200 million in “hot air credits” as only indicative, as many companies kept their data private.

The government of the day denied responsibility, but Simmons said it was ultimately responsible as it set the rules. The ETS continued to allow unlimited use of imported ‘fraudulent’ credits, even after 2013, when we were the only nation still accepting them.

Getting our house in order

The report urged New Zealand to get its own house in order before opening up to international trading again.

Enviro-Mark’s Rudkin-Binks says subsequent to those incidents New Zealand stopped importing overseas units. “Enviro-Mark Solutions has never allowed the use of units from Ukraine, Russia or indeed any poor quality units.”

“Any overseas units used by carbonZero clients are Gold Standard CDM units that have also been certified for the co-benefits delivered under the (UN) Sustainable Development Goals” with criteria that “meet and exceed international best practice”.

Rudkin-Binks says the ETS review identified the issue of poor quality overseas units although “we’re unlikely to know whether New Zealand has ‘its own house in order’ until it opens up to international trading again”.

Like many nations, New Zealand is pinning its near-term hopes on the carbon absorbing value of existing and new forests, including planting a ‘billion trees’ by 2028 along with more effective emissions pricing to encourage new forests and trees on non-productive agricultural land.

Among the concerns are that those incentives are already resulting in premium farmland being sold for carbon sink forests, including several thousand hectares, observed during a recent visit

to Taumarunui, planted in redwood trees by a Canadian company.

Forest or trees

Dame Anne Salmond recently stated the billion trees programme could see huge investments in forestation to gain carbon credits to the detriment of forestry diversity.

Despite the promise of two-thirds being natives, which sequester 40 times more carbon than plantation forests, she said foresters were using the fund to plant 88% in pine for which the ETS was paying much higher carbon prices.

Rudkin-Binks says ‘billion trees’ grants are for “planting the right species in the right place for the right purpose”; not all plantings will be eligible.

She says the debate has “many complex aspects”. Enviro-Mark Solutions only uses carbon credits from native forests through the PFSI and welcomes robust peer-reviewed consensus on native versus exotic forest sequestration rates.

A key factor in achieving carbon neutral status will be how agriculture responds. The Interim Climate Change Committee wants agriculture in the ETS between 2021 and 2025, with processors like Fonterra charged 5% of their emissions to be funnelled back into the sector.

That’s been slammed for giving the biggest emitter a two-year “free ride” before paying a “paltry” percentage. Farmers want their emissions excluded until 2025 with a voluntary deal separate to the ETS. Whatever the deal is, it will be in place during 2020 as part of proposed Zero Carbon law change.

Achieving zero carbon within 30 years will require massive societal change.

The challenge remains ... can thought leaders like the Climate Change Coalition and willing participants in Enviro-Mark’s programmes make enough of a dent in our emissions so we can reach our carbon zero target, without being disadvantaged against overseas competitors who are escalating their use of fossil fuels? ●



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.



Looking into EIT's future

On 1 August the Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins, released the decisions of the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE). He then confirmed what the ITP sector had been speculating on for months: From 1 April 2020 onwards, there will be only one ITP, with a working name of the NZ Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST). NZIST will include all existing 16 ITPs.

On 1 April 2020, EIT will become a subsidiary of the new national institute. On the same day the EIT Council will be replaced by an EIT subsidiary board of the new national institute.

EIT is not averse to beneficial change and acknowledges that there are a number of flaws in the current vocational education system.

"Our regions' leaders fought a passionate campaign on behalf of the current structure of EIT. We know Hawke's Bay's social and economic needs best and want to remain agile to meet them," says EIT deputy chief executive, Mark Oldershaw. "We are an anchor organisation in Hawke's Bay, one that competently brings crucial and measurable benefits to our community."

It is not yet foreseeable how much autonomy the single ITPs will keep. However, the government's express commitment to ensuring strong regional leadership offers cause for optimism.

It is important to re-emphasise that the Minister's reform is solely targeting vocational education. 23 % of EIT's equivalent

full-time students fall into the vocational category and study programmes from certificate level up to level 6 diplomas. This means, by implication, that the reform will not have an immediate impact on the other students who are enrolled in degrees and postgraduate qualifications.

Greater success for Māori is one of the Minister's priorities. EIT has one of the highest levels of Māori student participation and success within the sector (60 % qualification completion rate in 2018, compared with 62 % for non-Māori).

"Māori students at EIT have one of the highest rates of progression from certificate to higher level study. EIT regards success in this area as fundamental if the reforms are to be successful," says Mr Oldershaw.

Over the next couple of years, there will be minimal change. The reforms will

take time and the government will work closely with EIT to manage the transition. Students can therefore confidently enrol in multi-year programmes. They will be able to complete their studies through EIT and graduate with an EIT-branded qualification.

There is still so much to be determined by the Establishment Board, and EIT will work with the new board to ensure that decision making is kept as close to education providers as possible.

“We are an anchor organisation in Hawke's Bay, one that competently brings crucial and measurable benefits to our community.”



Mark Oldershaw, EIT deputy chief executive



Building Naturally

Story by Bridget Freeman-Rock
Photos by Florence Charvin

The house on the hill

I'm sitting across from physicians Louise Trent and Craig Ellis in their off-grid, strawbale house in rural Hastings, which they share with their three children (and on occasion if the door's left open, their two free-roaming pet pigs).

There's no heating on - outside a brisk southerly, snow on the ranges, but inside it's comfortable, quiet. My stocking feet absorb the warmth of the sun-warmed earth floor. I peel off several layers.

"I spent 45 years of my life living in cold houses," Craig says, "and it's not until we moved in here that I could appreciate the insulation and the fact that a house can function well." Even with a heavy frost, he says, he's toasty in shorts and Tees, while in hot Hawke's Bay summers the house remains graciously cool. "It's bliss!"

For Louise, "The house feels kind of alive - literally, you've got that breathable wall, which regulates the temperature. You know from a scientific perspective that the clay expands and contracts, but because it's so tactile, from a heart feel, it actually feels really organic and alive."

She says visitors will often hug the walls.

Theirs is not a proto-type for an eco-house, but a bespoke, handcrafted home, highly idiosyncratic, designed for this family's needs and whims, and built for generations.

It took years of research, hands-on courses and negotiation to come up with preliminary architectural plans, and then a full two years for the redraft, consent and build process - completed in 2016. While the work was project managed and undertaken by professional craftsmen, Craig and Louise were involved every step of the way, and know each nook and cranny intimately and the story and effort behind the crafting.

They see themselves as pragmatists



"I spent 45 years of my life living in cold houses, and it's not until we moved in here that I could appreciate the insulation and the fact that a house can function well." CRAIG ELLIS

rather than purists - the decision to go off-grid, for example, was dictated by the house-site (and worked out to be significantly more cost-effective) - but the holistic approach is an aspect they truly value.

"The whole building process itself was done off the grid with minimal waste," explains Louise. "A lot of waste products were composted onto my orchard - the only thing I got from that was the occasional weed! And we've got a bit of leftover wood that we're using as kindling to start the fire. If the house ever got bowled, you'd be able to put half of it in the compost!"

"You've got a house that could last 500 years if you really look after it and maintain it, but then it's also biodegradable - it just makes so much sense."

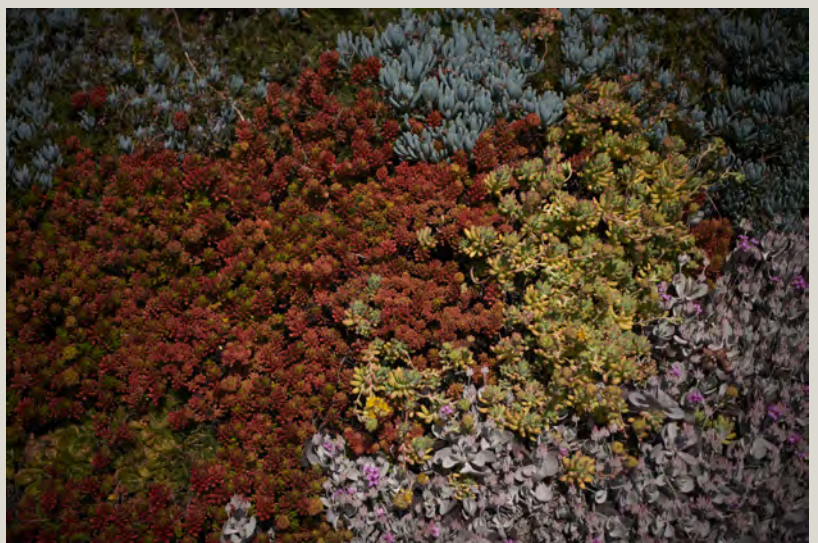
Louise, who describes herself as an "active relaxer", plants around a

thousand trees on the property a year - the surrounding paddocks around will one day all be forest. One of her current projects is the development of a drylands garden that doesn't require watering.

"We don't want to be the doomers on the hill," explains Craig, "but we've been tracking the climate emergency for a long time, and it's not looking great. You could say, we've begun adapting."

ABOVE: The front door uses repurposed cattle railings from the family farm. The timber was originally brought over from Australia when Louise's father immigrated. The builder's vice grips were only meant as a temporary fixture while Craig and Louise decided which door handle to order, but five years on, they're still to find a better replacement.

LEFT: Craig's library. The curved bespoke staircase leading up to the craft room in the lefthand corner of the picture, is made entirely without glues using traditional German carpentry craft. All interior doors and cupboards were also built without glues or nails.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Solar panels (like these) are positioned in the paddock rather than on the roof; clay plasters lend themselves to artistic features, such as this tree, sculptured by Louise and friend Nadine; close-up detail of timber, earth and stone detail by the kitchen island; close-up of the 22m-long (50m²) living retaining wall by the entrance, carpeted in an array of different succulents; pet kune kune pigs Fuji and Blacksie.

House profile

The solid 340m² timber-structure house was designed for orientation (all rooms are north facing and receive direct sunlight in winter but are shaded in summer) and location (a wind-exposed hilltop on the outskirts of Hastings).

It incorporates solar-gain, passive house elements: thick strawbale walls (45cm wide) with clay and lime plasters means it's extremely well-insulated. The thermal mass of the plasters and earth floors retain warmth and double-glazed, vacuum-sealed windows and doors with a heat-transfer mechanical ventilation system in the ceiling ensure a regulated indoor climate.

The house has a dry, even

temperature year-round: 18-20C in winter (without heating); 22C in summer (with doors and windows open), even when it's 30C+ outside. Heating is a wood-fired kitchen range with a wetback for hot water and a small (rarely used) Pyroclassic wood burner in the library.

Materials are predominately locally sourced. The strawbales grown on the Heretaunga plains, lime from Websters quarry across the valley on Middle Rd, clay from Kahuranaki. Macrocarpa from the family farm in southern HB was used for the ceilings, joinery and exterior cladding and gables, with NZ-grown hardwood timbers used for flooring and other features – the stairs, for example, are made from a eucalypt hybrid grown just north of Napier.

All paints and oils are non-toxic, sourced from the Natural Paint and Natural House companies.

Personal, creative features include a living retaining wall carpeted with hand-propagated succulents; an experimental green roof on the upper-story craft room; a hand-sculptured adobe window-seat; fresco paintings around the outside entrance and tadelakt (a traditional Moroccan, waterproof-plastering technique) in the bathroom.

The house is fully off-grid – powered by solar panels in the paddock and a small wind turbine. Rainwater is collected in 30,000 litre tanks and a dam. Waste water (including sewerage) is treated with a worm-based composting septic tank system.

“If we want buildings that have a reduced amount of carbon they’re responsible for, we have to really start looking at low-embodied energy, or carbon-sequestering materials. And designing for deconstruction.”

PAT MAWSON, CHAIR OF THE EARTH BUILDING ASSOCIATION NZ

Climate-conscious construction

Pat Mawson, chair of the Earth Building Association of NZ (EBANZ), and Nils Rock (master carpenter and licenced designer) have been building “natural, handcrafted homes” in Hawke’s Bay together for a decade (strawhomes.co.nz), including the Roy’s Hill house showcased here.

While there’s a growing awareness of energy-efficient housing, they believe this shouldn’t be the prerequisite goal but an integrated outcome of more overarching considerations: the materials used, smart design and construction methods that take into account the whole life-cycle of the build.

A big factor that receives less attention, they say, is the ‘embodied energy’ of products, in other words their carbon footprint (processing, transport, etc). Cement, for example, is a massive contributor to atmospheric carbon - it’s the third largest emitter of CO2 in the world after the US and China and the most widely used substance (save for water). Yet there are less destructive, time-tested alternatives.



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LEFT: The living room marries clay, earth and stone features with untreated NZ-grown timbers.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The lime-rendered exterior walls of this north-facing house reflect back the HB light, while (BELOW) Fuji the pig has a snooze by a Jeff Thomson cow sculpture that lived with Louise in her student flat in Wellington in the 1990s and has spent time on a hill in Bayview overlooking the sea.

New Zealand's earth-building standards (which encompass cob, adobe, rammed- and poured-earth structures and centre around performance and pragmatic tests) are amongst the most comprehensive in the world. While the original aim was to provide a healthy, low-cost housing solution for young families and a guaranteed pathway for compliance, they've also been used to build luxury mansions, and more recently in Nepal and Haiti for massive rebuilding projects.

But the standards have hardly been touched for 20 years and need revising, especially with new research and the learnings that have resulted from the Christchurch and Kaikoura earthquakes (those houses built to

the earth-building standards, by the way, performed well). If they're not updated, says Pat, they'll become redundant.

While MBIE has a regulatory duty to maintain them, and initially agreed to their rewrite, the ministry withdrew funding part way through, leaving the work to EBANZ and other volunteers, who set up a fundraising drive to complete it by September.

"We need the standards," says Pat, "they're a really positive way of making changes. So we're doing it anyway."

Strawbale falls by default into the 'alternative solutions' bracket of the Building Code (requiring a designed, non-generic approach with

demonstrable proof and input from appropriate experts).

But if approved, the new revised earth building standards will include guidelines on strawbale and light earth materials (such as hemp-crete, woodchip, or even pumice, composites, which are usually packed around a non-loadbearing timber structure, and bound with clay or lime), which will give councils valuable information and help smooth that consent process through.

In the case of the strawbale house showcased here, back in 2014 the clients had to pay a substantial amount of money for the plans to be peer-reviewed because the local council didn't have the in-house expertise to assess it.



According to the NZ Green Building Council, New Zealand's built environment is responsible for 20% of the country's carbon footprint; emissions from the construction industry rose 66% in the decade 2007-2017.



Pat and Nils see natural building as an important tool in the toolbox that should be better supported if we're to transition to a zero-carbon future.

Currently, it seems there's a lack of interest, and yet, there's such opportunity.

They're calling for the Government to take a more considered look at building and where those carbon changes can be made and to back natural building or methods that are sequestering carbon, considering the whole life-cycle of products, and inter-generational ways of building.

**TENNYSON
GALLERY**

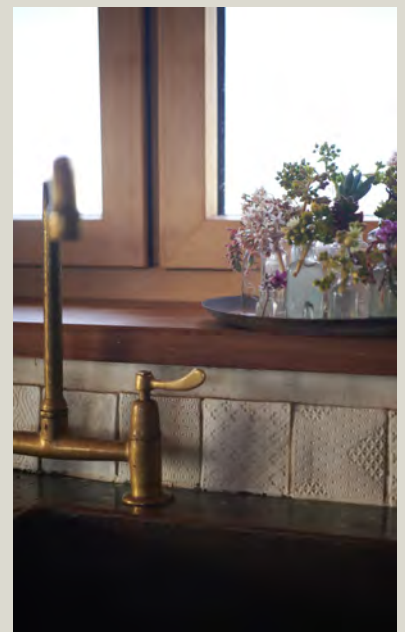
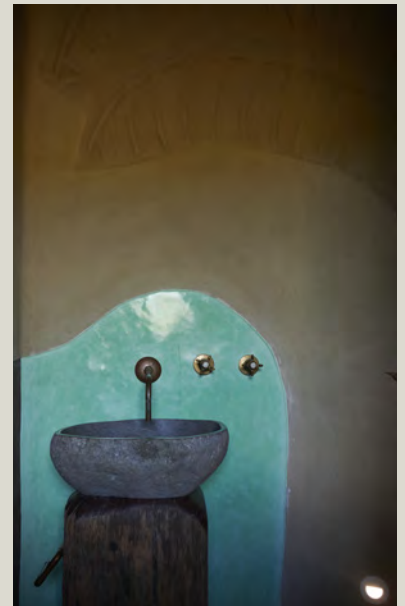
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LEFT AND ABOVE: Tadelakt lime plaster is used in the bathroom for wet-area surfaces (seen in the shiny turquoise and yellow patina here) – a tradition Moroccan waterproof plastering technique.

BOTTOM: There's attention to detail in every corner along with carefully curated, personal precious things. Louise's collection of French antique tiles are paired with artisan ceramic tiles made in Auckland; the kitchen benchtop is a handmade polished concrete block inset with greenstone off-cuts and hand-picked river rock; the collection of vases on the window sill are tiny antique glass bottles dug up from an old dump on the farm by Louise as a child.

Natural building tips

There's an art and science to building well, and when working with natural materials no one recipe or single ingredient. But here Nils and Pat offer 10 things to consider for your new build or renovation.

1. If you can't avoid, then at least reduce the use of cement – cement is right up there with oil and coal, in terms of CO² emissions. There are additives such as fly-ash that

can be used to dramatically reduce the cement component of concrete and these will become more readily available options if people keep asking for them. Or better still, consider an earth floor, or timber floor on piles.

2. Strawbale walls have a high R-value, so great energy-efficient properties, and they also act as a carbon sink. As a renewable by-product that can be locally sourced, strawbale walls store carbon and can ultimately

be composted. Contrary to myth, strawbale houses perform really well in fires, the sealed straw is too tightly packed to burn. If they're well designed they're very durable and can last a long time.

3. Clay, clay, clay. It's vapour permeable, and absorbs and releases moisture very readily – storing excess moisture safely until it has a chance to dry again. As a plaster it allows walls to 'breathe', while maintaining healthy humidity levels and stable temperatures

within the house. Clay can often be sourced locally, using only the energy it takes to dig it out of the ground. It's non-toxic, easy to repair, biodegradable, and beautiful too! You can plaster with clay over standard gib and other materials on interior walls.

4. Consider solar gain and bringing thermal mass into the house – you can retrofit an existing structure with adobe-veneer walls, for example, or create an adobe-brick or earth-bag wall behind a fire place or an earth floor where the winter sun shines in.

5. Favour bio-based materials like wool and timber over fibreglass and steel – you can still build conventionally that way if you choose, but you markedly decrease the carbon footprint of your house and they work better from a building-science perspective with moisture. Use locally sourced, or recycled products where possible. Timbers like macrocarpa and eucalyptus are more enduring and require less treatment than pine – by supporting these you also support alternate timber forestry.

6. When using natural materials, design is crucial. Orientation and location are essential considerations – maximum sun in winter, minimum sun in summer, protection from elements. Be innovative and smart with eaves and roof pitch.

7. Design for deconstruction not disposal. Can materials be separated out, taken apart? While you can salvage matai flooring from an old state house, for example, the customary building practice now is to glue it to concrete, and you can't get it back – once you get it off the concrete it's totally destroyed. If you nailed the wood to joists it can be later repurposed.

8. Polystyrene is often used to build air-tight, energy-efficient, passive houses, but it's a material that embodies a lot of energy through its production process. It's quite poisonous as a waste product (can't go into landfill) and while it can be theoretically recycled, without local facilities it's impractical. Polystyrene alternatives for sub-flooring include Cupolex pods (recycled plastic domes), wool

insulation (under timber) or even pumice and mussel shells. For walls strawbale, LEM (light earth materials, like hemp-crete) or straightforward wool insulation can give you comparable R-values (contingent upon thickness and design).

9. If building air-tight to conserve energy, you'll need to consider ventilation. If using mechanical ventilation, choose a heat-recovery system that genuinely exchanges air rather than recirculates it, not a positive-pressure HRV system (which may work in an old, drafty house, but can cause damage in energy-efficient designs).

10. Interior furnishings, such as carpets, and paints can be hugely toxic and carbon-emitting. If you're refurbishing that may be the best place to start in creating a healthier, more climate-neutral living environment. See naturalpaint.co.nz. ●

Disclaimer: The author is married to builder Nils Rock, hoping one day to get a strawbale house of her own.



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Pictured: Richard Horrocks, Gussie Gould, Phil Williams, Rebecca Porritt & Charlotte Macphee

Craigs right at home in Hawke's Bay

Craigs Investment Partners' Hawke's Bay office is open for business, and the experienced team is excited to help local clients reach their financial goals.

"We're dealing with people's precious assets," begins Phil Williams, Investment Adviser at Craigs Investment Partners. "Their money. It matters hugely, and they deserve the best."

Phil Williams and colleague Richard Horrocks opened the doors to Craigs' Hawke's Bay office earlier this year, with Charlotte Macphee, a previous employee of the investment banking arm of Craigs, joining more recently. All three say they're looking forward to making Craigs' 18th office, situated in Havelock North, its finest yet.

Sizeable firm with a people-first approach

Craigs, founded in Whakatane in 1984 by current Chairman Neil Craig, brings together two aspects:

- > A strong brand that has been part of New Zealand's investment advisory landscape for 35 years; and
- > Scale - Craigs is one of the largest investment advisory firms in the country, with more than \$18 billion* of client funds under management, and over 500 staff from Kerikeri to Invercargill.

While private clients are the core of Craigs' business, corporates and institutions are also serviced through the investment banking arm, Deutsche Craigs, and the institutional equities team. Australia, is also an important cog in the Craigs wheel. In 2015, Craigs crossed the Tasman, taking 50% ownership of Wilsons, which has branches in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. "But bigger is only better if clients enjoy the benefit. And that's where Craigs really shines," says Phil.

"Craigs has the resources to reinvest into the business. That means Craigs' compliance, research, IT, and administrative support are at the core of our business, and our clients can benefit from being associated with a sizeable market leader."

Richard agrees. "A huge amount of thought, research and analysis goes into any recommendation we make to a client. And because Craigs values transparency, clients can choose to get involved as much or as little as they wish. It really is a long-term partnership and the door is always open."

"A huge amount of thought, research and analysis goes into any recommendation we make to a client."

For Charlotte, it's the access to noteworthy national and international companies that also holds major value for Craigs' clients. "As a firm we are listened to because of our position as a big player - large companies are happy to meet with our analysts on a regular basis and share their insights. At the end of the day, that's of benefit to clients."

Hawke's Bay proud

Both Phil and Richard grew up in the Bay with Charlotte a recent arrival, having married a local farmer. Craigs' Managing Director Frank Aldridge is also from Hawke's Bay. "Having grown up in the region, I am pleased that we now have a Hawke's Bay branch.

"We have been waiting for an opportune time to extend our investment services into the area and to form the right team of people here. We are continually looking at how we can reach more of New Zealand and bringing together a solid team of collectively qualified financial specialists in Hawke's Bay means we can provide quality advice to clients from the get-go."

Alongside its relationships with clients, Craigs also fosters partnerships within the community, giving back wherever possible. In Hawke's Bay, the firm has already forged strong links with Cranford Hospice and MTG Foundation, among others. "It's important to us as a business and

as individuals to support the communities we operate and live in," says Phil. "It's very much the fabric of the culture at Craigs."

"We are firm believers that investing is for all New Zealanders. That's why we offer a broad range of services."

Investing is for everyone

The team at Craigs Investment Partners Hawke's Bay welcomes new and existing clients for a no-obligation chat. Whether prospective clients are new or experienced investors, all are met with warmth and enthusiasm by a professional and experienced team on-hand to help.

As Frank explains, "We are firm believers that investing is for all New Zealanders. That's why we

offer a broad range of services, from creating and managing investment portfolios, to KiwiSaver and superannuation. We're committed to helping young and old alike understand how they can invest. Our State of the Nation presentations, covering local and global markets, and Investor Education workshops all form part of the Craigs offering."

Charlotte is particularly passionate about getting more women into investing and looks forward to establishing a Women's Wealth network in Hawke's Bay. "It's a way to connect with likeminded women, learn about investing and share ideas," says Charlotte.

"All these initiatives are part and parcel of building long-term relationships with our clients," concludes Phil. "We're excited to be part of their journey, to educate and build their wealth along the way."



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When *BayBuzz* last spoke to single mum Ashlee, she was feeling overwhelmed, beaten down by a system that had all but forgotten about her and Luca, her nine-year-old high-needs son.

Luca has Friedreich Ataxia – a rare, genetically inherited disease that slowly debilitates its victims – causing difficulty in walking, loss of sensation in the limbs and impaired speech that gets worse over time.

On top of this, Luca also has cardiomyopathy, a condition that thickens his heart muscle. With every day a constant battle with the authorities just to get her son's basic needs met, Ashlee felt she had no other option but to reach out to *BayBuzz* editor Tom Belford to see if he might be able to make something happen, and he began looking into the situation in April and commented on it publicly in the July *BayBuzz*.

Fighting for Luca

Sophie Price
reports

In Ashlee's initial contact with BayBuzz back in April, she told us she was a "broken mum". "We are isolated financially, struggle and are judged everywhere. I am one person battling an overworked system. I struggle every day. I cry most."

The first thing *BayBuzz* asked Ashlee to do was to write down every interaction she had in her efforts to help her son over the course of a month.

She did this, recording that during May this year she spoke and emailed to more than 35 different people and agencies, most repeatedly - including staff from the Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB), social workers, school teacher's aids, various doctor and physio clinics and a potential respite-care person.

Over a 30-day period, we counted 30 appointments and trips of various kinds, 26 phone calls, and 32 emails and texts, commingled with plenty of form-filling. All to try and get Luca some help.

But, like all the months before May, Ashlee was getting nowhere.

This is a battle Heretaunga Women's Centre manager Margot Wilson knows well. Margot became part of this story indirectly - as Ashlee had arranged a support group for mothers like her at the centre. It is a coincidence that Margot is a mother, just like her.

Many years ago, Margot too raised a son with special needs. She had a similar experience with the authorities who were meant to support her.

"I have had this journey with my son, she said. "It is a pretty lonely journey, soul-destroying really," she



Photo: Florence Charvin

Over a 30-day period, we counted 30 appointments and trips of various kinds, 26 phone calls, and 32 emails and texts, commingled with plenty of form-filling. All to try and get Luca some help.

said. "You are using all your energy just to survive, then you have to find the energy to fight these other battles [with the authorities] to keep on surviving."

As "soul destroying" as this might be, Ashlee is a mum - so she keeps at it. Now though, with *BayBuzz* in her corner. She gave us her written consent to inquire into her and Luca's situation with those she has been trying to reach out to for years - in the health and education sectors - to see where the help for her son was, help often promised and not delivered.

But even with a respected magazine behind you, the overworked system that has frustrated Ashlee is not easily navigated.

Penetrating the bureaucracy

After talking to Margot on August 7, I made contact with Luca's school, where I spoke with the acting principal. I wanted to know what the school was doing to support Luca from an educational point of view; why his physiotherapy was being done by a teacher's aide (as opposed to a trained physiotherapist); and, which department - Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB) or the Ministry of Education - was to supply the physiotherapy for him.

She demurred, saying she would have to talk to her school board's Chair before speaking to the media. And the following day via an email declined to be interviewed. So there's more to be explored on the Ministry of Education role.

Also in early August, I had also emailed Luca's healthcare providers at the HBDHB. A letter from DHB dated June 7, 2019 spoke about the care Luca was receiving - his speech therapy, vaccinations, an MRI request, and a further appointment to assess the pain in his legs. The letter also mentioned that there was a "meeting of professionals" - social workers, speech language therapist, a school representative and a paediatrician where they discussed how they "could best support Luca and Ashlee".

I emailed the DHB officials mentioned in the letter to confirm what was actioned at this meeting. That email was passed along to DHB communications staff, who responded saying DHB was happy to provide a written response and to “please let us know your questions and we can work from there.”

I again requested interviews with the staff, explaining that we had written permission from the mother to talk to them about what is happening (or not).

HBDHB communications manager Anna Kirk replied, saying, “It’s over to the clinicians how they want to respond. They are very busy with the clinical care of patients.” I explained to her that my interviews would not be long and could be done in person or over the phone - “whatever is most convenient and least time consuming for the staff.”

Eventually Kirk replied with a written response on August 14 from Dr Phil Moore, the DHB’s medical director Communities Women and Children Service, who she said was “responding on behalf of his medical and therapy staff”. The response, here in full, answered none of the questions I wanted to ask:

“Luca has complex health, education and disability needs. A number of agencies, including HBDHB and Ministry of Education, are involved in supporting Luca and his mother. The agencies have met together, and with the family, to develop care plans.

“It can be frustrating and difficult for children and families with complex

needs to navigate through the system. We have therefore made sure Luca, and his mother, have a key contact person in the health sector, and another in the community, that they can contact when assistance is required.

“We are confident Luca is getting the best care possible through the local public health service, and we are continuing to advocate for his needs within the education and community services.”

Dr Moore said in his email that the staff did not wish to be interviewed.

On August 15 I replied to Kirk, thanking her for the reply - but indicated I still had straightforward questions, such as:

1. *Who were the agencies that met, as Dr Moore mentions in his statement?*
2. *What was the outcome of the meeting?*
3. *How many care plans were developed?*
4. *Who is responsible to see that each care plan is carried out?*
5. *Who is the key contact person in the HBDHB for Ashlee and Luca?*
6. *Who is the key contact person in the community for Ashlee and Luca? What agency are they from?*
7. *What has the HBDHB done to date to meet Luca and Ashlee’s needs?*
8. *Is physiotherapy a part of the HBDHB’s plan to meet Luca’s needs right now? If so, how does this work?*
9. *How will the HBDHB meet Luca and Ashlee’s needs in the future?*
10. *What does the best possible care look like from the HBDHB’s point of view?*

Kirk emailed, reiterating that patient privacy is very important. “The information you ask for below would breach that privacy ... If the mother wishes to share that information with you that’s over to her.”

I responded explaining that I understand patient privacy is paramount. “But this patient has waved that right absolutely - meaning DHB staff are free to talk about this case - as per the signed letter.” I explained that I was asking these questions because Ashlee did not have the answers (at the time I was emailing Kirk). “So can I please have them answered?” I again asked.

Kirk phoned me, and we had an extended conversation, which I recorded, the substance of which was that DHB clinicians would not talk to any third party on the grounds of patient privacy, despite the parent authorising such inquiry on her behalf. This exchange captures the gist of the conversation:

HBDHB: Our clinicians are absolutely adamant they will not talk ... all I can tell you is our clinicians, and there’s a lot of people that are working to support this family, they are completely committed to providing the best of care for him. And that’s all they want to say.

BB: Well it doesn’t appear so, otherwise she wouldn’t be knocking on my [BayBuzz’s] door ... Stuff is not happening for this young mother. That is why she’s at my door, not yours.

HBDHB: Like she is always welcome to



Ana Apatu
HAWKE’S BAY
District Health Board

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Authorised by Ana Apatu, 59 Crownthorpe Settlement Road, R.D.9 Hastings

discuss this with clinicians, the door is always open.

BB: She can't get into see them, Anna.

HBDHB: And, and she has numerous people looking out for her.

BB: And this little boy hasn't had physio for god knows how long ... She wants us to talk to you about his case.

HBDHB: If she feels that why doesn't she have this discussion with the clinicians rather than via you?

BB: She's been trying to for a very long time.

Not a terribly productive conversation, keeping in mind *BayBuzz* was asked by Ashlee to help her get answers, better still, action.

Turning a corner?

On August 16, Kirk sent an email reiterating that the clinical staff would not be interviewed. Kirk said that Dr Moore would like to inform me that a meeting was held on July 29 for the professionals involved in Luca's complex care. "His mother was present at that meeting. The agenda was 'for everyone to meet each other, to discuss everyone's roles, tasks and goals'. Attendees included social workers and therapists from the DHB and school staff, CCS Disability Action and Ministry of Education staff."

She said following this meeting a table was drawn up listing 18 professionals involved in his care and a

"You are using all your energy just to survive, then you have to find the energy to fight these other battles [with the authorities] to keep on surviving."

MARGOT WILSON,
HERETAUNGA WOMEN'S
CENTRE

guide for Ashlee as to who to contact for specific issues. "In addition two key people were identified to help Ashlee navigate through the system." She did not elaborate on who these key people were.

I asked Ashlee about Kirk's response. She confirmed that she did attend a meeting on the 29th and said that, from memory, others attending on the 29th included a DHB social worker, representatives from CCS Disability, the Ministry of Health's Needs Assessment Service Coordination, DHB paediatric care, the DHB's Continence Service, DHB and MoE physios and Luca's school.

Two key contact people, including a DHB social worker, were identified to help her navigate through the system, and this has proved useful. However, Luca still does not have a professional do exercises with him. And proper exercise is critical to slowing the muscle deteriorating effects of Friedreich Ataxia. So, there's more progress to be made.

Broken system

Eighteen professionals and two helpers for navigation - one begins to understand the daunting complexity faced by this single mum. And this does not include the various non-profits, foundations, food banks, psychological counsellors and others Ashlee must pursue to get the full range of help she and Luca need.

And when an 'outsider' like *BayBuzz* attempts to investigate and break the logjams, the bureaucracy, while populated by people of good intent, nevertheless circles its wagons, responds defensively (if at all), hiding behind disingenuous walls of 'privacy'.

Fundamental change is required to a system that seems genetically 'hard-wired' to resist patient advocacy.

Margot Wilson said Ashlee's journey is particularly lonely because she doesn't have a support system around her. "That's what's really hard, and that's where the whole thing is falling down," she said. "I was lucky, I had an incredibly supportive partner. And we both came from big families. So, when we were really down, they came and helped and that's what she hasn't got."

Margot said the system needs to address how it supports people like Ashlee - a young, single mum with a high-needs child.

"What she actually really, really needs, is she needs some really good advocacy from someone," she emphasises. "And that is the journey that often parents with special needs children have to walk themselves." She said parents like Ashlee are fighting two battles - dealing with a high-needs child and then having to deal with a



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HAWKE'S BAY
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Authorised by Graeme Norton - 307 Fitzroy Avenue, Hastings, 4122

Ashlee reports that while the progress is much better than before, there is still much her son needs such as better pain management, a safety and risk analysis of the home and having yearly appointments booked in advance so she didn't have to keep chasing them up.

broken system to get the support she needs so she can continue to help her child. "Where do you find that strength? Ashlee, she has run out of fight really and yet ultimately she is the best person to look after her son, so she's the person that now needs the support."

Ashlee reports that while the progress is much better than before, there is still much her son needs such as better pain management, a safety and risk analysis of the home and having yearly appointments booked in advance so she didn't have to keep chasing them up.

Ashlee has also been appointed a caseworker through Work and Income New Zealand, alerted by *BayBuzz*. "They have now fixed up all our entitlements and that's all perfect now. We are in a more comfortable financial position now without the lack of WINZ support."

However, she said without the media, she does not believe any of this would have happened. "[Since] Tom has been helping my family all agencies have been more proactive and my family has got to a point where I feel that everything is happening how it should be," Ashlee said. "Luca will always have needs, but I feel like now when those needs are arising they are being met."

Right now, help for Ashlee and Luca may be slow and still frustrating, but it is happening.

The fact of the matter is, however, Ashlee - or anyone needing help from the very system that was designed to provide it - should not have to fight to the breaking point for her son, or need to approach the media in desperation to be heard.

BayBuzz will continue to watch over Ashlee's and Luca's progress and report on what can be done to achieve the advocacy support for her and similar cases that Margot Wilson so ably describes. ●

Thank you Hastings Karamu Rotary Club

In Hawke's Bay, people are always ready to help.

Through member Murray Cowan, *BayBuzz* approached the Karamu Rotary Club for volunteer help to repair an unsafe deck and porch at the home of Ashlee and Luca. These entrances posed risk to Luca, who cannot always fully control his movement. Not a problem!

Soon, on a Saturday morning about ten enthusiastic and well-equipped Rotary members, orchestrated by club prez Roger Mulvey, showed up and got the job well done in a few hours ... with near military precision. Lots of laughs ... far more fun than work.

Ashlee wrote: "Thank you everyone for all of the help today. We are very thankful for everything you have done for our family. I really didn't expect so much support and I'm lost for words. Luca will benefit largely from the things done."

Hats off to Karamu Rotary!





TAUPIRI LOOKOUT: UNISON TRIALLING OFF-GRID BATTERY AND SOLAR SOLUTION

Solar panels located next to Taupiri lookout. ▲

IN-LINE WITH ITS VISION OF 'LEADING A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE', UNISON HAS BEEN TRIALLING AN OFF-GRID ENERGY SOLUTION FOR A SUPPLY POINT AT TAUPIRI LOOKOUT TO IMPROVE RELIABILITY AND REDUCE MAINTENANCE COSTS

Located deep in the Kaingaroa Forest, 40 kilometres north-east of Taupo, the remote site was previously supplied by a dedicated, 7 kilometre-long 11kV line from the Reporoa feeder. Crossing approximately 50% flat pasture land and 50% hilly forestry, the line had been prone to numerous outages and damage caused by weather and vegetation incidents.

Situated on land owned by the Department of Conservation (DOC), Taupiri lookout is used by forestry company, Timberland – for communications services and as a fire lookout – and by Police communications.

Through collaboration with the site's numerous stakeholders*, Unison was able to identify the Taupiri lookout as an off-grid project to determine an alternative method of supply for the site

THE OFF-GRID SOLUTION

Unison is trialling a standalone on-site electricity system – a Remote Supply System – with a view to replacing the existing seven-kilometre overhead line.

Unison Future Networks Technical Lead, Marc Gulliksen is managing the project and says the Remote Supply System is an all-in-one system from Base Power, tailored to meet the customer's site-specific supply requirements.

"Comprising 10 kW of solar panels, a 27 kWh battery pack and a 10 kW diesel generator, it was commissioned in December 2018 and has been successfully operating since February.



The off-grid solution at Taupiri lookout. ▲

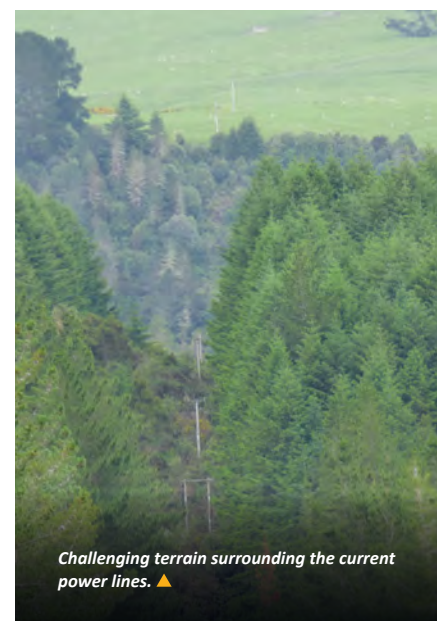
"While performance of the Remote Supply System is monitored, the existing line to the site will remain in place. To-date, the solution has been performing well.

"Following the completion of the trial (in December 2019), learnings will be discussed with all stakeholders to determine if the off-grid installation will become the permanent supply source – if so, the power lines will be removed," says Marc.

LOOKING AHEAD

Data from this solution will help Unison to further investigate other challenging network areas where lines could be replaced with alternative solutions.

THIS TRIAL HAS NOT ONLY GIVEN UNISON GREAT INSIGHT FROM AN EDUCATIONAL AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVE, IT HAS ENABLED HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES AS THE COMPANY LOOKS TO THE NEW ENERGY FUTURE.



Challenging terrain surrounding the current power lines. ▲

*The lookout is located on DOC's land which is customary territory of local Iwi – Ngati Whare. Timberlands and Police both use the site's building and adjoining radio mast for local radio communications.



Hawke's Bay Federated Farmers president Jim Galloway. Photo: Tom Allan

Fixing Mobile Black Spots

Story by Keith Newman

The marketing assurance from Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees that their networks cover over 98% of the places where New Zealanders live and work sounds a little hollow when you head out into the vastness of our great rural backyard.

That remaining 2% can feel like a vast black hole as you head in any direction from the main centres of Hastings or Napier, with calls eventually crackling into incoherence and internet fading to dead pixels.

We've come a long way from first-generation brick phones used by 'road warrior' salespeople to the pervasive pocket-thin smartphones many of us are glued to today.

These mobile devices are multi-purpose, geo-spatially aware, voice activated, social media interfaces with apps for everything and hi-res still and video cameras that can broadcast live to the world.

The promotional hype and indeed the expectation is that we will be accessible online anytime from anywhere.

It's frustrating, in an era when mobile digital connectivity is essential to personal and business communications, to find so many 'mobile black spots' despite the big three insisting they've got us covered.

A Canstar Blue article in December 2018, combined with more recent *BayBuzz* research, found Spark was dominant, but only slightly better, in more troublesome locations than 2degrees and Vodafone.

Patchy at best

All carriers have coverage issues outside the main centres, particularly in coastal regions from Mahia to the Cape Coast and beaches further south.

When *BayBuzz* phoned Hawke's Bay Federated Farmers president Jim Galloway at his home five kilometres from Bridge Pa, he commented that if he'd been out in the field he probably wouldn't have got the call.

The Napier-Taupo Rd, Te Urewera, Mohaka, Kaweka, beyond Bridge Pa down to Central Hawke's Bay are often patchy at best.

Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) estimate there are 74,293 households and businesses throughout the country that can't access rural broadband or cellular services including 4,089 in Hawke's Bay.

Inadequate or non-existent cellular coverage has long been an issue in rural areas and the deeper you go into the rural heartland, the mainstay of our local economy, the more pronounced the problem becomes.

When *BayBuzz* phoned Hawke's Bay Federated Farmers president Jim Galloway at his home five kilometres from Bridge Pa, he commented that if he'd been out in the field he probably wouldn't have got the call. Was he happy with rural coverage around the Bay? Without hesitation he answered, "No!"

It's a topic that comes up regularly at Federated Farmers' headquarters as the advocacy group lobbies carriers and the Government to lift our rural communications capability.

So why is it important? Health and safety, day-to-day business and time management so you don't have to wait until you get home to make and take calls with reps, agents or contractors.

Phone and internet coverage is

increasingly important, but in wet weather copper internet access can be patchy at best and cellphone reception negligible.

Many have opted for dedicated wireless or satellite coverage to connect to the internet for the digital essentials of modern life in the primary sector, such as GPS or the latest market data. However, you pay a premium over cellular or standard broadband connections and there's no voice.

Compliance escalating

Galloway concedes access to some lightly populated rural and hill country areas is always going to be a problem, but the need for instant access will only increase along with the "paper war" around compliance and best practice.

That includes online telemetry reporting to HBRC for water use from bores and participation in the legally-required NAIT (National animal identification and tracing) system that records livestock movements.

So much is now going online and the sooner coverage is improved the better, says Galloway. "It's much better than having to write it down in the paddock and re-enter it when you get home."

Alternative solutions are going to be needed in remote areas and some smaller providers are working on ways to achieve this.

Wine: Stories from Hawke's Bay

Mark Sweet. Photographs Tim Whittaker



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

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

A splendid new book ... an extraordinary trove of images.
John Saker, Cuisine

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

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

Only \$59 • Free shipping in NZ • Order your copy now at winestorieshb.co.nz

Ben James, president of Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers says cellular access was a major issue for his membership up until about five years ago ... today the Heretaunga Plains is pretty well covered.

He uses Spark at Puketapu where he works, saying the smartphone is now a vital tool for anyone involved in horticulture for water monitoring, business apps, and email along with digital camera capability and GPS to identify placemarks on Google's Digital Earth.

Only three years ago a pen and clipboard would have been required to keep records, compare data and take pheromone readings in moth traps.

Black spots fund

For those still struggling to connect, relief is promised through the Mobile Black Spots Fund (MBSF), which aims to improve the availability of mobile services to support safety on state highways, enhance key tourist destinations and emergency response capability in rural areas.

The goal is to roll out this infill coverage for all mobile operators before December 2022.

The programme is funded through a levy collected from telecommunications providers to deliver services where there are none commercially available or where they are currently unaffordable.

In December last year an extra \$40 million was set aside from the Provincial Growth Fund to boost rural broadband and mobile coverage over the next four years.

Concurrently CIP signed \$130 million in contracts to improve broadband

to around 10,000 rural households and businesses, and to provide new mobile coverage to approximately 365 kilometres of state highways and 59 tourism areas.

As part of the arrangement, 17 regional Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISPs) are also looking at ways to cover a further 8,400 rural households and businesses who currently struggle with coverage.

It's claimed East Coast/Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay, West Coast and Manawatū-Whanganui will have close to 100% population coverage when the rural broadband expansion is completed.

Carrier changes hands

The coverage issue may also be addressed by the new ownership of Vodafone NZ, which was sold for \$3.4 billion in May to New Zealand-based Infratil and Canadian Brookfield Asset Management.

The Vodafone brand will be retained with talk of enhanced access to the telco giant's offshore resources and new opportunities including moving the network to next generation 5G technology.

Vodafone continues to have the largest number of subscribers with 41% of the mobile market while Spark holds 37% including its Skinny brand.

2degrees piggybacked on Vodafone while it built out its network, but has now ramped up its own infrastructure with upgrades to around 300 towers and over 150 new dishes. It claims 98.5% population coverage and around 23% of the mobile cellular market.

As we've progressed through first and

second generation networks and are now on 3G and 4G, obsolescence and fashion have meant there's a regular supply of old devices for the junk drawer that eventually get binned or recycled.

By mid-2017 New Zealand had 3.8 million mobile phones with active internet connections, up 11% on the previous year. That signalled a tipping point with home broadband connections down 3% and the transition to mobile as the sole phone connection increasingly common.

Between June 2016 and 2017 mobile phone internet use escalated 104%, to 6,453,000 gigabytes or around 1.7Gb per phone, enough for 40 hours of music or two hours of video. In the year to June 2018 there was a further jump of 56%, where we consumed over 10 million gigabytes of data.

This information will be more difficult to track from internet service providers after this year as **StatisticsNZ** says it no longer has the budget to collect the data.

Generational jump

Just as we're coming to terms with our device addictions, we're about to take a high jump into next generation telecoms. We will be even more entwined in the internet of things (IoT), raising more issues about connectivity and privacy than our current privacy and copyright laws can possibly cope with.

Much of the world is already building and starting to engage with 5G networking, something our carriers are struggling with because of complexity, cost and uncertainty about who can provide the infrastructure.

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It's frustrating, in an era when mobile digital connectivity is essential to personal and business communications, to find so many 'mobile black spots' despite the big three insisting they've got us covered.

Essentially 5G will deliver faster responses with less latency between multiple wirelessly connected devices ranging from household appliances and gadgets to vehicles, healthcare, chipped animals and real time communication with AI, smart machines and robots.

It opens the way for 'network slicing', resulting in endless mini-networks between mobile and fixed devices that can connect to anything with a chip in it.

There are alleged health concerns; microwave technology damaging our DNA, creating stress disorders or causing cancer. And there are fears it will escalate the 'big brother is watching you' scenario most social media giants are already well advanced with.

Last December our Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) rejected an application from Spark to use Huawei equipment to build its 5G network, which it hopes to roll out from July 2020.

Chinese-owned Huawei already supplies 4G equipment for the Spark and 2degrees networks, but the GCSB raised concerns about the potential to spy on citizens through a 'backdoor' capability.

Despite Huawei committing \$US2 billion to fix the 'bugs and security issues' identified by the UK government, and promising not to spy, the GCSB hasn't yet been convinced to change its mind.

Natural progression

Australia and the UK already have commercial 5G services, including some Huawei equipment. The New Zealand Government plans to run an auction for spectrum early next year.

Vodafone insists it will have 5G operational in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown by December that will optimally allow compatible phones to operate at ten times current speeds.

InternetNZ will keep an eye on how the technology is rolled out to ensure acceptable levels of access, functionality and affordability.

Brendon Fry, NOW's head of marketing, doesn't believe we'll see a widespread roll-out of 5G to consumers until around 2022-23, despite the hype around what he believes is just another iteration of faster, more reliable mobile technology.

He expects it will be adopted as naturally as previous technologies like 4G, with the main consideration for upgrading devices being how the majority of Kiwi homes and businesses want to use the internet.

He says tests of unloaded 5G networks in the US show gigabit per second speeds. If you opt for high-end fibre, that speed is already available and Fry suggests most of us have no need for that kind of speed.

However, the 5G service may be ideal in a business environment to enable IoT with "exciting possibilities ahead". So NOW is "keeping a close eye to improve how clients connect to critical parts of their business."

When 5G does become available telcos may deliver a new kind of home and business broadband over their mobile networks, reducing their need to pay Chorus for fibre access and hopefully keeping prices down.

Meanwhile the Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (WISPA) is annoyed the Government plans to

auction off part of the spectrum wireless providers use for solving rural connectivity issues to 5G providers while most of the advantages are still in the future.

WISPA chairman Mike Smith says it makes no sense to reallocate spectrum away from pressing needs in our major export sector just so "some online games can work a nanosecond faster or city people can connect their air conditioning to their car GPS".

It wants full consultation before changes are made.

The reality is that 5G is not going to help improve coverage for rural residents who most need better service and initially it'll only roll out in the CBDs of our main cities.

It will bring speed, resolve latency issues, enable more things to happen at once, but only in areas with sufficient access points on poles or buildings ... and it looks like we'll need a lot more of those.

Do we want our cities and towns littered with triple the number of independent cell towers and poles or will the main carriers agree to co-location?

Some serious town planning, environmental and health discussions will need to be joined alongside the concerns of the rural community. ●



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IDEAS AND OPINION
TOM BELFORD

Radiation Treatment Coming to Hawke's Bay

But when?

In August the Government announced an overdue healthcare 'gift' for Hawke's Bay. As part of a larger purchase, a new Linear Accelerator (LINAC) machine would be provided for Hawke's Bay, enabling radiation treatment for cancer here within the region.

This new service won't actually arrive for awhile (it's scheduled for 2020/21 financial year), as the first new machines will go, as usual, to Auckland, Canterbury, Capital and Coast and MidCentral DHBs.

In addition, an expensive protective bunker must be built to house the machine, and those funds are not provided as part of the announcement.

Still, assuming the funding is indeed behind the curtain somewhere, this is excellent news for cancer patients in Hawke's Bay, who otherwise historically have had to travel out of the region for radiation treatment. For example, 417 HB patients travelled to Palmerston North for radiation therapy in 2018,

many with significant hardship.

Depending on distance travelled and number of treatments, the government offers some travel assistance, and accommodation help can be sought from the Cancer Society. Supportive, but these are only band aids.

Background

Cancer in its various forms is the leading cause of death in New Zealand, accounting for about 30% of all deaths each year.

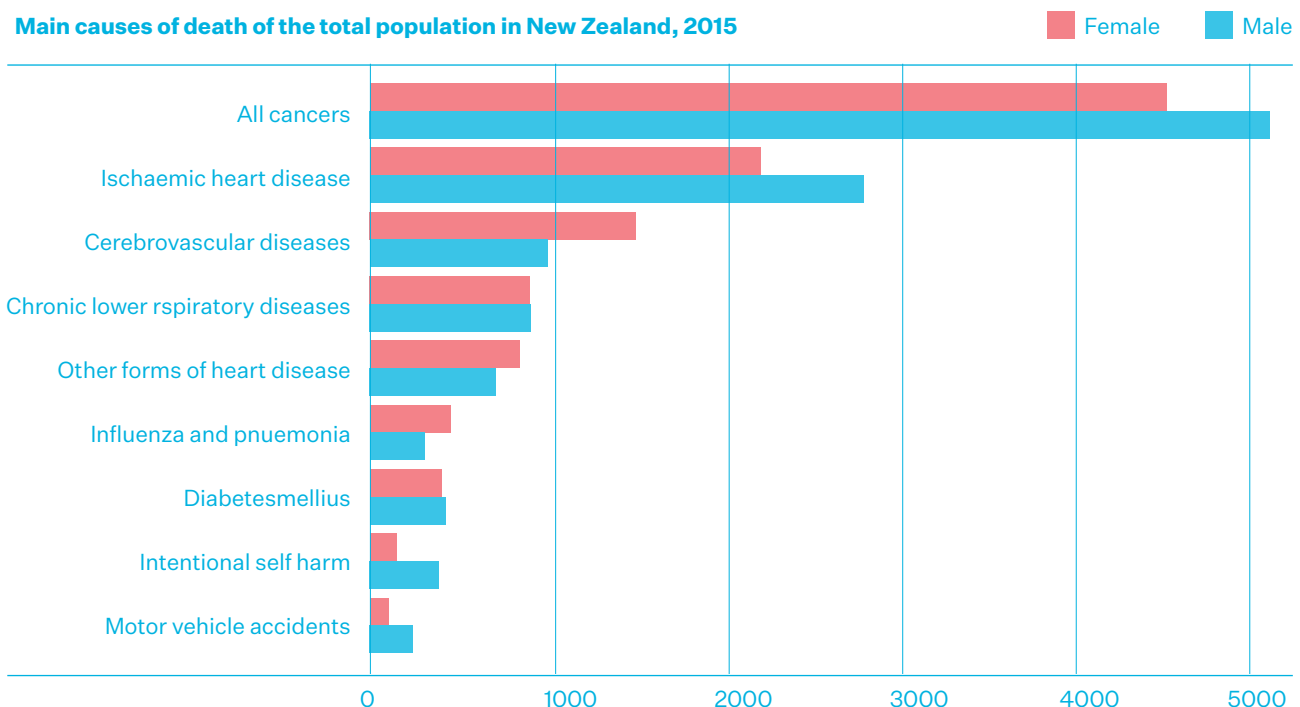
The number of people affected by cancer is expected to increase by 50% by 2035. Only Australia has a higher rate of cancer (743 new cases per 100,000 population in 2016) than New Zealand (at 543 cases). Prostrate and breast cancers are the most prevalent form, but lung cancer is the deadliest, accounting for one in five deaths. This chart places top cancer deaths by type against other causes.

Here in Hawke's Bay, 979 new cancer 'registrations' presented in 2016 (24,086

nationally). Here are the registrations for some most-occurring cancers:

	National	HB
Prostrate	3,834	150
Female breast	3,294	134
Colorectal	3,081	158
Melanoma	2,552	72
Lung	2,226	89
Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma	917	41
Leukaemia	728	23
Myeloproliferative	393	15
Brain	336	19
Cervical	164	2

Main causes of death of the total population in New Zealand, 2015



Radiation treatment

Radiation treatment works essentially by disrupting the DNA of cancer cells, killing them or slowing their growth, thereby reducing or eliminating tumours (but treatment can also damage surrounding healthy tissue). Radiation is generally part of the regime for treating cancers involving the head and neck, breast, lung, cervix, prostate and eye.

Announcing the new machines that provide external beam radiation therapy, Health Minister David Clark explained:

“These new LINACs will be better for patients and improve outcomes. They’ll provide cancer treatment faster and will help more people, while causing less damage to healthy tissue. The new LINAC machines provide more precise treatment, reducing negative effects such as damage to surrounding tissue, supporting faster recovery time.”

The Government says that while one in two people with cancer could benefit from radiation treatment, in NZ only one in three are currently accessing these services.

Radiation treatment can require up to eight weeks of recurring sessions, obviously placing enormous burden, disruption and stress on families whose patients and care-givers must shift away from home under circumstances that are already by definition traumatic.

Clark added: “We know for some lung cancers, newer technology can reduce treatment times from as much as six weeks to as little as three days. It can also mean improved life expectancy when every day is precious.”

New Zealand ... welcome to the first world.

More options needed?

MP Lawrence Yule supports the provision of a LINAC for Hawke’s Bay, but terms the Government’s announcement “underwhelming”. Commenting to *BayBuzz*:

“I am very supportive of Hawke’s Bay getting a Linear Accelerator to provide radiation treatment for cancer patients in Hawke’s Bay. I accept that travelling to Palmerston North is not ideal and for some it has meant they have not pursued treatment.

“What is underwhelming though is the recent announcement by Minister David Clark that replacement linear accelerators were being purchased. Underwhelming because this has been a position worked on by the DHB and Mid Central Health over the past 12 months without any announcement. Mid Central Health has been working for some time to place one of its four machines in Hawke’s Bay and one in Taranaki.

“Equally one of the biggest costs in a radiation machine is the bunker required to safely house such a machine. Each bunker will cost around \$5 million to build and, based on demand, a second bunker will be required by 2024. There is no announced funding for this and the DHB will have to reprioritise its plan to accommodate this. Surely if the Government was serious in this regard it would have also confirmed such extra funding.”

Access to new cancer drugs not presently provided by Pharmac is another,

often emotional issue. National has supported committing an extra \$200 million for new cancer drugs and a nationwide Cancer Plan.

Says Yule, “In my two years as an MP I have not had anyone contacting me about lack of radiation services, but a number have told me of heart-breaking stories about funding new cancer drugs from precious family resources. A new radiation machine in Hawke’s Bay is great, but some actually need access to life-saving drugs.”

Yule is backed up by a report from pharmaceutical lobby group Medicines New Zealand, noting that of 70 new cancer drugs publicly funded across 20 OECD countries between 2011-2017, NZ funded only six (Australia, 26).

What else might be done to improve cancer treatment here in the region? Rumour has it that privately-provided radiation treatment is on the horizon, with land for an appropriate facility having been purchased in Hastings. Maybe HB’s LINAC will land there. Presently, private facilities provide radiation treatment only in Auckland and Christchurch, and more recently in Wellington at the Bowen Icon Cancer Centre (part of the Acurity Group).

Stay tuned. ●



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
PAUL PAYNTER

Water's the Issue... Again

Outside of the mayoral contests, the local body elections look like a bit of a yawn to many.

My now constantly groaning, rumbling, pulsating and still traumatised digestive tract reminds me daily of the big issue at hand. It was water last time and it's water this time.

For many years I got to drink the best tap water in New Zealand while ribbing my friends further north about their murky, chlorinated Waikato river water. Now our water is vile and seemingly more chlorinated than that in other centres.

Strangely the mood is reticent in the Hastings District, where the 2016 gastro event poisoned me and 5,000 other Havelock North residents. Conversely, there is more than a murmur of discontent amongst Napier residents and the Napier City Council. In June this year the NCC voted to make water the council's number one priority and they've allocated \$200,000 for a feasibility study to remove chlorine from the water supply.

Chlorine apologists claim the chlorination of water is international best practice, perfectly safe and those that don't like it should install water filters in their homes. There are several problems with this argument, most importantly that chlorine is not 'perfectly safe'.

Chlorination of water became standard practice in most western countries in the early part of the 20th century. The early tests for safety were typical two-year studies on rats and while researchers noted a raft of minor physiological impacts, mortality rates were not significantly affected and a 'safe' level of chlorine was established for human drinking water.

The problem is that many of the diseases that are fatal to humans take decades to manifest themselves. Only large-scale studies of populations over lengthy time frames give us an insight into the potential impacts of

chlorinated water. As far back as the 1970s scientists started to become concerned. They discovered disinfection byproducts (DBPs) which result from the reaction between chlorine and small amounts of organic matter in the water. The most concerning of these are trihalomethanes (THMs) which have subsequently been shown to be carcinogenic.

I don't like being a single issue voter, but that's how I see it this time. The supply of safe water is the most important service that local bodies provide.

The prevailing medical opinion is that chlorinated water is still fairly safe and certainly safer than blindly drinking untreated water. Despite these assurances water providers are more commonly implementing supplementary disinfection systems such as UV and ozone.

That position may change in time as researchers focus on other areas, such as the effects of chlorinated water on the gut microbiome, that vast collection of mostly bacteria and fungi that populate our digestive tracts. In recent years, deficiencies in gut bacteria have been linked to virtually every medical condition you can think of. Not just big names like cancer and heart disease, but also a collection of seemingly unrelated issues such as asthma, dermatitis, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and childhood obesity.

Strangest of all is the relationship between the microbiome and the brain. Your gut produces metabolites that influence cognitive function and behaviour and this is no subtle impact.

Researchers have now demonstrated that patients with schizophrenia or depression are commonly missing some key bacterial species or have less diversity in their gut bacteria.

What is clear already is that the microbiome is not as populous or species-diverse in populations that drink chlorinated water. The chlorine probably doesn't affect your microbiome directly as stomach acid itself is highly chlorinated and composed of hydrochloric acid, sodium, and potassium chloride. Again it's likely the DBPs have the harmful effects.

One of the greatest concerns researchers have is for children's developing microbiome in the first three years. As it is with many other components of human development, the health of the microbiome is laid down in the early years and evidence is rapidly accumulating that gut dysbiosis is linked to negative childhood developmental outcomes and probably a greater risk of chronic disease later in life. This is one reason infant feeding guidelines recommend boiling and cooling tap water for infant consumption, including water used in infant formula preparation.

The instillation of household filters could provide a solution to all these potential problems but filters are likely to be less available to renters or those in lower socio-economic groups. This is the great flaw in the 'get a filter' argument as it is likely to perpetuate the negative health outcomes which these groups already experience.

It's quite easy to find reasons to criticise chlorinated water, but it has probably saved millions of lives over a century where there was no reliable alternative. But increasingly there are alternatives.

The Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany have all moved towards water delivery systems without residual disinfectants like chlorine reaching consumers taps. These systems require



more comprehensive management programmes and potentially intermittent flushing of the network. To date there is no data to suggest that this alternative approach is any riskier.

In several North American cities, like Las Vegas, the usually harmless ozone has replaced chlorine. Here in Christchurch they are working towards being solely reliant on UV treatment as a chlorine alternative. Still, other countries, such as the UK, have slammed the door on alternative treatment methodologies and mandated chlorination.

In Hawke's Bay we have a significant advantage in that our water supply is secure. Thousands of households drink

from private rural bores with seemingly no issues. At my work we have undertaken about 300 well tests over 15 years and never found an issue. This means our water risk is confined to the management of the well heads and the distribution network. Intermittent flushing of chlorine though the systems may be adequate and quite possibly the cheapest solution.

Worryingly this government is about to appoint a Wellington-based 'Water Tsar' who will have the ultimate power over drinking water nationally. We could be faced with a situation like that in the UK, where chlorination is mandatory. For larger regions

with sufficient technical capacity, the appointment of a centralised authority is a retrograde step. 'Skin in the game' is a powerful motivator and a Wellington bureaucrat with an army of PR advisors doesn't have much.

I really liked that the mayor and CEO were forced to confront the victims of the gastro crisis and visit those whose loved ones very probably died because of it. I'm inclined to have greater trust in people who are part of my community and accountable to it.

I don't like being a single issue voter, but that's how I see it this time. The supply of safe water is the most important service that local bodies provide. I don't care about the council's new sculpture, their improved green spaces or their regional economic development ambitions.

All I want is the best advice and the best technology that's out there, delivering me safe, clean drinking water that is free of chlorine. If councillors don't take a bold stand on this issue they won't get my vote and perhaps they shouldn't get yours either. ●

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

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Council will live by a 'CAN DO' culture putting customers first.
In 2020 I'll cap rates to a minimum and reverse the ongoing rate rises.

✓ **ACTIVE, ECO, SAFER COMMUNITIES**
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Let's make Hastings the best it can be.



Authorised by Damon Harvey, 10 Donnelly Street, Havelock North



IDEAS AND OPINION
MATT MILLER

Fundraising for the regions in the digital age

Thriving regional economies don't happen by accident.

There are a number of different sectors that play vital, often unseen, roles in improving the health, wealth, and happiness of local communities. Whether it be local government, not-for-profit or business, what is consistent is a need for funding for critical community projects.

The charity, or non-profit, sector in New Zealand is becoming increasingly important to the New Zealand economy. Organisations such as sports clubs, schools, charities, and community groups access funding across a broad range of activities - arts, economic development, education, sports, environment and social services - to the tune of \$9.4 billion per year.

In order to do their vital work they always need more money. This is where fundraising comes into play.

Fundraising takes many forms. At one end of the scale you have the familiar sausage sizzle in the supermarket carpark on a Saturday. At the other end it can be big business requiring a specialist skill set, with operators like Jenni Giblin and her professional services consultancy, Giblin Group, who have now helped to raise well over \$100m for capital projects across New Zealand.

Jenni's experience is a quintessentially Hawke's Bay story. She was engaged by Hastings District Council in 2005 to bring in external funding for the Hawke's Bay Opera House with then-mayor Lawrence Yule. When she completed the project it occurred to her that other councils might also be looking for external funds. And so Jenni thought

she could combine her parliamentary experience, networks and understanding of the machinery of government to help other councils and organisations with their capital projects. And her business grew from there.

Now 90% of their work is based outside of Hawke's Bay and this leads to a lot of travel, with Jenni typically spending three or four days each week outside the region.

Giblin Group are distinctly a regional specialist - they understand the needs of heartland New Zealand better than most in their industry.

But Jenni is determined to stay in Hawke's Bay. She and her husband own a sheep and beef farm in Central Hawke's Bay which has been in his family for over 100 years, so relocating to a bigger city is not an option. Giblin Group are distinctly a regional specialist - they understand the needs of heartland New Zealand better than most in their industry - but her firm's strong relationships and networks across the country give them plenty of credibility and expertise.

Enabling more organisations to raise funds so that they can be successful and continue to deliver improved wellbeing in their communities is something Giblin Group strongly believe in. Unfortunately not all of these groups

have the time to dedicate to fundraising or the resources to get expert help. Raising money has never been particularly easy, and it is only getting harder, as competition for funding intensifies.

To address this need Giblin Group are developing an online fundraising platform, Funding HQ. Designed to enable small-to-medium-sized organisations to gain access to Giblin Group's expertise, at a fraction of the cost of a traditional consulting engagement, Funding HQ is due for release in early 2020.

The platform has an extensive suite of features including coaching, document templates, tips, and tools. Each member organisation will be able to build a compelling pitch with the information that funders look for most, increasing their likelihood of obtaining funding, and to create tailor-made fundraising plans that help them navigate the different types of funding that are available.

More information on Funding HQ can be found here: www.funding-hq.com

For the Giblin Group itself, the Funding HQ project is a logical next step for a business that is becoming increasingly reliant on the internet. Their ability to maintain more regular communication and extend their reach has undoubtedly been assisted by the internet, and they use a wide variety of digital tools to keep in touch with clients.

However they are now also focused more on leveraging digital marketing to build their profile in the market. Because they have a nationwide focus, digital marketing is a big factor.

Jenni sees the internet as a significant enabler to connect with people and share information more efficiently,



FROM LEFT: funding-hq.com; Jenni Giblin, director of Giblin Group.

although it will never be a total replacement for regular face-to-face meetings for developing and maintaining strong client relationships.

They have also realised that there is no one size fits all when it comes to digital. Different clients and groups prefer to be engaged in different ways, but like other small businesses, they are on a digital journey and they are still learning about how best to reach and engage their community and clients. Social media is key to enabling Giblin Group to staying connected with their community and clients, and LinkedIn and Facebook are their most useful social channels, but Jenni admits her team are still getting their heads around how to use it more effectively.

There is a lot going on for Giblin Group at the moment. Jenni is

currently working alongside John Buck and the Cranford Foundation to raise \$15m for a new hospice at Chesterhope Station. Palliative care is something that Jenni is very passionate about after losing her mother to cancer six years ago.

Another highlight is working recently with Rt Hon Sir Don McKinnon and the trustees of the New Zealand Memorial Museum on a heritage project in Le Quesnoy, France to commemorate New Zealand First World War soldiers. This is a significant international project and Jenni is proud of her and her team's involvement.

The ideal future for Jenni? She will still be leading Giblin Group, but with more time to be on the farm with her husband. Additional board

appointments are certainly on her radar as giving back and helping others is something she strongly believes in.

For those thinking about starting their own business, Jenni has this advice: "Maintain your networks, value people, act with integrity and don't be afraid to take risks." And for people who are thinking of moving to Hawke's Bay, Jenni's advice is, "Just do it! There are so many significant benefits and very few downsides." ●

Disclosure: Giblin Group is a Mogul client.

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.



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Culture



Telling Stories

It's spring, in a local-election year, and posters, leaflets, hoardings are popping up like daffodils. With a huge number of candidates in varied fields across all our council and DHB boards who to cast your votes for?

Frankly - and sorry if this is blunt, but it's true - we don't care if candidates "want the job", or believe they are "ready for it" or feel it's their time. We're not wooed by entitlement or pet projects, but how convincing they are as the right people at the table, with enough vision and capability to actually carry us forward into a rapidly changing future.

And the only way we can know that is by getting them off the placards and slogans - the usual, unsatisfying single-liners - and into the same room. Real conversation. Debate. But more than that, stories.

Get them to tell you one. With heros and nefarious forces and how they overcome them, and the happy-ever-after ending. For as George Monbiot points out in a recent TedTalk, it's stories that both explain the present and describe the future. We hope you're as keen as us to figure out which candidates have a handle on that!

What does their vision for an engaged community look like beyond the platitudes? What do they mean, concretely, by a sustainable future? How do they see the interface between rural and urban, private and public, the role of our civic and cultural spaces? Is this about keeping the status quo, tinkering with changes, or bolder revisionings?

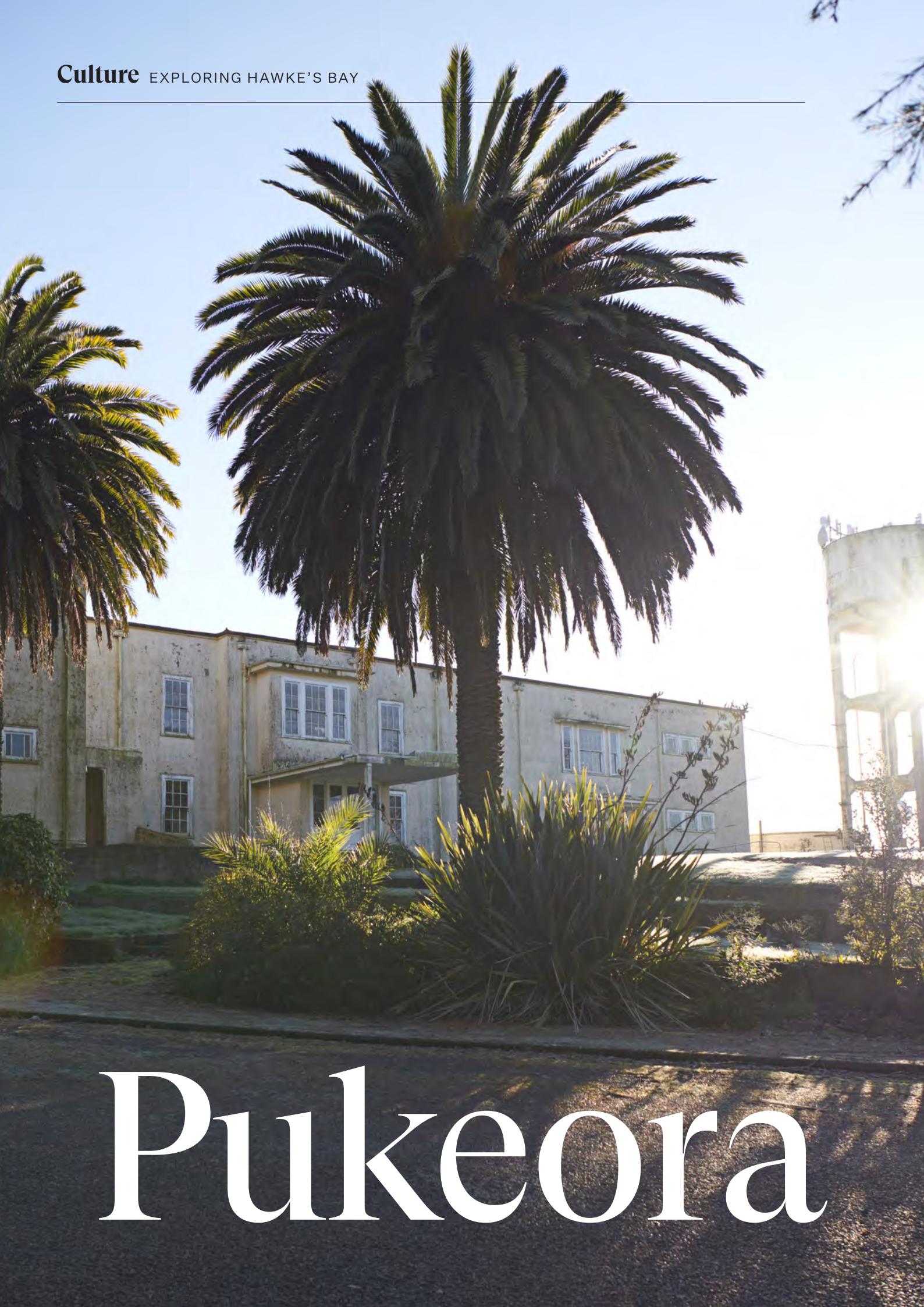
Personally, we want to know whether our electives can be imaginative, courageous, open-minded, open-hearted. Whether they're following the same old tired narratives or ones that can genuinely offer a constructive, restorative way forward.

As we prepare for the Blossom Parade, Arts Festival, Fringe, and the other cultural joys heading our way, we find ourselves looking to that other regenerative, activating project right here in the centre of Hastings. The big reveal around the Opera House is set to take place with the opening of the new refurbished adjacent precinct. Not only will this be a place for us all to experience world-class performances and cultural happenings once more, but also a hub of raw, active creation, collaboration and community togetherness.

In some ways, it's symbolic of a changing Hastings, as it looks to expand the dynamic of its inner-city expression. The tale of the Opera House (and of Hastings) is one of highs, lows, disappointments and renewal. The next chapter - on both counts - looks set to offer the climax!

So listen up. It's storytime. Demand them of the candidates, delight in them during the festivals, and enjoy them right here in *BayBuzz's* Culture section. We've got movement languages with the Human Project, tales of tension between bikers and dog walkers, a peek at the subversive dreams of Hastings' East 200 Block, Bistronomy's better work stories, new columnist Emily Dobson's musings from the countryside, and the myth vs reality of Pukeora.





Pukeora

Driving along SH2 between Waipukurau and Takapau there's a ridge that rises dramatically from the Tukituki River flats. And perched on the escarpment, at 200m altitude, is Pukeora Estate.

Many will tell you with Brontë-esque intimations that this was once a mental asylum. And while this isn't quite true, we discover, it's hard to dispel when your first impression on a clean, frosty morning is of walking into a Hitchcock film - flocks of birds take to the air from where they were perched on the square-topped roof of a somewhat ominous stucco building.

It's worth the early morning drive through rolling fog just for the views at Pukeora Lookout, though - CHB's pre-eminent 'selfie location', which looks out over the Waipukurau and Waipawa townships, their rivers and surrounding farmlands, across to the snow-capped Ruahine Ranges. Through the mist and trees, a raised water tank appears like a castle turret above the imposing east wing of the sanatorium. It has all the hallmarks of a medieval burg overlooking the Rhine in middle Europe, replete with vineyards.

These views once 'belonged' to T. Purvis Russell, part of his Hatuma station, 'Woburn'. Russell was one of HB's early pastoral squatters, who took up the illegal lease of land from Māori to farm merino sheep before purchasing it in 1852. An absentee landlord for 20 years when he retired to Scotland, Russell's huge landholdings were forcibly reduced under the 1891 Lands for Settlement Act, with 54 farm units from the so-called Hatuma block balloted in 1901, including Pukeora.

The name Pukeora ('hill of health') was coined, it seems, when a sanatorium was constructed here in 1918 to treat WWI soldiers suffering respiratory illnesses, especially mustard-gas injuries. In the 1920s, under the governance of the Waipawa Hospital Board, Pukeora became a tuberculosis sanatorium, treating 7,000 patients over the following 37 years, some of whom - such as Bertha Gadd, aged 25, of Hastings - also died there.

Treatment in those days was primarily lots of fresh air - hence the wide verandahs (still seen at the present-day wine-tasting rooms) and open shacks.

In 1957 the complex was redesigned as a convalescent hospital and residential home for the 'incurably crippled'



ABOVE: The Tuberculosis Sanatorium in 1939. The wee shacks in front were brought up by train from the Featherstone Military Training Camp in 1920. Courtesy: Te Papa.

and disabled. The wisdom of the day was that institutional care was in the best interests of the person and their families. As those views shifted in the 1970s towards community-based care, Pukeora turned its focus to caring for head-injury patients. In 1998 it closed its doors and was put on the private market.

Since 2000 it's been a winery, and wedding and function venue, and site for the last 20 years of the annual CHB arts and craft market.

Visitors will be relieved (or disappointed) to know, that a thorough overnight investigation by Core Paranormal in 2010 using digital camcorders and electromagnetic field meters (the tool of choice for ghost hunters) found no evidence of 'ethereal beings', contrary to the 'feelings' and interpretations occasionally reported to the estate owners.

We, however, find ghosts aplenty in window reflections and crumbling plaster, in the green moss growing on stone, the broken fire-escape, glimpses through cobwebbed glass of rose-print carpet and dusty banisters in the abandoned nurses' quarters. In the squat brick hospital wings: low vinyl corridors, wire coat hangers in open wardrobes, stacks of orange plastic chairs.

It's a deliciously spooky place to explore, with its layers of history and period architecture spanning a century of institutional care and societal views on disability and rehabilitation, coupled with romantic, million-dollar, panoramic views and 100-year-old gum trees.

While I unearth nothing that backs

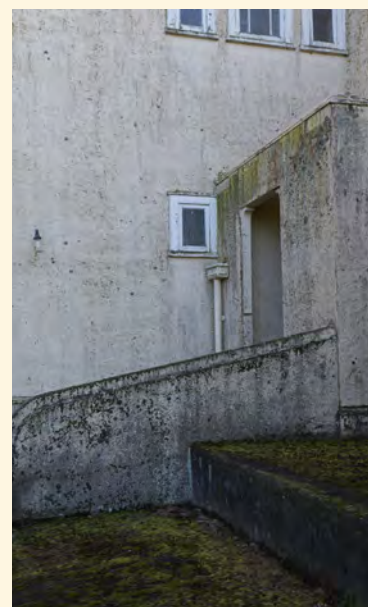
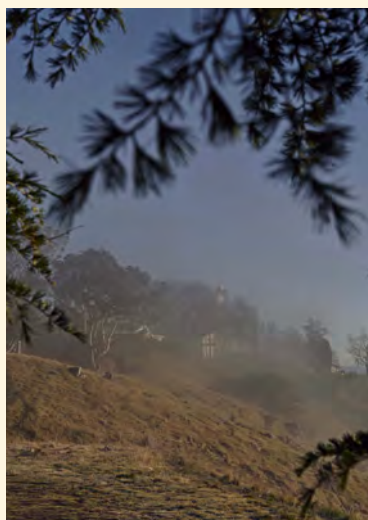
the sinister Cherry Farm vision that lives on in the public imagination, Pukeora was an institution in the years of state care (1950s-1990s) that have been exposed by the Human Rights Commission as systemically abusive. There are gaps in the record that hang in the air.

Pukeora Forest of Memory, an arboretum established in 1993 by the local Rotary Club with well-cut tracks designed for meandering, is nestled in at the base of the hill, off Pukeora Scenic Rd. It holds an eclectic assortment of exotic and native trees - totara and ti kouka paired with silver birch, oak, alders, sequoia - in early spring, the undergrowth a profusion of daffodils, snowdrops, forget-me-nots, magenta rhododendron, red kaka beak.

Tucked in under trees, between flowers, beside pathways are personal, family memorials to those passed: stone cairns, beds of succulents, wooden seats, windchimes in branches, small figurines. In the mid-morning light when the August frost has lifted and we've thawed ourselves with hot coffee from The Rookery at Waipuk junction, the Forest of Memory is an enchanting walk.

Somewhere around here at the foot of 'Sanatorium Hill', I read in a 1951 history of the area, are the earthworks and garden terraces of an ancient pā. At the close of the 19th century the river flats in front, now fenced for winter grazing, were still covered in hundreds of old kōwhai trees. ●





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Pukeora Estate has had many incarnations – it was originally built as a sanatorium for WWI soldiers; Pukeora Forest of Memory; the abandoned nurses' quarters; views across the Tukituki River on a frosty winter morning; reflections of the original stucco building in the window of the 1950s hospital wing; views to the Ruahine Ranges from Pukeora Scenic Road; the old sanatorium viewed from Pukeora Lookout.





The Art of Taking Part

Welcome to Hastings' so-called 'Cultural Precinct' - a rough rectangle delineated by Parlour Projects and Hastings City Art Gallery, Arts Inc, Humanity Books and pretty much every business with '200- something Heretaunga Street' in its address.

Here you'll find art and artists sharing ideas over coffee and chocolate, croissants and craft beer, as they go about their daily business. Making and doing, moving and shaking, creating opportunity for others to show work, or actively encouraging art consumers to become art participants and make their own.

Here's a peek.

Art for all

Little Red Bookshop owner, Adrian Thornton, is a grassroots artist with a mission.

Frustrated by what he viewed as an elitist fine art establishment with little connection to ordinary folk, Adrian embarked some years ago on a collaborative campaign of disruptive artistic endeavor, designed to shake the masses out of their consumption-induced stupor. "The system is what we're fighting; it doesn't work for humans. It's an ideology of self in the short term rather than community in the long term," he explains. "You need to put people before profit."

His Freedom Art Project conducted fun, whimsical projects - like spray-painting power boxes to give morning commuters the impression of a robot invasion - elevating public spaces and putting smiles on faces. From these not-quite-legal beginnings, Adrian's talents were capitalised upon by Council. Hastings Icons produced sanctioned works, using street

"Putting art on the streets makes it relevant. People who would never go to a gallery get to experience art, to raise their consciousness."

ADRIAN THORNTON

art techniques to retain a subversive feel, while celebrating and educating Hastings locals.

Adrian also heads the Revolutionary Arts Ensemble (based in the Heretaunga 200 block), which, inspired by the Russian avant-garde, cross-fertilises free jazz, animation, costumes, sets and a sprinkling of strange with an explicit mandate to "make crazy shit happen". Adrian credits its success to the willingness of talented local creatives to come together and experiment. "It's always completely organic," he says. "I just throw a concept into this group and don't get attached to anything and it comes out the other side as something else."

The Ensemble balances artistic freedom with audience engagement, breaking down barriers with immersive staging, props, and a generous splash of humour. Adrian in a Godzilla suit raining a cardboard city down on delighted children who enthusiastically take up the mantle and effectively trash the place, with his blessing. A giant fan animates hanging plush letters and costumes alike to quite

literally blow the audience's minds.

Adrian explains his modus operandi for involving people in his work thus: "You've got to make people feel they're a part of what you're doing before you freak them out too much. You give them a hook, I'm very low brow when it comes to hooks."

Fringe benefits

Hannah Clarke cut her theatrical teeth overseas and in the capital, making and sharing edgy works that connect.

As director of the New Zealand Fringe she was well poised to come in at the ground level of Hastings' grassroots festival, Fringe in the 'Stings (FiTS), which takes place each October (now in its fourth year). She's observed a cultural renewal that makes her proud to invite professional colleagues to perform in her home town. "We were seeing this revitalisation around the Heretaunga Street area and we really wanted to celebrate this and encourage participation in the arts."

Accessibility permeates FiTS' kaupapa. The open-access model is borrowed from Edinburgh, whose Fringe was established alongside the curated International Festival post World War Two. Now the world's largest celebration of arts and culture, it grew to eclipse the formal festival. The Fringe ethos encourages anyone who wishes to perform to show up and have a go, without barriers or parameters, curation or curtailment: "We don't choose the art, the art chooses us, we just provide a platform for it."

It's a policy that encourages innovation and draws in both artists and audiences from the fringes of society. Immigrant comics and circus acts rub shoulders with curvaceous burlesque performers. Hannah is proud

Culture



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A Young Man Dressed as a Gorilla Dressed as an Old Man Rocking in a Rocking Chair for 57 Minutes then Leaves, photo by Greg Thompson, Simon Cartwright Photography Ltd; Fringe in the Stings box office; Revolutionary Arts Ensemble; Fringe in the Stings audience. Photos: Simon Cartwright Photography Ltd.

of providing “space for under-represented or marginalised groups ... a really mixed bag that’s unapologetically different.”

Low price points and a lack of creative accountability shifts the dynamic between artist and audience, giving artists freedom to experiment with fresh ideas and open audience minds to new experiences. Where else could you hear a 30-minute wall of sound extravaganza, so loud earplugs are provided, penned by one of New Zealand’s finest contemporary composers? Or see ‘A Young Man Dressed as a Gorilla Dressed as an Old Man Rocking in a Rocking Chair for 57 Minutes then Leaves’? The latter does exactly what it says on the tin. The art is created when spectator becomes participant as the performer’s repetitive rocking invites audience to intervene.

Almost exclusively staffed by volunteers, Fringe consciously creates

community as well as offering dynamic spaces to teach and learn new skills, providing a pathway for participation. Enthusiastic amateurs are offered a platform to perform, in homegrown pantomime or drag bingo, supported by local pros. Tech skills are passed down from old hats to young upstarts.

Centering around the ‘essential community space that is Common Room’, as well as repurposed vacant Hastings venues and streetscapes, Fringe in the ‘Stings circumnavigates the social contract inherent in traditional performance spaces. The social cues and markers that can make some feel excluded from art and culture are deliberately eroded by the Fringe model. Free events, buskers and happenings in public spaces are essential, inviting community engagement under a mandate that art is for everybody - “filling a hole in the arts ecology,” according to Hannah.

By fostering a sense of belonging and ownership, Fringe actively grows the arts consumer base, creating a culture of attendance and participation that feeds further creative pursuits. Hannah feels FiTS shines a light on Hastings’ burgeoning creative community. “It shows there’s probably art happening all over the country in provincial places that’s overlooked, and,” she asserts, “it’s absolutely essential to our well-being that we provide spaces for these kinds of cultural activities.”

Blossoming communities

Community arts educator, Ally Rogers, has been using carnival arts to bring people together for years. She’s the brains behind the giant puppets that cavorted through the streets of Hastings to win Most Unusual in last year’s Blossom Parade, the culmination of a series of free workshops, sponsored by Arts Inc and open to all.



Hastings Blossom Festival 2018. Photos: Florence Charvin.

Ally values the process as much as the product. “Art is a vehicle for community building and empowerment,” she says. She’s seen participatory arts provide an antidote to the modern epidemic of loneliness, as well as breaking down class differences. “When you’re making art side by side the barriers fall away very quickly and you get people from all different parts of society rubbing shoulders together and getting on well with each other,” she observes.

In a time-poor society, she sees more need than ever for people to prioritise artistic expression, and for art to be grassroots, performative, engaging. She would like the Blossom Parade to shift focus, “to be more about performance, more about audience interaction.” To this end, workshops this year will be artist-led but solicit performers from the community who will be supported to create their costumes. She believes that “asking people to come

and perform means we’re counting on them to show up and be a part of it. We’re hoping to get people excited about being part of it.”

The benefits are tangible and manifest. With passion she attests to “the power of art. There’s so much rolled up into it. It’s about your own creative self-expression, achievement, getting in touch with yourself. It makes people feel connected, reinvigorated, restored.”

Watch this space

Empirical research* shows that participation in the arts not only educates, nourishes and feeds our economy and communities, but fosters civic engagement, social tolerance and altruism as well. So with all the wellbeing boxes ticked, how could Hastings District Council not provide diverse, accessible artistic experiences at the very centre of its civic responsibilities?

There are plenty of innovations in the pipeline, creative makers and doers dreaming up a myriad of ways to engage public imagination. Watch out for Fringe in the ‘Stings’ opening Hiko on Heretaunga; the Blossom Festival’s transformation into a carnival of performance; Umbrella Studio’s multipurpose fluid creative community hub; Akina Vinyl Appreciation Society’s latest early morning Facebook-live Loft Session; and Vesica Aotearoa’s multimedia creative feast, which will be the inaugural Heretaunga Block Festival.

But don’t just watch this space. Pick up a paintbrush or a placard. Link arms and dance with a stranger. Reclaim your streets. Get involved! ●

**From seminal journal papers, such as ‘The Impact of the Arts on Individual Contributions to US Civil Society’, to the UK’s 2018 Art Fund wellbeing report, Calm and Collected.*

The Human Project

The Human Project is made up of Jandyra (Champa) Maciel (centre in photo), Pippi Jane and Sophie Follet.

For this year's Harcourts Hawke's Bay Arts Festival they're collaborating on an outdoor dance piece called *And the Earth Shifted Beneath my Feet*.





mother's upbringing in the slums of São Paulo and the loss of connection to her forebears in rural Brazil. She's exploring the plight of migrants through the experience of her mother: the urban migration, fleeing South America during the fascist dictatorship to refuge in Sweden, then Hong Kong, sea voyages through Asia before finally pitching up in Australia and raising a child, solo and isolated from her family and cultural community.

While the stories are traumatic tales of an era of great unrest in Brazil, there is humour to be found, and insight into Jandyra's own pull towards dance and performance.

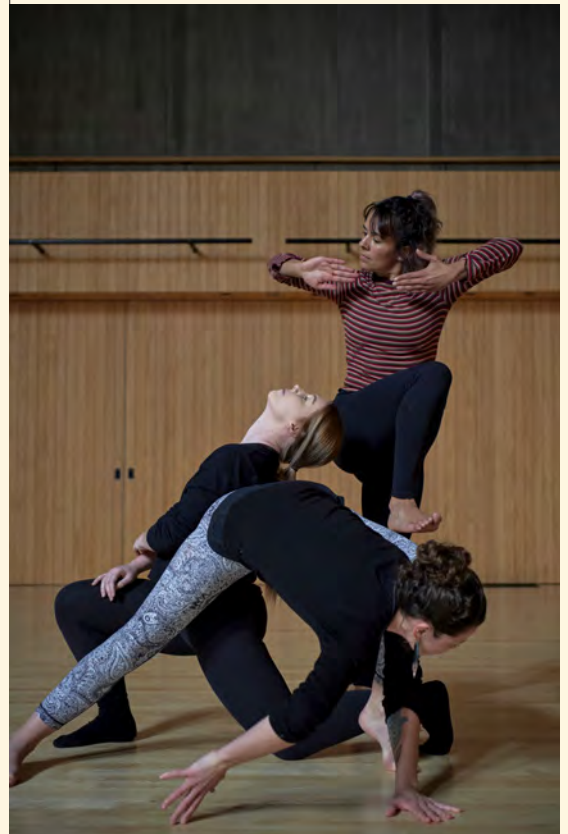
When *BayBuzz* visits, the three dancers are not dancing at all. At this stage, a couple of months before the festival arrives, the collaborators are in the research and discussion phase of making a dance piece.

Creating art, it seems, doesn't always look arty. Cross-legged, with notebooks, on the foyer floor of the Blyth Performing Arts Centre at Iona College, rehearsal today takes the form of storytelling.

Each of the three have wandered in different research directions in recent weeks, exploring their own areas of inquiry, then bringing their discoveries and musings back to the group to sift through the material and pan for themes and connections.

Sophie (also dance teacher at Iona, hence the very impressive rehearsal space) has been preoccupied with the value and treatment of land. Exploitation of land for development, the loss of green spaces, the lack of future planning. "I'm really focused right now on the importance of valuing what we have." There's also a cultural rift to explore - the difference between the idea of owning land (from a western perspective) and 'being owned by the land' (an indigenous perspective).

Jandyra (known to most as Champa) has recently returned from a visit with her Melbourne-based Brazilian mother. She recorded stories of her



OPPOSITE LEFT TO RIGHT: Pippi, Jandyra and Sophie at the Blythe Performing Arts Centre, Iona College.



“The family back in Brazil, their life was subsistence farming. They lived physically. My mother remembers her mother squatting to grate food, so much physicality, and your body remembers. It’s called epigenetics, where there’s an imprint of experiences on your nervous system, and that gets programmed in, or passed on.”

“This is why people respond to things they don’t remember. I’ve always felt a closeness to these indigenous movements and dance, even though I had no connection to that actual culture growing up.”

Pippi, moving almost without realising, in and out of fluid yoga poses on the floor, explains her take on the question of identity as it relates to ancestry.

“Sometimes we don’t have the choice or the ability or the resources to know everything about our ancestors, but we’ve been told so much that if you don’t know where and who you came from, you can’t know who you are. But I wanted to ask the question, isn’t it enough to really know yourself? And to understand who you are as an individual?”

“My mother is a first-generation New Zealander. Her parents were both Dutch, so her mother tongue is Dutch, which she spoke at home until going to school and being taught by nuns who made her speak English - in the 1950s they believed that if a child was bilingual they’d somehow learn slower!”

Pippi explains the loss of the family’s language and culture as they worked to assimilate to the New Zealand way of life, their intergenerational work in the forestry industry, the losses against the gains of immigration, and the spiritual connection they eventually found on land near Tarawera.

Together, the three muse on the connections that are bubbling up: land, water, wood, isolation, the ‘placelessness’ of immigrant people, who are foreign in their new land, and no longer fit in their homelands or the homelands of their parents. The loss of stories and connections through poverty and transience.

“It’s the transient, poor people who get covered by dust,” says Jandyra. “As time wears on, they just get covered by dust. They don’t leave a footprint.”

What seems to be sinuously slipping together here are the collective notions of longing and belonging. And a desire of these three dancers to find ways to honour their people, their land and their histories through their medium.

The conversation turns from ancestral stories and dialects to movement languages, and the way dance can affect, in ways other artforms cannot. There’s an agreement between all three that the visceral, primal nature of movement can convey a story or an experience in a way that makes the audience truly, physically feel a connection to it, and relate, rather than just bear witness.

As for the outdoor aspect of the performance piece? There’s an immediacy that comes when walls and traditional stages aren’t there.

“Movement is so concise, and accessible. But also, there is a weirdness to movement in public that makes people want to stop and look,” says Pippi. “It

“Movement is so concise, and accessible. But also, there is a weirdness to movement in public that makes people want to stop and look. It disrupts the space.”

PIPPI JANE

disrupts the space.”

Pippi, Sophie and Jandyra explain they’re getting closer to the next step in the dance piece’s development. “This is the point where we need to start connecting it to Aotearoa,” says Jandyra. “Next we start to ask, what is it that brings all these stories to this place? And why?”

But for now, it’s time for these three to warm up. Breathe, stretch and converse in movement languages as they ripple across the glowing Blythe stage.

The Human Project will be performing the finished piece during the festival at Albert Square in Hastings, White Night in Napier, and outside the Spiegeltent on the Village Green. ●

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Man Bike Dog

Weekend hits and we get amongst it. Hiking up the Goat Track, down the stopbank by the Tukituki, taking on the trapeze from Red Bridge to Black Bridge with nothing in our guts but two flat whites. Dog in tow. Or pushing pedal and mettle to clock 30km with a tail wind.

It's all very valiant, and valid in a motu blessed with long flat stretches, bright sunshine hours, and very few people.

The Rotary pathways, jungled reserves like Tainui and Te Mata, The Dog Park, Park Island, Marine Parade - expanses of The Great Outdoors - are close enough to feel intrepid and still be home in time for tea. We're a lucky bunch, us with our Best Friends and our Pursuits.

But there's raruraru in the hills, argy bargy on the plains, trouble in paradise as Those with Dogs and Those with Bikes try to share space while deep down despising each other. It's an entrenched divergence of motivation, methodology and philosophical approach to 'down time'.

Bike people love accoutrements and accessories, their beta egos need the inflation that inhuman speed and crazy danger provides.

Dog people have hearts of gold, emotional intelligence that has capacity to selflessly give to others (two-legged or four) while putting their own needs aside (come rain or hail).

Not that I'm biased. Some of my best friends ride bikes.

Most of the time these worlds live parallel trajectories. Carparks are shared, but the journeys each group takes veer off from each other almost immediately, in theory never to meet again until the circuit's complete.

However, if, by chance, they do meet, it can get hostile.

I recount a jaunt with a friend and her rescue 'Bunion' (names have been changed to protect the innocent). Striding across Pakowhai one Sunday we deviated onto the iWay to explore the rural paths beyond. A weekend warrior, resplendent in Day-Glo skins, came up the other side at EXACTLY the same time. We met in the middle,

a standoff: spooked dog responding to fluoro, to wrap-around shades, clicking cleats, aerodynamic skid lid. Mulga Bill took one look at the baying bow-wow and balked. Picking up his two-wheeled concern he hurled it at the shaggy terror - I mean terrier.

To corrupt Kipling let's just say: Dogs is Dogs and Bikes is Bikes and never the twain shall meet!

But when is a dog park a dog park and a bike track a bike track? And as long as neither's a car, surely they can just get along?!

A current hotbed of 'Dog Meets Bike' controversy is Tainui Reserve in Havelock North. When coupled with Keith Sands Grove (and I shouldn't be telling you this because it is a bit of a secret) Tainui makes for a fine climb up and a satisfying cruise down. But in this wooded wonderland a war is breaking out ... albeit a passive-aggressive war muttered in civil tones.

I was alerted to the palaver by a local petition-raising, letter-writing, rabble-rousing firebrand: "Council is putting in a mountain bike track and the bikers are paying for it!" I tried explaining it was what's sometimes known as a Community-Council Partnership and was a valuable form of public engagement and activation process, but she was on a roll.

There's been mountain bikers in Tainui since ages ago. But they've been quietly (I mean they're not motor-cross) going about their business. Until now.

Mountain bikers grow up it seems, and get organised, and apply to Council for 'support' with 'initiatives'. And because of that the bike track is growing up too and getting more organised and more visible.

A dingo is currently teetering on the hill above. There's hi-vis beyond the usual PD-worker quota. The Council has installed signs: "Walking Track, Temporary Cycle Track Only". Contractors have installed signs: "Tracks Under Construction". Bikers ("Mountain Bikes Are Now Using This Track"), Walkers ("Walking Only, No Bikes") and Dog-People ("Danger!")

have installed signs. All the signs are there (literally): this sanctuary is struggling to stay Zen.

Sure, there's no hikoi heading to Tainui (which is a shame because the Dog's always up for a stroll), there are no pearl-clutching Havelockites chaining themselves to the poo-bag dispensers. But it is a microcosm of the intolerance even caring understanding nature types experience when they rub up against people who aren't them.

Our common spaces are there for us to share. Fresh air is good for us, but so too is compassion for the passions of others, seeing other people enjoying their own recreational experiences, building empathy for what other people like to do. Enjoying our differences not our homogeneity. What we love about these dog-, bike-places is the place itself. Let's not make them just another landscape on which we overlay our version of 'correct', 'normal', 'acceptable'.

The reality at Tainui is the bike track, once done, will circumnavigate the Reserve, bumping and grinding above the walkers, leaving those on foot to meander without worry. Their parallel paths a metaphor for their parallel realities. There will be a few points where the two meet. And here lies opportunity: Let these not be junctions of cultural collision. Let's make these spaces a sharing of breath, a chance to nod and smile (while whizzing past). Let's make them moments of mutual appreciation, where we look each other in the eye - bike people grunting and puffing, dog people giving a cheery "How do!" - and relish the fact that so many are outside doing their thing.

Because, let's face it, it's not the separate paths that make the journey valuable, it's all the cross-roads along the way. ●

Opposite: Koha the dog off-leash at Pakowhai Regional Park. Photo: Tom Allan

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But when is a dog park a dog park and a bike track a bike track? And as long as neither's a car, surely they can just get along?!





Restaurant People

Napier's Bistronomy recently won Best Restaurant at the 2019 Hawke's Bay Hospitality Awards, and it holds two Cuisine Award hats. Owners James Beck and Amber Linter-Cole are working towards sustainability in all aspects of their business, including the complex area of staffing. Here, James shares some thinking around the move towards the Living Wage and the other ways they're creating a better workplace.

We didn't start Bistronomy necessarily thinking sustainability was going to be at the core.

We'd had Taste café in Hastings for five years and were getting a bit over the task of keeping it all organic, and the preconceptions that came with that - it's going to be too expensive because it's organic ... it'll just be chickpeas - when we were doing more. Yes, there was a really good lentil sausage roll, but we had pork belly as well!

Here, I just wanted to do my kind of food - modern, with a lot of modern technique and really good flavours, at a higher level than I was doing at Taste.

So that's how it started, and then more and more we've been drawn into this idea of sustainability. An ongoing challenge.

In terms of sustainable staffing, it's come from me having not been the easiest guy to work for. I've got high standards, and I expect people to follow them. An ex-staff member said to someone else that I'm "a really good guy and would give you the shirt off his back, but he expects everyone around him to put the same amount of passion into the work that he does." That may

seem like a compliment, but at the end of the day, that staff member had left here as a result of that.

It's hard to run a business when people are dropping off all the time. We've had a plenty of long-term staff, but there have been lots of people we've put effort into training, and either they fall out with us, or they can't be bothered, or it's not their main job.

So, we've had to stand back and realise we can't keep doing this; we'll run ourselves into the ground through the stress of staffing the place. We had to ask ourselves, "How can we create a place where people are happy to be?" And that's where the living wage came in. But wages are only a part of it.

A big part of it has been me learning, and changing, the way I run service. It's also about employing the right people, who are really into hospitality and really into what we're doing. Over the years I've found that the foreign staff love working here and are really good. They're used to high pressure and high standards, and they can easily handle a bit of the 'angry chef' stuff.

But overall, they're in the minority, and I've had to think about how to make things work better for Kiwis, who aren't used to being ordered around military-style. Traditionally that is how kitchens have been run, but we need to change that, because it's not working. It's not working for us, because we can't keep our staff. It's not working for the industry because it's impossible to find staff, as there aren't enough people coming into cheffing. Why? Because it's bloody hard work, the pay is usually terrible, the hours are long, and often you're getting treated like shit.

The thing about cooking, and the narrative we need to get out there, is that it can be a crazy combination of science, art, creativity, rigorous application of technique and that ultimately each night is a performance. It's pretty

cool and rewarding if you get it right.

I think there may only be one other restaurant in the country paying the living wage, which is a shame, but there is still a difficulty for some people in getting their heads around paying their kitchenhand/dishwasher \$20.55 per hour.

We're lucky that we can. We've had to make some choices and be flexible to make it work. The menu is a bit simpler than when we first opened. And it's not a perfect fix. It makes us really aware of the hours people are working. They get paid well for the hours they work, but there may be less of them. Luckily most of our part-time staff are also studying or have other jobs.

Another reason we can do it is that we're a small team, so we're adaptable. It's not for everyone and we're certainly not trying to say that it should be. We're just trying to figure out a way to make it work for us. The wage cost is my hardest thing to manage. But I want to do that. I want to pay people well. But that cost has to be absorbed somewhere. Prices have to go up.

Which leads to the question of whether we want to have a really good dining culture? There's an overall lack of maturity here. I think it's growing, but we've got a long way to go.

Another aspect of the sustainable staffing is training. We do lots of staff training and development. Really, it's about creating an environment that the staff are proud to be here. We work hard to involve our team in what we're doing. Then it's simple things like having them up to our place for ribs on the barbie, or heading along to the Hospo awards as a team.

There's no way I could call this a sustainable business ... yet. We're just at the start. The world seems pretty stuffed, and there's not much we can do about it as individuals, so the only way I can rationalise things is by trying to run this business in the best way I can. ●



Spinning

You know how you just feel a bit tired sometimes... of humans and the terrible things we've done to this planet?

Driving home from visiting the gran-dies in Gisborne seeing the plastic rubbish lining the ditches... I fear we have some major reckoning coming our way.

But I've failed too - for a self-proclaimed zero-waste guru - in plastic-free July no less.

At a show we took the kids to in Gisborne we bought Rush Munro icecreams in plastic tubs (#5 - not even recyclable - we will try to reuse them), a couple of Moro Gold bars and a packet of M&Ms. On the way home we chucked a hot chips pottle, a plastic raspberry bun bag and an empty Doritos packet in the rubbish (which had glass bottles in it - I can never resist a peek). Committed (once again) in that moment to really, *really* stop buying anything that will end up in landfill.

Also to write letters: to the council asking for public recycling bins. To Rush Munro's. And to Mexicano Corn Chips (our preferred brand) asking for home-compostable bags, just as Proper Crisps has started doing.

Writing letters is what I do now. A drop in the bucket. The sheer scale of the overhaul we need is overwhelming.

I go to bed at night panicking. Our daughter has just started circus classes - which is totally wonderful, so up her alley, and something we've been thinking about for a long time. Our son has started chanter lessons the following day (his grandfather plays, turns out he has a natural affinity for it!). But for us it is a LOT of driving. I've been careful to avoid too much driving until now.

I'm not sure what it is that panics me. The pace of it? Being pulled in separate directions? Or, you know, just, all that driving.

Facebook panics me too. Believe me, a bigger lover of Facebook you could not find. But I would go to bed



panicking. I feel like my whole world for the last 10 years has been about liking and commenting, conversations through a keyboard (I don't even own a smartphone!). How many times have I prioritised it over being present with the kids? So I quit.

I have had breaks before - four weeks last Christmas - but this time I so want it to be for real. The kids are getting bigger... I don't want them learning that a moment, a memory, is only valid if it has been shared on social media. Of course, the doubts and second thoughts are starting in... the kids are going to get it anyway, isn't it better that we model good usage? Maybe this is just where we are evolving to? Sharing everything with everyone, global connection? So then why do I feel so shit after using it? Why do I feel so much better off it (if a little more lonely and bored)?

I do feel fomo, like I've exiled myself. But on the other hand, as I read about in a glossy magazine recently, I also feel jomo - the joy of missing out. To be logged off the system... ahh!

So this winter I've been spinning. On a spinning wheel. A couple of years ago we found ourselves petless and facing the annual school pet day. I thought, we'll do the lamb thing, just this once. Stanley and Fainey arrived from a kindly neighbour. The kids loved them. They grew up and were relegated to the back paddock.

At some point we realised we should

probably get them shorn, and we found ourselves with two fleeces. I acquired my sister's late mother-in-law's spinning wheel. I had the wool carded, asking them to keep the fleeces separate (the end goal is for the kids to have jerseys from their own lambs). We are going to experiment with dying the wool naturally - apparently avocado skins/stones make the most amazing pink.

Spinning is meditative and compulsive. It is an amazing, finely balanced technology. It connects me to generations of women. A delightful little booklet came with the bag of spinning stuff, from a spinner's group in Eastbourne - who could spin "like enchanted spiders".

The two spires on the wheel are called the 'maidens'. Spinning the opposite way for plying is called going 'widdershins' (from the Scottish). I realise that in doing this stuff, relearning old skills, it is not just about the means to an end, the means is an end in itself.

Like knitting, gardening, making food from scratch, it makes no sense economically, yet makes all the soulful sense in the world. There is an amazing feeling having this wool slip through my fingers from sheep we have known since they were babies. Is this what it comes down to, feeling connected? It feels seasonal too - the garden is nicely bedded in for the winter, things have slowed down.

God, anything just to *slow down*. ●

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