

BAY BUZZ

№63 • MARCH / APRIL 2022 • HAWKE'S BAY UP CLOSE, IN DEPTH

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Ricks Terstappen:
master of our found
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BayBuzz
March/April 2022

What motivates our local environmentalists? HB water issues offer slow motion intrigue. Our mayors look to the future. Responding to HB's rising family violence. ABCs of EV driving. Environment Centre is buzzing. Local solution for tyres. DHB's Omicron advice. Economic calamity awaiting? Waste can be valuable. Meet Ricks Terstappen. Nature as a person. Artists need space.

Cover photo: Ricks Terstappen by Tom Allan. This page: Tyne Nelson by Florence Charvin.



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About the cover

Ricks Terstappen has a decades' old love of demolition. As the master of the region's found art movement his remarkable gift for transforming wood, iron and steel, and a multitude of debris into something spectacular has helped shape our artistic landscape. Michal McKay discovers what drives this irrepresive original on page 74.

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FROM THE EDITOR
TOM BELFORD

Our recent Reader Survey provided valuable insights into how our current audience views *BayBuzz* and the Hawke's Bay reporting and analysis we provide.

I emphasize 'current' because we're always striving to deliver what our current readers want, but at the same time looking to grow our audience through a broader range of content. Pushing the edges can be challenging, with 74% of our readers liking our balance just the way it is.

The content areas of greatest interest - hands down - are Accountability and the Environment. 'Accountability' pertaining to councils and other public bodies and agencies like the DHB and the Port.

In the next tier comes Social Issues (health, poverty, housing, education) and Business (HB companies and economic issues).

Areas like arts and culture, sport, the nonprofit/charity sector and food have significant levels of support.

Taken together, the message seems to be: Absolutely, dig into the public issue challenges of the region, but also help tune us in to the full 'buzz' that energizes Hawke's Bay.

This reminds me that we've often used the tagline 'Bee in the know!' [That's not a spelling error.] I do think that captures what most people want, and not just our current readers.

Everyone wants at least some insight into who's doing what, what are their challenges and successes, what (and who) is new and different, where's the best of whatever. Some might gravitate

more to politics, others to business, others to arts and lifestyle, others to sport or personal wellness, others to local events and entertainment, others to community and charity initiatives.

But for us as social beings, running through it all is the desire to have some insight into our community, how we fit in, whether it is meeting our needs or not, and what might happen next that might affect us. Being in the know. And connected. Not being caught unawares.

That's what truly local journalism is supposed to provide. And that's what *BayBuzz* is trying to deliver. Hopefully you see that in this current magazine, which has a strong environmental focus (from policy to 'do it yourself') but reaches beyond to a vexing social harm, local business challenges and the arts.

Like every other journalistic enterprise, we are also challenged by the changing ways in which our readers acquire the information they want - from the 'urgently needed' to the 'nice to know'.

Is it a 'kick back' leisurely read of a printed magazine? A read of that same magazine on a tablet or laptop? A deep dive into issues and resources via a website? A fast, timely update through pithy items on a phone? Listening to a podcast while joggling or cycling? Or simply connecting with one's bubble via social media?

BayBuzz has been steadily expanding up its online content and we plan to push ahead even more.

But our Reader Survey's message

is clear: Different strokes for different folks. Most of our readers are 'bi-media' - they expect *BayBuzz* to deliver in both print and online. Our weekly e-newsletter is proving very popular and we will strive to make it 'must read'. At the same time, we enjoy a 'hard core' (20%) who prefer only the magazine. We won't let them down either.

The challenge for us is consistently delivering the best quality content - whether in 2500-word magazine articles or 250-word online bursts - in a style that has edge and encourages thinking.

Eighty-two percent of our survey respondents believe strongly that *BayBuzz* "meets a need other publications do not."

But how well are we doing that?

Our team welcomes your feedback. A Reader Survey gives us a nice snapshot, but there's nothing better than hearing firsthand from a charged-up reader ... whether it's praise or criticism! We're at: editors@baybuzz.co.nz

Enjoy!

Tom Belford

Tom has been a two-term 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.

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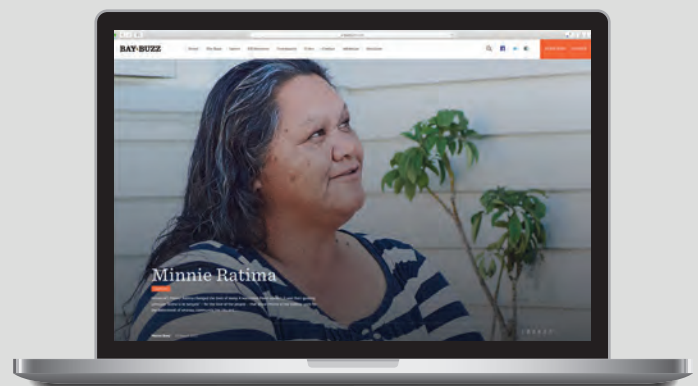
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Our Foundation Sponsors provide year-long support to our magazine and online service, helping to ensure *BayBuzz* can deliver quality journalism to Hawke's Bay readers, connecting and informing our community.

BayBuzz commits

With that support, at a time when local journalism has never been more important, we commit to bringing Hawke's Bay in print and online:

- The most in-depth insight into the major environmental, economic and social issues challenging the region.
- The most comprehensive window into our region's arts and culture and community achievements.
- The most provocative and inspiring views and opinions on where Hawke's Bay should head and why.



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Nicky Chadwick, vet

Working in the veterinary profession is a very demanding job. But the pandemic has taken the pressure to a whole new level. A post on Facebook by the AnimalCare Vet Clinic in Havelock North highlighted just how tough it is for all who have made it their lifelong career. Nicky is co-owner, loved and revered by all – parents and pets alike – who are fortunate enough to have her guardianship. We felt her teams’ thoughts – which are a reflection of a situation every vet is facing – needed to be shared.

“In our busiest season, with uncertain times ahead, we ask for your patience and kindness.

Our team is currently under a lot of pressure. This is exacerbated by a nationwide veterinary staff shortage due to no vets coming into New Zealand. Pet ownership is also on the rise, so we have more patients to care for, but no extra veterinarians to ease the workload.

Some days we find ourselves short-staffed for unavoidable reasons (including now having to have a Covid test at the first sign of any cold or flu symptoms).

It’s not uncommon to have a fully booked day and suddenly have to fit in an emergency surgery. We thank you all for your understanding when we call to reschedule your appointment. We know it is an inconvenience, but also that you would want us to do the same if your pet needed emergency care.

Our vets and nurses always give 100% to their jobs and the patients they care for. This can often mean long hours without breaks and multiple visits to the clinic after hours. We genuinely care about you and your pets and we want to help in any way we can – we wouldn’t be in this profession if we didn’t.

So, if your phone call goes to voice-mail the first time or we take awhile to phone you back, or if we are running a little late for your appointment, please know it is because we have had to prioritise a patient in need of urgent care, not because we don’t care about your needs.

Like many businesses, we are also facing product supply issues, but are happy to recommend suitable alternatives if your normal item is out of stock.

Behind the scenes, the ever-changing Covid-19 situation has created an additional workload of formulating and updating clinic policies and procedures. As always, we will continue to follow the recommendations from The New Zealand Veterinary Council and The Ministry of Health to ensure the safety of our staff and clients.

So, as we all navigate through day-to-day life wearing masks, sanitising and scanning QR codes, we want to remind everyone that patience and kindness can mean a lot. It can make a rough day a little easier, it can mean the difference between finishing a shift tired and in tears, or just tired. Your understanding is greatly appreciated, and it helps us to do what we do best – which is taking care of your cherished pets.”

Many thanks from the AnimalCare team

The Facebook post was written by vet nurse Kirsty Brewer.

Is your house prepared?

Managing with COVID-19 in your household can be made easier with a little planning.



If someone in your house gets COVID-19, your whole household will need to isolate until everyone has fully recovered (3 days symptom-free).

Most people who get COVID-19 will have a mild to moderate illness, and will fully recover in their own home. For those who need help, the healthcare system will always be available.

What you need to plan for

- If you are able, you should make a plan to minimise the spread to other household members.
- Food and supplies – ensure you have the essentials and arrange contactless drop-offs with friends, whānau or neighbours.
- Work and school – prepare to work and/or study from home.
- Children/other dependants - make a plan in case you are sick and unable to care for children. What will happen in shared custody situations?
- Find activities to pass the time.



Know and share your plans

- Kōrero together – ensure everyone in the household, including children, knows the plan.
- Share your plan with those that will support your household.

Stay connected

Support other whānau to make their plans too.

Checklist

Visit the Unite Against COVID-19 website to download 'Our Isolation Plan' which includes a handy readiness checklist:
covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/be-prepared-for-covid-19/



Opening scene for movie industry

Plans are well advanced for a rugby field-sized movie studio in a hidden valley in the back blocks of Te Awanga.

Havelock North-based Derek Slade and his brother-in-law Tony Keddy

are using their decades of experience providing equipment and skills into the film industry to deliver a state-of-the-art production facility to attract international film makers to Hawke's Bay.

They're also planning a small studio in Christchurch. Just a few more ticks of the box and work will be underway on the stand-alone facilities with the doors open, hopefully before the end of the year.



'Ladies, when smashing the glass ceiling let it be diamonds that rain down on you!'


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Leah's legacy

A tale of love, truth and loss



The tragedy of losing a beloved daughter and lifelong friend inspired three Hawke's Bay women to self-publish a children's book about their experience.

Leah Te Weehi was a talented musician, who loved to travel and was on a career pathway to becoming an eye surgeon. At 28 she was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. A prognosis her mother, Frances, says she faced with bravery and dignity. And it inspired Frances plus family friends Lois Rodler and Kristy Wilkinson-Smith to create a children's book as a family memoir.

The idea came when, after losing her hair due to chemotherapy, Leah's nieces and nephew first saw her wearing a

hat. One asked, "What's under the hat, Aunty?" Frances thought that would be a wonderful line and inspiration for a story.

What's Under the Hat, Aunty? takes the reader on a journey – the beautiful relationship Leah shared with her family, while exploring an alternative perspective when a loved one falls ill.

Colour-coded clues are planted throughout the pages for readers, when they've finished the book, to go back and find in a treasure hunt. Once they do, they'll discover added meaning.

"Both Kristy and I had long-held dreams of becoming published authors or illustrators, but it was through this shared relationship with Leah's whānau that the project eventuated," Lois explains. "Collaborating together has been both exciting and positive."

Since she could write Lois has created

stories. When she trained as a primary school teacher she found sharing her love of writing, and reading aloud to children, was something that brought great pleasure. Kristy majored in art at university, and is also a primary and early childhood teacher, where she too spends hours each week sharing the magic of picture books with children. Writing and illustrating were her passions as a child and this is her first book as an adult.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Finding that *What's Under the Hat Aunty?* is in fact helping others, just as they'd hoped, means a lot to the three of them. Local stockists are Wardini Books in Napier and Havelock, Beattie & Forbes in Ahuriri, The Corner Collective on Dickens Street and Chantal Napier. All profits go to the Child Cancer Foundation.

www.whatsunderthehat.com



Photo: Florence Charvin

A record year

As if a star turn with Dave Dobbyn this year wasn't a rocket start to 2022, rising young Hawke's Bay singer and musician Arahi is now recording his debut EP at Neil Finn's Roundhead studios with producer Dave Khan. And next month will see the release of his new thematic 80s style single (listen through Spotify and Apple Music).

Originally destined to be a throw-back summer anthem resounding across the country's festivals but stifled by pandemic delays and cancellations, it will symbolise hope and his own perseverance in times of trouble.

To follow? A tour later this year is in the planning stages thanks to his recent relationship with Banished Music and will mark Arahi's first since "The Purpose of this Man – Spring Tour" in 2018. No doubt this will be a year of record for this talented muso.



Climate update

This is our first Climate Update since our Nov/Dec issue, and most of the interesting news is from overseas.

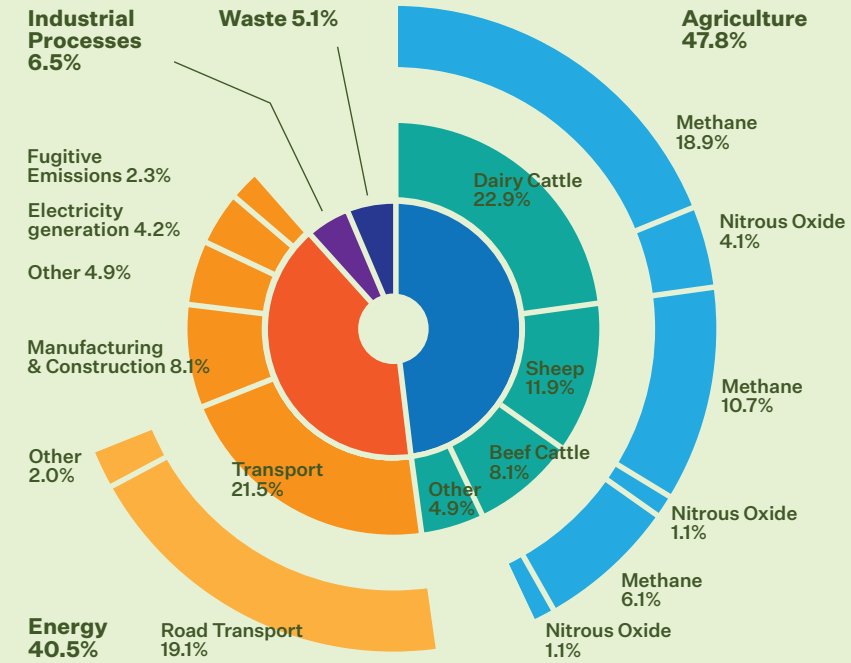
But, NZ first

Meantime, our NZ Government has been stage-setting, with its climate goals not to be firmly set until May in conjunction with budget setting. Announced already is that \$4.5 billion raised by the emissions trading scheme will be earmarked for the emissions reduction plan.

What is clear is that in any scenario, NZ will need to shop aggressively overseas for carbon offsets to meet any reasonable 'Nationally Determined Contribution' goal on the international stage. Over the next decade, over two-thirds of our required reductions will need to be acquired offshore as we pay other, mostly developing countries to make 'easier' reductions – eg, planting trees in Indonesia – that we can then claim on our accounts. The cost of purchasing these might range from \$6-\$14 billion. This is the alternative to far deeper domestic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Given that our climate change minister is from the Green Party, it will be interesting to see how well the environmental integrity of a very large volume of offsets is guaranteed ... as opposed to shopping for the least expensive offsets.

Policy-wise, the biggest political



New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Source: New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2018, published April 2020

unknown is the ultimate treatment of NZ's agriculture sector, which accounts for 47.8% of NZ's greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane from livestock. An elaborate consultation with the sector, He Waka Eke Noa, has produced two options for how farmers' emissions footprint might be handled – at the processing stage or farm-by-farm – and these are presently being 'tested' with farmers and growers by the relevant farm industry groups.

More on this from *BayBuzz* as outcomes are announced in the Government's National Emissions Reduction Plan.

As for Hawke's Bay, the Regional Council, nominal leader on climate change response, will be receiving a work plan in March from its recently-hired 'Climate Ambassador', pointing toward a regional action plan by year's end.

Regarding methane

Methane, the greenhouse gas 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and accounting for 36.5% of NZ's total emissions, will be the test of NZ (i.e., Labour Government's) political character.

In Glasgow, NZ joined an

international pledge to lower global methane emissions by at least 30% of 2020 levels by 2030 (a collective target, not per-country goal). NZ's present commitment in its Zero Carbon Act is to cut biogenic methane emissions (those from living organisms) by 10% on 2017 levels by 2030 and by 24-47% by 2050.

Scientists have seen a sharp rise in methane emissions since 2007. Anthropogenic sources such as livestock, agricultural waste, landfill and fossil-fuel extraction account for about 62% of total methane emissions since from 2007 to 2016. But microbes in wetlands are the largest source of methane emissions, and scientists are worried that global warming itself has already triggered a feedback loop where temperature rise is fuelling wetlands emissions.

The graphic above neatly depicts NZ's emissions profile.

International pledges

After all the trumpeted pledges at November's Glasgow Climate Summit (the so-called 'last, best hope' summit) on national emissions, coal reduction, deforestation, methane etc, world leaders still fell far short of the targets and actions required.



Meanwhile the temperature rises

According to the latest data compiled by the European Union (Copernicus Climate Change Service), 2021 was the fifth hottest on record for the planet. Globally, the mean temperature last year was 1.1 to 1.2 Celsius higher than pre-industrialisation records.

And the last seven years have also been the seven hottest on record. The hottest years on record are 2016 and 2020, tied for the 'honour'.

The NASA and NOAA agencies in the US report the same.

Here in New Zealand, NIWA's own climate analysis places 2021 as NZ's hottest year on record (based upon records back to 1909). Annual temperatures were above average (+0.51C to +1.20C above the average) for much of NZ.

The hottest temperature of 2021 award went to Ashburton at 39.4C on January 26.

2021 New Zealand temperature award: Ashburton at 39.4°C on January 26

According to the respected Climate Action Tracker consortium: "Even with all new Glasgow pledges for 2030, we will emit roughly twice as much in 2030 as required for 1.5°C," referring to the aspirational goal for warming since pre-industrial levels set down in the 2015 Paris Agreement. They estimated that the new pledges (even making the dicey assumption that all would actually be met) would lead to around 2.4 degrees Celsius of global warming this century.

These estimates matched those made by the UN Environmental Programme and the International Energy Agency.

If there's any good news here, it's further undercut by a Washington Post in-depth investigation that found many countries are providing unreliable data to the UN, producing a giant gap between reported emissions and what is actually released into the atmosphere.

To meet the 1.5°C limit, scientists say global greenhouse gas emissions, must fall 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and hit net zero by 2050.

This article from Bloomberg Green provided a good review of the Glasgow outcomes: www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2021-11-14/what-the-big-glasgow-deal-really-achieved-cop26-daily?



US Army going green?

Perhaps a surprise player in the climate change mitigation game is the US Defense Department (DOD). It accounts for 56% of the federal government's carbon footprint and 52% of its electricity use. A footprint bigger than over 100 nations – about 56 million tons of CO2 equivalent, roughly the same as Portugal, Denmark or Finland.

But its interest in reducing that footprint is not entirely altruistic.

A new strategy just announced by the US Army (DOD's biggest energy user) notes "an increased risk of armed conflict in places where established social orders and populations are disrupted. The risk will rise even more where climate effects compound social instability, reduce access to basic necessities, undermine fragile governments and economies, damage vital infrastructure, and lower agricultural production."

And from purely a war-fighting and soldier protection standpoint, measures that might reduce

conventional fuel use/dependence and lessen the need from troop deployment in (increasing) natural situations create win/win opportunities.

The strategy notes: "For today's soldiers operating in extreme temperature environments, fighting wildfires, and supporting hurricane recovery, climate change isn't a distant future, it is a reality."

The army strategy sets out ambitious goals: carbon-free electricity for installations by 2030. Net zero emissions from the army's 130 installations by 2045. Non-combat all-electric vehicles used to get around bases by 2035; fully electric tactical vehicles by 2050. Microgrid installations on all army posts by 2035, paving the way for increased renewable energy (lessening dependence on vulnerable power grids). And perhaps most ambitious of all: reaching net-zero emissions in all of the army's procurements by 2050 ... that's a huge supply chain! ●

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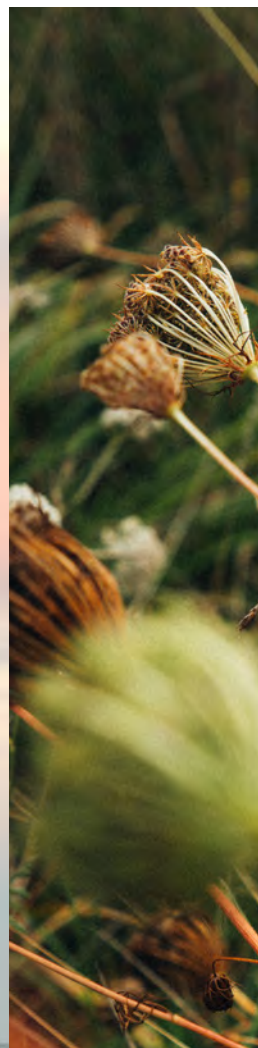
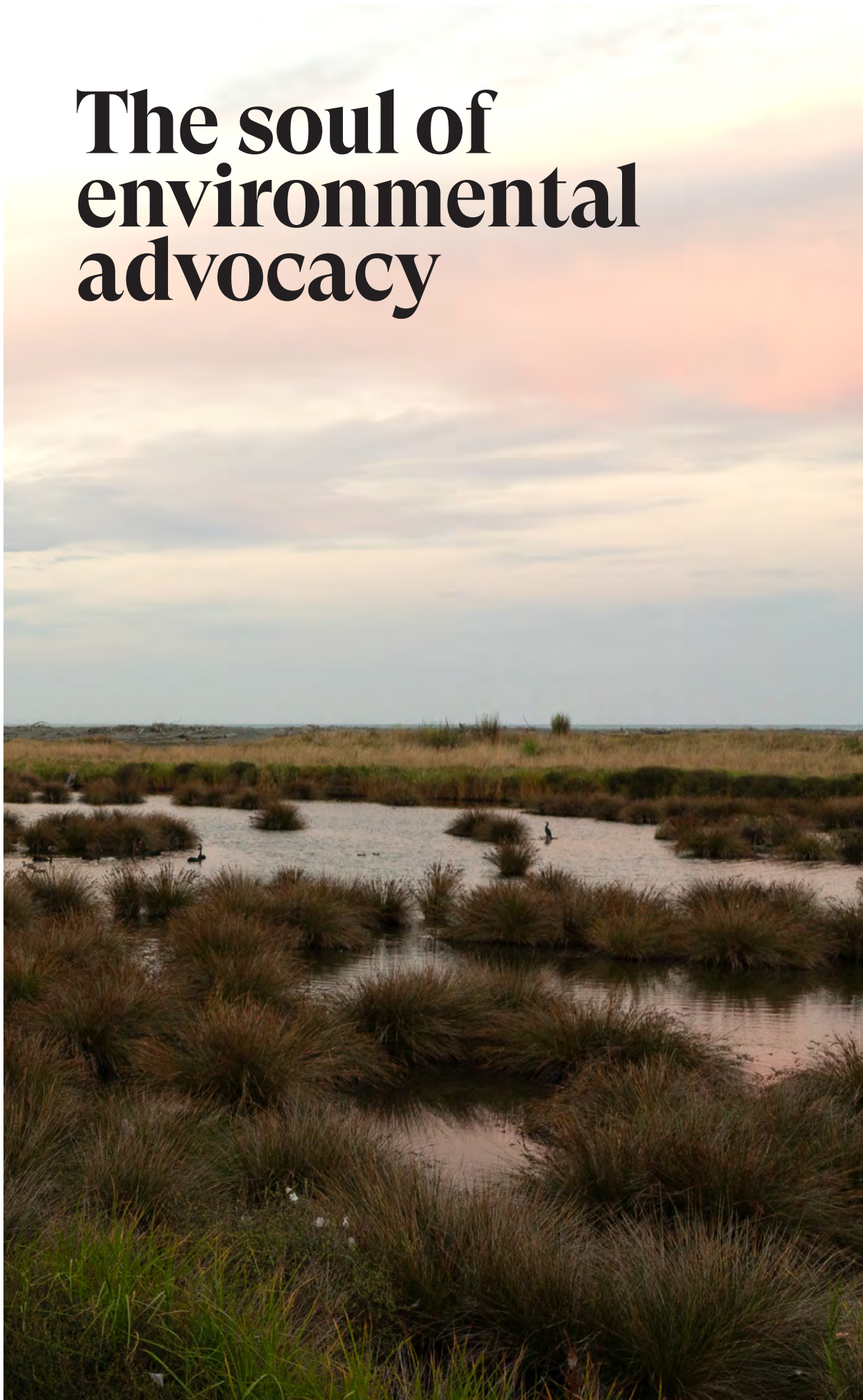
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The soul of environmental advocacy





Story by Bridget Freeman-Rock

Climate change, soil and biodiversity loss, freshwater injustice – where we live just south of Hastings, the planetary crisis is an insistent, everyday awareness.

For my 15-year-old especially, it's a hard burden to bear. He cannot understand why we all carry on as if nothing is happening, while for him it's so obvious that *everything* must change.



Our individual actions alone will never be enough, while governments it seems are not up to the task. But in the interstitial space of community, local councils, business, galvanising gains are being made, and it's here I went searching for inspiration and answers as to how best to focus the wasted energies of personal overwhelm and gloom into empowering, effective action.

As part of what will be a bigger body of work than what I planned to feature here, I interviewed ten 'environmental advocates' in Hawke's Bay. Ten people who are working in diverse and collaborative ways to bring forth a healthier, future-liveable world: giving voice to, interceding on behalf of, and facilitating relationships with the environment, te taio, that contains and surrounds us.

I asked them to speak about their work; to share their views on what matters most and what they believe are critical actions for change, as well as what gives them hope; and their tips for taking action. As Dominic Salmon of 3R Group says, "you can't change anything unless you participate", so do take note of their collective advice, distilled into a citizen guide for making change (see side-bar, page 21).

The three portraits that follow are offered as an opening glimpse into the work and wisdom of some of these 'voices for our environment' - those who have already been doing the mahi for years.



Photo: Tom Allan

Bernie Kelly: bird ‘enthusiast’ and citizen scientist

From Clive River mouth, where we’ve been watching oyster catchers tend to their chicks westside of the channel, Bernie Kelly, ecology ‘enthusiast’ and regional rep of Birds NZ Hawke’s Bay, points out a small, wetland area to the east. “Spotless crake are a signature bird. If you’ve got that bird in your wetland, that’s a good indicator. Well, I’ve got them over there, and marsh crake too.”

Banded dotterels, blackbacked gulls, white-fronted terns, bitterns. Bernie is continually monitoring the water birds in his neighbourhood, and at Ahuriri and Porangahau, logging data counts into an atlas portal on the eBird app, working with others on the wader census – the longest-running citizen scientist project in New Zealand, conducting

twice-yearly census surveys, laying traps for predators. That’s in his spare time, when he’s not up at Boundary Stream as a DOC ranger, working with a team at the most inland seabird translocation site in the country, bringing regionally-extinct seabirds back to the area.

He likens bird-spotting to being a modern-day explorer, “If you’re lucky you can be on the forefront of things. Be up in the Maungaharuru ranges and hear the first Cook’s petrel to be heard in 300 years. Or be the first to record evidence of royal spoonbills nesting in the north island – that’s the exciting part!”

But what motivates him at the heart of it, is simply “ecology” – “you can’t have birds without the right habitat, you have to protect or create it.”

“The only way you can make change is through law, and you’ve got to have evidence.”

BERNIE KELLY

Concerned about a proposal by the Regional Council to dredge the Clive riverbed, essentially to create more access for power boats to “bang up and down” to the detriment of the estuarine ecology, he’s lodged a submission against it.

“To me, this is like a wildlife reserve. I am always trying to advocate for it.” He is pragmatic about the fact such areas of environmental sensitivity border areas of urban living, and he’s not into banning people from recreation, but believes we could all do a little less of the things that have impact, while “going in to bat” for the world we enjoy.

www.birdsnz.org.nz



Photo: Florence Charvin

Marilyn Scott: grassroots environmental stalwart

Marilyn Scott doesn't give up, but she's "just a bit sick of writing submission after submission ... to regional councils, city councils, and definitely to government" while "miniscule progress" is made.

She'll continue writing them, of course, just as she will continue writing letters that won't get published to newspaper editors and to supermarkets and companies that fob her off. It's what she terms the second, thankless, level of advocacy, and she will do it because "the planet's a mess and it's human arrogance that made it" and if enough people speak out it might build a groundswell.

We're sitting at her kitchen table surrounded by the evidence of her first-level labours: jars of homemade pickles and relish, sourdough bread rising on

the bench, a profusion of flowers, fruit trees and vegetables in the back garden. "Environmental advocacy starts with ourselves - challenging the consumerism and throw-away society we live in." But ultimately, it's about collaboration and cooperation, moving beyond "parallel lines and silos" to take it next level.

Marilyn was the local Green Party co-convenor for a number of years and is busy at any time in any number of grassroots environmental projects (beach clean-ups, litter audits, Save the Dotterels), organising volunteers, rallying councils, getting things done (often) in spite of them. "When you find there's a barrier, or when you find yourself picking up the pieces, you need to look for an ally. Often that's the coalface worker, the person picking up rubbish for the council who's usually the last to

"We need to restore our balance with nature and live within our boundaries."

MARILYN SCOTT

be consulted on what's needed to fix a waste problem."

At the overarching systems level, Marilyn supports Moana Jackson's initiative for constitutional change, "I really believe that if we had a different form of government in our country, where there was a rightful place for tangata whenua, then tangata tiriti - those of us who are here by virtue of the Treaty - would be well served... I really believe that those fundamental values that underpin indigenous cultures, like te ao Māori, would make such a difference."

In the spirit of genuine, bicultural partnership, she's currently enrolled in a Level 5 immersion te reo Māori course.

"I don't have all the answers, I just know I want to do the very best I can in the time I've got to make a difference."



Photo: Florence Charvin

Tyne Nelson: healing Papatūānuku

I meet with Tyne Nelson at Te Mata Peak in soft constant rain, in the small, somewhat overgrown area just below the middle car park. It's the place where pines once stood, now gradually being seeded with native medicinal plants that will in time become a forest.

Tyne (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Hine), who learnt alongside renowned rongoā practitioner Robert (Pa) McGowan for many years, is the rongoā leader for this nascent, indigenous healing 'garden', intended as a wānanga site and a place of connection, restoration, nurture.

"The way I understand rongoā, this is a huge opportunity to give it its full breadth. Instead of just teaching people what to remember (this plant does that), it's teaching people skills on how to observe and learn for themselves ... from the source."

In Hawke's Bay, as she points out, our remnants of native bush are few and far between, the ngahere not easily accessible. For many Māori, "We're tangata whenua but without any whenua to go

to ... it's hard to practise our culture. For Heretaunga/Tamatea whānau in particular, there's a lot of grief." But, "We all connect to this place, those of us who live here, it's quite prominent, and it's nice for people who love this place to also give back".

At the heart of environmental advocacy, she believes, is the need for building relationships.

"If you advocate on anyone's behalf, you are speaking for them, so you have to have a relationship first, you have to listen to those you are serving, being that bridge." Likewise, "We need to make sure we're rekindling our relationship with our rivers, our land, if we're to advocate for them."

"I believe the land literally speaks to us, but we have to actually be there, on the ground, and be present and open to hear what it's telling us. We need more opportunities for people to do that, to build that direct connection, so when we're there at council advocating, we can feel it in our bones."

"We need to rekindle our relationship with the land."

TYNE NELSON

The development of the rongoā garden is a very organic process - "We take it month by month", with regular, respectful discussion and input from a diverse range of people and volunteers, including the Park's trustees, pooling skills and experience. This allows for experimentation and for figuring out a different, more holistic way of doing things, to watch and respond to what's happening, rather than taking an "elbow-reflex way of management". The hope is that there will be lessons learned for the wider park and for other places in Hawke's Bay.

Along with establishing Te Mata Peak's Rongoā area and caring for her babies, Tyne is studying a bachelor of science (environment and communication). Systemic, infrastructural change is what's required, and "I want to be that bridge."

For more on Te Mata's community rongoā group, Te Roopu Puke Atea of Te Mata Peak (all welcome), see: www.facebook.com/teroopupukeatea/

How to effect positive environmental change

- Do the things you can individually to make a difference – every little bit counts but it's also about personal integrity, doing what feels right.
 - Foster relationships with the non-human world by observing, listening to, being with, whether in your backyard, local park or the great outdoors: it will grow both your affinity to place and your understanding of what's required.
 - Speak up: talk with people; contact the media; pester companies about their product stewardship; write an article, a letter, a Facebook post.
- Do what moves you (plant trees, campaign for better public transport, care for creatures, become a citizen scientist, sort e-waste, help build resilient communities) – everything's connected, so any action is an entry point, a contribution.
 - Connect with others doing similar things to grow momentum, be more effective and to share the load: join a community group; participate in a workshop; exchange homegrown produce; start a local campaign.
- Examine your own cultural biases, take a course on Te Titiriti.
 - Engage with your local councils: pick a councillor and ask to meet them for coffee to talk about your concerns (they're your elected representatives, even if you are too young to vote); make a submission (if you're not into writing, try via video); attend a meeting; take up an issue.
 - Vote for those who understand the need for change.
 - If necessary, blockade. ●

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HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI



Water ... intrigue at every turn

Political update by Tom Belford

Sorry, it's about water ... again!

Forget about Covid and potential interruption of anything resembling 'normal' health care. Forget about any number of labour shortages or supply chain glitches that could cripple our regional economy. Forget about climate change. Forget about the speed limit for the Napier-Taupō road.

I know that many people are passionately involved and upset about these distractions, but for pure political theatre and intrigue of the highest order, nothing in Hawke's Bay beats water.

How much do we have? How much do we use or need? Who controls it? Who gets it? How clean and healthy is it? Who's responsible when it floods our streets or sickens us?

All this fuss over a free resource. You would think we were sitting on oil (thankfully, we're over that phase) or cadmium.

And you might be surprised that there is still perplexing uncertainty over how much water we actually have and need in the region. That answer is

about to come from a Regional Council analysis - Regional Water Assessment - examining water supply and demand prospects over the next 50 years. Answering questions like: Does CHB need an additional 100 million cubes of water? What interventions might close any identified gaps?

Think of water decision-making as happening around a three-sided table occupied by commercial users (irrigators and industrial), councils (purportedly representing you, the household consumer), and 'the environment' (itself voiceless and totally dependent on humans to champion its requirements, with occasional help from the Regional Council).

As these three parties bicker and compete, the Government watches from above and occasionally dictates critical rules of the game through various laws and policy instruments.

For example, when putting water to use, the highest priority must go to protecting the environment, then to human consumption, then to economic use.

Likewise, the Government dictates environmental bottom lines for water quality, most recently in the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater. While new national drinking water standards will be promulgated later this year and enforced by a new national agency.

And at the same time, the Government has made clear that Māori hold a co-governance role with regard to *all* water matters and has proposed significant centralisation over investment in and management of local stormwater and wastewater infrastructure, currently the domain of, in many cases, largely niggardly and/or inept local councils.

So that sets the stage for the political theatre unfolding in Hawke's Bay in 2022. There's not a bad seat in the house.

Heretaunga Plains

A few acts back, it appeared that water issues critical to the central part of the region were on a path to resolution via the TANK (Tūtaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro, Karamū) multi-stakeholder



When putting water to use, the highest priority must go to protecting the environment, then to human consumption, then to economic use.

initiative to produce a plan change encompassing water management of those waterways and the underlying Heretaunga aquifer.

The TANK-recommended Plan Change 9 involved compromise from all parties but proffered a comprehensive, consensual framework for managing water access and quality across the Plains. Unfortunately, the draft Plan, first presented in August 2018, was left twisting in the wind, left to the mercy of the Regional Council's intractable Regional Planning Committee (the region's first experience with co-governance). Finally, formally notified in May 2020, the Plan Change,

after some 240 submissions, still sits before an Independent Hearing Panel, which must make its decisions by May, and those would be appealable to the Environment Court.

The HBRC-recommended Plan includes a cap on new water allocations across the Plains, applies a sinking lid 'reasonable use' approach to existing water consents, provides more demanding water quality standards, and sets out 'source protection zones' where on-land activities would be more tightly regulated to avoid aquifer and stream contamination.

With the HBRC Plan Change pending, to stage left, some environmental and Māori interests mounted an effort to have the entire Ngaruroro River (from mountains to sea) placed under a Water Conservation Order, an instrument intended to afford higher levels of protection to especially valuable and threatened waterways. WCOs involve their own Special Tribunal process, with submissions and appeals, which has resulted in duplicative consideration of

many of the issues dealt with through the TANK process. HBRC is "hopeful" that the Environment Court will make its final decision in early 2022.

And yet another disputed plan change initiated in 2019, affecting all of HB, involves protection of so-called "Outstanding Water Bodies". So far, a Hearings Panel has designated 15 OWBs in Hawke's Bay, with another 23 candidates not making the cut, but this process too remains in the midst of Environment Court-led mediation.

Eventually, possibly this year, some wizard will need to sort out what rules have actually survived to manage water flowing through and under Hawke's Bay's heartland.

Central Hawke's Bay

In CHB, the main prequels to today's theatre were efforts to rid the Tukituki River of contaminants (i.e. sewage) from CHB's inadequate treatment systems, and of course the ill-fated Ruataniwha dam.

Under an 2007 Environment Court



“It would be irresponsible to pour taxpayers’ money into propping up a broken system, or let households face unprecedented rises in water costs.”

NANAIA MAHUTA,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER

order to clean up its act by 2014, the CHBDC fumbled through a number of failed attempts (including the infamous ‘floating wetlands’). With water quality standards unmet. The current regime, to its credit, has taken its responsibility more seriously, but the needed infrastructure improvements are still a work-in-progress.

Failed previous advocacy for the \$300 million Ruantaniwha Dam (plus that amount in distribution costs) is a book unto itself. [For those new to the issue, I disclose being an ardent opponent of that dam.]

But supporters - Tukituki Water Security Project, led by CHB farmer and former NZ trade ambassador Mike Petersen - are attempting to breathe new life into the proposed dam on the Makaroro. Centralines is the primary financial supporter of this campaign, to the tune of \$200k; however, the CHBDC has also allocated \$250k for examination of ‘water security’ options, without transparency as to how those funds might be used.

One might think that allocating \$450k of Centralines consumers’ and CHBDC ratepayers’ money constitutes imprudently throwing ‘good money after bad’ given that the bedrock impediment to damming the Makaroro is a Supreme Court ruling blocking a DOC decision that would have allowed officially protected conservation land to be inundated.

Dam 2 proponents are coy as to how they might remove that obstacle. Their public ‘re-scoping’ report simply says: “This land issue requires a legislative resolution similar to the Waimea Dam

land and Tangata Whenua sponsorship/ leadership on this issue is critical.”

Proponents, claiming transparency, will need to be more transparent about their intentions on this key matter.

The most likely option would be for the CHB District Council to propose a ‘local bill’. Local bills deal with matters confined to a particular locality and must be promoted by the local authority with jurisdiction over that locality. As the Parliament website notes: “For example, a local bill may ask Parliament to lift a land-use restriction or permit a land-use for a particular place that would normally be outside the law.”

Notice of an intention to promote a local bill must be advertised. In this case, one (or all) of three Labour MPs claiming some representation of CHB - Kieran McAnulty, Anna Lorck, Meka Whaitiri - would take charge of the bill.

McAnulty and Lorck responded to *BayBuzz* inquiries with ‘wait and see’ responses, Lorck commenting: “...the project is still in its early stages and there’s been no formal request to sponsor a Local Bill. I’m unable to comment on a Local Bill without knowing the detail of what’s in it.” That said, Lorck was a vocal supporter of Dam 1 and it is rather unlikely she would find Dam 2 less appealing.

Of course, the Government itself could introduce legislation to accomplish the aim. If the Labour Government or its local MPs are not interested, then the Petersen group must hope for a National-led Government before the existing dam consents expire in four years.

At least *some* Māori would need

to support that initiative. Ngāti Kahungunu strongly opposed the Ruataniwha scheme, so proponents of any resurrection will need to convince decision-makers that *their* Māori are the ones that really count!

Without a sanction to inundate the conservation land, the myriad other issues surrounding a major dam are moot and won’t need to be re-debated. But that would still leave the challenge of how best to supply and allocate water in CHB.

Any genuinely honest inquiry into that must begin by reconsidering how how CHB water is presently (over)allocated ... something dam proponents are loathe to do.

Is it appropriate for 10 CHB water users (most of them dairy operations) to take 59% of the allocated groundwater and for ten (including the same biggest groundwater users) to take 67% of the surface water - a total of 32 million cubes? For comparison, CHBDC’s municipal allocation is 3.3 million cubes.

Any schemes to provide additional water must address the ‘sanctity’ and saneness of the current allocation. Otherwise they would effectively ‘grandfather’ in practices that are patently inequitable and unsustainable.

Better to ‘call in’ *all* Ruataniwha groundwater and related surface water consents with the purpose of negotiating an arrangement more suitable to ecological needs and future sustainable land uses in CHB.

BayBuzz will stand watch on Dam 2, starting by raising legitimate questions and investigating underlying assumptions.

While the Petersen group ponders its DOC strategy, other water schemes are afloat in CHB.

So-called 'Tranche 2' water - 15 million cubes the Dam Commission 'found' available in the over-allocated Ruataniwha aquifer back in 2015 - is being sought by a group of nine applicants via the normal consenting process. Except for them, no one with any knowledge of the situation believes that water is there for the taking. Here's what HBRC has said:

"There remains significant uncertainty over the scale of residual adverse effects resulting from Tranche 2 abstraction. We have concerns over the potential scale of adverse effects on wetlands, streams and wells across the Basin, but particularly in areas where there is already significant Tranche 1 abstraction occurring. We also still have concerns about how the Tranche 2 proposal will work in extreme years (worse than a 1 in 10 year event) and the scale of effects in these years when augmentation may not be able to continue.

"Furthermore, we have concerns over the impacts on water quality from farm system changes as a result of irrigation and note that a number of the properties are located in catchments where the instream nitrogen target is already significantly exceeded. Land use consent is already required for these properties and would not likely be granted to allow for any increase in nitrogen loss. We note that for dairy farms wishing to expand irrigation, land use and discharge consents are required under the NES FW and that a consent cannot be granted unless they are able to demonstrate expansion will not lead to any increase in load or concentrations of contaminants in the catchment."

The Regional Council, which opposed the Commission on this matter at the time, is required by law to process these applications. As HBRC is a regulator in the matter, the consents will be adjudged by an independent hearings panel.

And lastly there is the HBRC-sponsored experiment with Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) in CHB, which involves capturing high-flow surface water and allowing it to soak into the aquifer (or be pumped in) so as to support groundwater extraction in dry periods.

Some environmentalists and Māori question the approach, seeing it as a band-aid to cover the underlying problem, which is excessive use of water for commercial benefit, and worrying that

the nature and quality of the aquifer water will be adversely affected.

Planning for this has been completed, as well as extensive consultation with affected landowners and mana whenua. Withdrawing the high-flow supply water from the Waipawa has been consented; the next step is seeking consent to discharge the water into the aquifer. As this is a pilot, the project is very localized and consent is limited to five years. *BayBuzz* has reported in detail on the MAR proposal in our Nov/Dec magazine (article here: www.baybuzz.co.nz/water-solution-or-playing-god)

Napier

Napier's water problems revolve around too much rather than too little water. This is underscored each time a heavy rainfall results in sewage spilling into Napier streets and the Ahuriri Estuary.

With much of Napier's water infrastructure failure the legacy of previous regimes, it still falls upon the current mayor and council to provide new commitment and direction - and resources - to begin clawing back to appropriately modern, robust and reliable water services.

To its credit, Napier's current long-term plan, reaching to 2031, allocates \$74 million over its ten years to improving and protecting water supply, \$73.5 million to improving wastewater infrastructure and \$42.3 million to improving stormwater systems.

What NCC now needs to deliver is regular clear reporting detailing its progress with implementation of this plan. As it stands, NCC has no credibility to rant against the Government's '3 Waters' reform plan (addressed below).

Wairoa

For years the Wairoa District Council has dumped its community's sewage - even mortuary waste - into the Wairoa River. Throughout, Wairoa's political leadership has pleaded good intentions thwarted by Council poverty ... 'We know its nasty, but it's the best we can afford.'

Only last October were new consent conditions put into place that will - perhaps - see this practice stopped by requiring the establishment of 50 hectares of land-based irrigation (using treated wastewater), adding 30,000 cubes of additional effluent storage capacity (to mitigate 'emergency dumps of sewage into the river) and commencing UV treatment and filtration.

If these routine sewage-into-river

- Green matcha latte almond milk
- Moccachino half-strength decaf
- Coconut latte with cinnamon
- Frappuccino soy milk

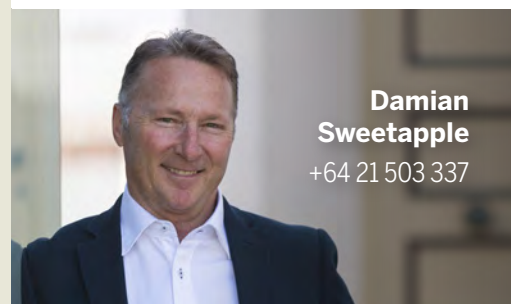


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Is it appropriate for 10 CHB water users (most of them dairy operations) to take 59% of the allocated groundwater and for ten (including the same biggest groundwater users) to take 67% of the surface water – a total of 32 million cubes? For comparison, CHBDC’s municipal allocation is 3.3 million cubes.

practices were happening in Napier (hmmm!) or Hastings, imagine the public clamour!

But insulated from regional scrutiny and concern by Devil’s Elbow, Wairoa has been left to operate to Third World standards.

Freeing Mayor Craig Little, ironically, to be a highly vocal champion of opposition to the Government’s ‘3 Waters’ proposal to take these matters out of the hands of local councils unable or unwilling to provide their citizens with modern water treatment processes and facilities.

So, let’s turn to ‘3 Waters’.

Issue too big for locals

Each of our territorial authorities has its water management horror stories, and these reflect systematic neglect of prudent water infrastructure management.

In reports prepared for the Water New Zealand National Performance Review, the Hastings and Napier councils reported their pipeline conditions as follows:

- Hastings: 17% of drinking water pipelines are in poor condition, and 9% of wastewater network is in poor condition.
- Napier: 42% of drinking water pipelines are in poor condition, 35% of wastewater network is in poor condition and 10% of the stormwater network is in poor condition.

Triggered by the Havelock North campylobacter disaster - but reflecting failures like those described in this article that routinely occur nation-wide - the Government has proposed a major consolidation of drinking water, stormwater and wastewater management - i.e., ‘3 Waters’ - into four pan-regional water entities. To be in place as of July 2024, these would have the scale, resources and professional competence to tackle the needed upgrades equitably for all New Zealanders.

Put simply, a nation-wide pattern of local government neglect and/or

incompetence with respect to these most critical services has been well-documented ... and will cost in the neighbourhood of \$185 billion to fix. *BayBuzz* has reported extensively online on the issues surrounding the Government proposal (Search “3 Waters” on our website).

Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta has commented: “Local councils are trying to deal with the upkeep of aging infrastructure, which is literally crumbling in some of our biggest cities. They face the additional strains of growing population, climate change resilience and extreme weather events, as well as competing for a limited number of skilled workers to do the job.

“It would be irresponsible to pour taxpayers’ money into propping up a broken system, or let households face unprecedented rises in water costs. Currently 43 of the 67 councils do not have the revenue to cover their water services operating expenditures at the moment, let alone once the infrastructure starts failing.”

“Irresponsible” is dead right.

However, our councils are bitterly opposing the reorganisation, shamelessly camouflaging their historic neglect and future inability to afford modern, well-maintained, human- and environmentally-safe systems with a campaign for ‘local control’ and ‘democracy’.

And plenty of locals are soaking it up and signing petitions, apparently unable to connect the dots between their sickness, sewage in their streets, estuaries and rivers - and the local councils responsible for these failures. One can only marvel at the hutzpah of our local politicians and the gullibility of so many uninformed residents ... effectively, fighting for their right to be abused.

So far, to its credit, the Government has stood by its proposal, while negotiating around the governance structure to accommodate both accountability for billions in future taxpayer investment and appropriate local input.

Takeaways

In considering this smorgasbord of regional water challenges, here are some themes that emerge.

- Across the board, central Government is asserting itself vigorously - from water quality standards to infrastructure change. Politically this seems to reflect significant Labour Government distrust of local governments’ will or ability to deal with tough issues. The defendants label this ‘anti-democratic’.
- Resolving critical water issues proceeds at a glacial pace, given knowledge gaps and uncertainty and processes intended to give all parties their due hearing. Opportunities to delay abound. The resources required to participate effectively are overwhelmingly in the hands of commercial interests. And the battles never end.
- Māori influence on water-related matters is steadily being amplified in all water policy instruments. With respect to water, co-governance is either here ... or at the doorstep. And at this stage, Māori involvement, its value notwithstanding, can be hugely disruptive as that community sorts out its roles, internal politics, knowledge and engagement capacities, and true policy objectives (e.g., environmental protection versus ‘a piece of the action’).
- The environmental bar *will* be lifted. Public demand for safe, environmentally sustainable water management and outcomes is here to stay ... and is reinforced by the expectations of our overseas customers. The marketplace rules.
- At the same time, however, most of the public are uninformed and largely unengaged in the machinations around who controls water and water decision-making in the region. Those with commercial interests in water ‘work the process’ assiduously, bringing more influence to the table more persistently than either Māori or environmentalists at this point.

While we’re great at weekend tree-planting, there is no well-resourced environmental organisation in Hawke’s Bay capable of conducting serious research, staging a major public education or lobbying campaign, or filing a legal intervention.

And that’s dangerous to the public good. ●

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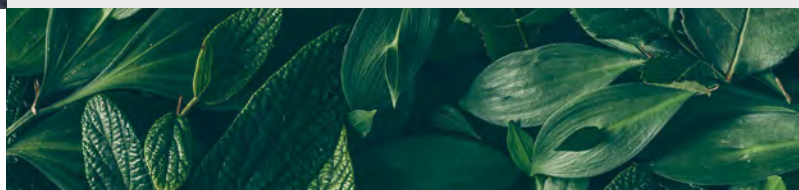
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Yes, it's an election year!

It is that time of the triennial again where we get to take stock of what promises have been kept and where all that pork has been spent (or not spent – it makes for news either way). However, this year's elections are a little different – with Covid-19 influencing rightly or wrongly what promises our councillors could or couldn't keep.

Story by Sophie Price



“I just think the Government is a disgrace, doing what [it] is doing,” he says in reference to ‘3 Waters’. “It’s just crazy talking about assets that actually they don’t even own.”

CRAIG LITTLE,
WAIROA MAYOR



Wairoa mayor Craig Little.

Moreover, Covid-19 effectively grounded our foreign minister, Nanaia Mahuta, giving her a lot more time to focus on her Local Government portfolio. And advocating once-in-a-generation local government reforms, she most certainly has used her down-time to its fullest.

With the pot stirred, I spoke to the Bay’s five leaders - our four mayors and the HBRC chair.

Wairoa

Our wee pre-election amble begins at the top of our region in Wairoa - the Bay’s smallest district with, they say, the biggest heart.

“We matter up here,” long-time Mayor Craig Little told me over the phone. Well at least that is what I thought I heard - the reception was spotty at best - which only serves to prove Little’s point when it comes to Central Government.

And hasn’t Wellington given Craig much to muse on these past couple of years - with a raft of local government reforms and the old political chestnut of broken promises.

From the Three Waters Reform Programme (‘3 Waters’), to forestry, to the closure of Lake Waikaremoana and the nation’s last unsealed state

highway, Little is taking aim at Central Government.

And he may have a point. Tiny districts like Wairoa already get tiny amounts of attention and funding from Central Government as it is, leaving the local authority to pick up the pieces for their constituents and find champions like Little who aren’t afraid to raise their voice over the top of Wellington’s white noise.

And Little wasted no time in getting to the point. “I just think the Government is a disgrace, doing what [it] is doing,” he says in reference to ‘3 Waters’. “It’s just crazy talking about assets that actually they don’t even own.”

When it comes to ‘3 Waters’, Little, who claims his town’s water “is in pretty good shape”, is in favour of the regional programme - Hawke’s Bay Three Waters (you can check it out at: www.hb3waters.nz). He laments that bigger isn’t always better.

Looking to Mahuta’s other reforms - Little says they could signal the end of councils as we know them. “I always have a bit of a laugh at the Government doing these reforms, because they should be looking at themselves first,” he says. Little says the reforms are probably the wrong way around. That overarching local government reform

should have come first as it would have informed proposed changes to the Three Waters and Resource Management.

Another bugbear of the mayor is the short term fix to New Zealand’s long term emissions problem - forestry.

Little says the Government should be looking at stopping those who are emitting instead of letting them buy valuable farmland so they can off-set their carbon footprint. “We are looking at losing about 800ha [at time of interview] on two different farms this week,” he says, with it going to people using the forest growth to set up a limited liability company and gain their carbon credits, while not allowing native forest to grow. Moreover, Little says forestry will “kill tourism and small business”. “The majority of workers in forestry come from out of town. So they don’t spend their money in town. The Government needs to wake up ... this is really short term thinking.”

Talking about short-term thinking, Wairoa hasn’t escaped the housing crisis affecting all of Aotearoa. “It’s been a disaster,” says Little. “We still haven’t got one house built here in Wairoa.”

He says locals who are trying to get on their feet are being forced to leave their community and find housing



Hastings mayor Sandra Hazlehurst.

elsewhere in the Bay because “the government aren’t helping us out a whole lot”. Wairoa is in desperate need of social housing, rentals and homes for first-time buyers. “That is what we need”.

So with what Wairoa is facing at the moment will Little stand for mayor again? “There is a lot of stuff on the plate, so we’ll just see. I have always said that I would run for three terms, but you never say never.”

Napier

Wandering down to Napier, I find myself a tad thirsty and wonder if chlorine will be on the drinks menu at one of the Deco city’s fine dining establishments. Not disappointed, I Zoom in with Mayor Kirsten Wise (Omicron and all that) and ask when I can have a cup of 100% Pure NZ that tastes a little less like cleaning fluid.

Wise says a lengthy review revealed it will cost ratepayers a cool \$284 million (or thereabouts) for this to happen. Despite this figure, the mayor is optimistic that such a move is achievable, but that it is still not entirely clear what the council will need to do to be granted an exemption, as chlorine-free criteria have yet to be set.

Given the amount of money required

to fix a system riddled with years of neglect, Wise concedes that if the current ‘3 Waters’ proposal put forward by Government goes ahead - “the likelihood of us ever being able to remove the chlorine from our network is probably 0%” as it will cost more to remove the chemical from multi-regional entities as such work wouldn’t be prioritised. “That’s one of the reasons that we are fighting as hard as we can to have the current proposal taken off the table and replaced with an alternative model.”

It’s for reasons like this that Wise agrees with Little when he says that the Government has gotten the raft of reforms in the wrong order. “It’s pretty disappointing that they didn’t actually undertake the higher level overarching local government reform piece of work first” before looking at taking away the water which is around 50% of core business for local authorities. “As Kiwis [having] a local voice is really important to us.”

While Napier’s water woes are seemingly top priority for most ratepayers - having chlorine-free water or not doesn’t really matter if you don’t have a home from which to access it. (It should be noted that this time last year Napier had the highest number

of people on the waitlist per capita for social housing).

With limited housing stock provided by Central Government (be it state housing or Kiwibuild), Napier City Council fills a gap for 377 homes and their upkeep is eating into ratepayer dollars as councils don’t qualify

“The [civic building] concept that we’re working on is that it’s going to be much more of a community hub. And that actually the likes of say, our council chambers, may well form part of the library; there’ll be spaces there for community organisations to use. For example, we may have the likes of Citizens Advice Bureau [in there].”

KIRSTEN WISE,
NAPIER MAYOR

for the Central Government’s housing subsidy that other public housing providers do. “We don’t have the funding to be able to maintain the houses and that’s the only reason that we’re even

“Housing is absolutely my passion and my focus, I am absolutely committed to getting people out of motels and into housing.”

SANDRA HAZLEHURST,
HASTINGS MAYOR

contemplating selling them.” She says the council doesn’t want to sell the units [this will be up to ratepayers], but if forced to, the units will not go out onto the open market.

While tackling these national issues, Napier City Council is also trying to tackle core business issues including city safety, the Onekawa pool saga, and its civic buildings (or lack thereof).

City safety is a priority for Wise. “We have had issues with beggars and anti-social behaviour.” She says this has been the driver behind Council’s

new Safety Working Group, investing in a CCTV network and a city ambassador programme - similar to the one Hastings District Council runs.

The ongoing saga of Onekawa Pool, is just that ... ongoing. Wise says, at the time of writing, the concerns around the site being contaminated (it sits on a disused landfill) aren’t anywhere near as bad as they might have been, so now they are working through options about whether to leave it at Onekawa or not. “But in the meantime we need to refurbish it and keep it going for probably 7-8 years because in all reality a new pool is 7-8 years away.” So, Onekawa could still lose its facility.

Going from a limping facility to no facilities, NCC still lacks a central library and civic building, with both being spread out in buildings through Napier. Wise said the library would be returning to its original site in a completely new building, with work starting next year and that the civic building would follow.

“The [civic building] concept that we’re working on is that it’s going to be much more of a community hub. And that actually the likes of say, our council chambers, may well form part of the library; there’ll be spaces there for community organisations to use.

For example, we may have the likes of Citizens Advice Bureau [in there].”

There is plenty to weigh if Napier voters feel she deserves another three years in the top job.

Hastings

In the Hastings District, making sure everyone has someplace to call home is Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst’s top priority.

Through *Homes for Our People*, Hazlehurst says the council is taking a multipronged approach, which includes transitional housing, social housing, affordable housing and market housing. “Housing is absolutely my passion and my focus,” she says. “I am absolutely committed to getting people out of motels and into housing.”

Hazlehurst knows she cannot do this on her own, and so the council is working with the iwi, the Crown and private entities to make this happen.

She would also like to work with private developers to build higher density homes on council property. “We have to look at housing in a different way and look at higher density CBD developments and inner-city living.” She is hoping that next year the first city apartments will be built in Hastings.

“And if we can create a beautiful city that is surrounded by parks and

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CHB mayor Alex Walker. Photo: Florence Charvin

green spaces and a beautiful environment to live, why wouldn't people want to live in the city." Noting that conveniences such as the supermarkets and entertainment venues such as Toitoto: Hawke's Bay Arts & Events Centre would all be within walking distance.

Speaking of Toitoto, for Hazlehurst - works such as this are a priority for her. Changing the city to one that is not only liveable, but is attractive to tourists, is a "big priority" for her. "The next [triennial] is developing a city which is liveable," she says. And that is not just about making the city a great place to live, but also about ensuring that employment [such as the HDC's Mahi for Youth programme], industry and the environment are taken into account to ensure the wellbeing of all people is provided for.

And great cities to live are usually great cities to visit. And that's what Hazlehurst is banking on with the completion of the Municipal Building project which will showcase all Hastings has to offer - arts and conferences - but also the new hotel that will house those who travel to the district for those things. "[The hotel] will open in July this year," the mayor says.

While all this is going on in the district, the local government reforms still loom. With \$1.2 billion dollars in '3 Waters' assets, Hazlehurst is keen for this core work not to leave the hands of council. Especially not when it is in the middle of an \$82 million upgrade to deliver safe water to the community.

Moreover, she says the "weirdest" thing about the Government's proposal is that council's will still own the three waters assets in essence, but they will have no say over their maintenance. "Our community wants to be able to look after themselves and be responsible for dealing with all the challenges that comes with the waters."

Unlike other mayors I have spoken to, Hazlehurst is quite positive about the other local government reform. "I think it is an opportunity for us to be able to pick up a whole lot of other work because we are on the ground ... and we know what the issues are." She says for this reason council will be in the optimal position to work with central government to deliver programmes on the ground. She did emphasise while the partnership with central government was key for this to work, retaining the "local voice is just absolutely important".

"Water challenges are really personal for people in Hawke's Bay," she says, referencing the Havelock North water crisis and the attacks on the CHB wastewater discharges. "We take this stuff really seriously and it is quite personal to our communities."

ALEX WALKER,
CHB MAYOR

Central Hawke's Bay

Travelling down to Central Hawke's Bay, the one thing I noticed was the growth - from more homes in the centres, to a raft of houses in Ōtane and a proposed development in Ongaonga for 300 homes that is stirring up some controversy. Mayor Alex Walker is excited about what is happening in her district. "Part of what is important for me in the next few years is that our community is growing," she says. "There has been a renaissance over the

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Rick Barker, Hawke's Bay Regional Council chairman

past five years of people coming home to rural New Zealand.”

Seeing all the new faces about town makes her glad the CHBDC decided to take a proactive approach to growth in the district through spatial planning to ensure the district is headed in the right direction.

However, she notes it doesn't help that - beyond the consenting process - when it comes to dealing with the housing issue Council is “hamstrung”. “The housing situation is getting worse through a whole lot of mechanisms well outside of our local control,” she says. “And that is incredibly frustrating.” She says at present, due to the myriad water issues the district faces, Council is unable to step in and help beyond the consenting process. “All of our balance sheet has [been] committed to water infrastructure for the next 30 years.”

Walker too opposes the Government's ‘3 Waters’ proposal, instead opting for the regional model that the five local authorities hope to get through. “Water challenges are really personal for people in Hawke's Bay,” she says, referencing the Havelock North water crisis and the attacks on the CHB wastewater discharges. “We take this stuff really seriously and it is quite personal to our communities.”

While she had no disagreement that change had to happen - especially as the smaller entities would struggle to do it on their own - change needed to happen for Hawke's Bay. “Not for someone else, or a bigger party, but we have got to do it for the people of Hawke's Bay. So that is where we can work together as our region, where I think we are in a far stronger place for delivering what our communities need.”

In regards to the other reforms the mayor says changes to the RMA are long overdue to the once elegant piece of legislation that has now become a beast because “over time it hasn't been used well” leaving councils over-burdened by planning rules.

However the future plays out, Walker will be running again this year to see it through.

Regional Council

Finally, looking at the region as a whole - outgoing Hawke's Bay Regional Council Chair Rick Barker had a few parting salvos when it came to how our local environment was being managed.

Asked about water security for the Bay, Barker says it went beyond that. “It's about water quality,” he says. He asserts that when it comes to water usage, we have it backwards - with business often getting the first look in, when it should be the environment first, then people, then business.

“Water in New Zealand is a little bit like a gold rush on the Klondike - first person out stakes a claim and has it,” says Barker, noting that it is ‘first in first served’ when it came to getting a consent for water which they can then use as they please. “There is no management of the water other than who's in the queue; there is no management of the purpose to which it is put.” He says there needs to be some major changes in the way our water is managed and allocated and that Central Government is going to have to think seriously about it.

He says the ‘first come first served’ consenting process the council must operate under only goes to highlight the upside-down nature of how we

“There is no management of the water other than who's in the queue; there is no management of the purpose to which it is put.”

RICK BARKER,
HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

treat our water. An example of this is the 15 million cubes of water currently being considered for eight CHB businesses under Tranche 2 water allocation of Plan Change 6 - something that thanks to the 2014 BOI, the HBRC has little control over.

On the other hand, thanks to some of the \$30.6 million allocated from the Provincial Growth Fund, the Regional Council is planning a pilot project on a proposed site in the district to recharge the Ruataniwha Aquifer. “If we can do that, it will become a massive underwater storage area,” he says. “And not a wall of concrete needs to be built,” he added, alluding to an earlier water storage project that is all but dead in the water. “If we can refill the aquifer during high flows, then the water will be there for when we need it during low flows”.

Moving out of the shadow of aforementioned Ruataniwha Dam, says Barker, has allowed the HBRC to focus on the core business of an environmental authority - business such as riparian planting, maintaining river stop banks and pest control.

Returning to core environmental work, Barker says, shows how much the council has changed since he was first elected. He cited the example of riparian planting, which went from just a few hundred metres a year to kilometres a year. “The rate of restoration has gone up dramatically and will continue to do so,” he says.

It may be Barker's swan song, but they say you have done your job if you leave a place better than you found it. From my time covering local government, I would say he can make that claim. ●



HAWKE'S BAY FUTURE FARMING TRUST

Launched with seed funding from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, the Trust's mission is "To promote, inspire and celebrate profitable farming systems that enrich the environment and the community".

The Trust aims to expand Hawke's Bay hands-on knowledge of best, restorative farming practices, focusing on innovation, science insights, new technologies and farming systems change.

As Trust Chair Liz Krawczyk puts it: "We are all about demonstrating and communicating leading edge practices here in Hawke's Bay that will help our region's primary producers achieve financial and environmental sustainability."

We identify, publicly recognize and promote Hawke's Bay best practices, practitioners and champions, and also promote non-Hawke's Bay/ New Zealand practices with potential upside relevance to our region.

So far the trust has supported on-farm demonstration, confirming, for example, the potential for building soil

carbon content and nutrient holding capacity. We've helped fund real-time water monitoring technology in the Mangaone Catchment. And we've sponsored workshops and field days to spread awareness of farming practices that both increase farm productivity and lessen adverse environmental footprints.

The Trust's mission is to promote, inspire and celebrate profitable farming systems that enrich the environment and the community.

Supporting our work are lead Sponsors Bayleys Country and Napier Port. Bayleys Country principal James MacPherson says: "We are pleased to support the Hawke's Bay Future Farming Trust, who promote leading edge farming systems and thinking about what tomorrow's farms will look like in the beautiful Hawke's Bay region." Napier Port CEO Todd Dawson adds: "Driving the success of our region's growers and producers is a goal we share with the Trust and their mission to ensure Hawke's Bay farmers are

well-equipped with the leading sustainable and profitable practices."

Over time we hope to establish ambitious goals for superior performance by Hawke's Bay's farmers and growers across all farming sectors - pastoral, horticulture, viticulture. The question we ask is: What should Hawke's Bay's best performance look like in the future with respect to soil health, clean waters, food quality, animal welfare, efficient water and energy use, and profitability?

Our current trustees are: Liz Krawczyk, Phil Schofield, Scott Lawson, John van der Linden, Tim Aitken, Will Foley and Tom Belford.

We encourage you to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter to learn about leading edge farming practices in Hawke's Bay. To learn more about HB Future Farming Trust, visit our website:

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BayBuzz is pleased to support Hawke's Bay Future Farming Trust

“Nationally, there continues to be an increase in calls for service to police for family harm-related events ... Reducing the number and impact of family harm episodes, along with our partner agencies, is a key focus.”

SENIOR SERGEANT CAROLINE MARTIN



Bringing family violence out of the shadows

Rising levels of domestic harm is having horrific consequences on Hawke's Bay communities. Those on the frontline agree we must make urgent changes if we want to reduce our spiralling rates of violence and protect the next generation.

Story by BayBuzz team

They say home is where the heart is, but what if it isn't? For hundreds of adults and children in Hawke's Bay, instead of a loving, safe space, their home is a daily battleground of chaos, noise, fear and abuse.

The prevalence of domestic violence in New Zealand is staggering. We have the highest rate of reported violence against women in the developed world, with one in three women experiencing physical, sexual or coercive violence from a partner. In 2020 NZ Police recorded 165,039 family violence investigations.

When we think of domestic harm, we often assume this means physical violence, but this isn't always the case. Abusive relationships can, and usually do, involve a range of damaging behaviour, which can include physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and financial abuse. Often perpetrators keep victims socially isolated from friends and family members, monitor texts, calls and emails, or use coercion as a means of control. The perpetrator can be a man or a woman.

Social and economic disadvantages in education, employment, health, housing and income all significantly increase the risk of domestic violence. Add a pandemic into the mix and you've got an explosive recipe for escalating stress, anxiety and suffering.

For adults and children living in homes where domestic abuse is present, the noise can be inescapable. Yet often family harm remains a silent battle for victims - unseen and unheard by anyone else - as most incidents go unreported.

Situation in Hawke's Bay

Over the past year, Hawke's Bay Police received around 160 family harm reports per week - a number which increased over the Christmas period, as it did in other regions.

Our family violence rates in Hawke's Bay are twice the national average and at a severity level that is one of the worst in the country, says DOVE Hawke's Bay general manager Stewart Eadie.

The region's largest provider of family violence services, DOVE offers education and support to affected individuals and families. Eadie says he and his 22 staff know all too well the wide-spread consequences of family harm on communities and the desperate need to reduce the problem. "The impact on our next generation is growing much faster than the available resources, which doesn't paint a pretty picture at all," he says.

DOVE has been operating for 27 years and in that time, Eadie has seen a shift in the way we view domestic violence. "People are coming to terms with recognising the significance of what is happening in our communities that was (previously) normalised as part of a relationship." In spite of this change in attitude, domestic violence remains an escalating issue in our region and from a social perspective, the consequences are "horrific", says Eadie.

Poverty, housing issues, drugs and alcohol all contribute to family harm incidents in Hawke's Bay and around the country. It is a complex issue with no easy answers.

Supporting survivors

DOVE works with about 900 clients a year and demand always exceeds resources. Of those, 70% know they need help and self-refer by walking through the door. The organisation works closely with other agencies to provide counselling, education, addiction services, housing and advice to clients.

Staff work with them to build trust, go into their homes to provide support

when needed and provide a non-judgemental perspective. Often clients are reacting to childhood trauma and suffer from anxiety, depression and other mental health issues.

Hawke's Bay Police and community partners like DOVE meet regularly to address family violence matters, and to facilitate follow-ups and wrap-around care for those experiencing family harm.

For Eadie, his greatest concern is the impact of family violence on children. More than half of family violence police callouts have children as witnesses, and the lifelong impact is significant as they are 6.5 times more likely to replicate this behaviour in adulthood, he says.

"It's hard-wired. They're twice as likely to go on and receive or give violence in the same way they've experienced."

For adult victims the effects are also significant. In an effort to support victims of family violence, the Domestic Violence Victims' Protection Act 2018 came into effect in 2019. The law requires employers to provide paid domestic violence leave for up to 10 days and an extension of flexible working arrangements for victims. It's a step forward, but there's still a very long way to go.

Rise of family violence and Covid

The reality is our domestic violence rates here and around the country are trending upwards, says Hawke's Bay Police family harm manager, Senior Sergeant Caroline Martin. "Nationally, there continues to be an increase in calls for service to police for family harm-related events. The Eastern Police District is no different to any area of New Zealand in this respect," she says.

Family violence remains a high priority for police, says Senior Sergeant Martin. "Reducing the number and impact of family harm episodes, along with our partner agencies, is a key focus."

Like other social issues, Covid has had a significant impact on domestic violence. The stresses associated with



“People are coming to terms with recognising the significance of what is happening in our communities that was (previously) normalised as part of a relationship.”

STEWART EADIE, DOVE

lockdowns, home schooling and job losses have triggered escalating violence. Eadie reports a 20% upturn in client numbers over the past two years.

The true impact of the pandemic is hard to gauge however, as many instances of family harm go unreported. The shame around family violence means victims often keep it hidden, leaving them without the help they need, says Eadie. “People are uncomfortable with it and as a result it’s buried.”

A new approach

Government, police and community support services recognise the need for a new strategy, if we’re going to tackle our appalling domestic violence rates.

Last year the Government announced a National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence. The plan proposes 40 actions across six “shifts” to deliver change. These include moving towards strength-based wellbeing, mobilising communities, sustainable workforces, primary prevention, integrated responses, increased capacity for healing.

Planning, skills upgrading, collaboration and programme design are underway, with delivery of the draft measurement framework targeted for December 2022. This means data showing the full extent of the problem won’t be known until this date. The final action involves collecting relevant numbers, leading to “Increased efficacy in primary prevention approaches and investment”. This will start from January 2024.

Urgent change and a new strategy is needed now, says Eadie. Historically,

we’ve taken a siloed approach to domestic violence - men versus women - and it’s been proven not to work. “We have long recognised that the current system isn’t working, and we need to act if we are going to interrupt our current trajectory,” he says.

Because of this, DOVE is in the process of radically changing the way it approaches family violence. In 2020, the organisation reviewed its programmes using research and client feedback to align with best practice and client needs.

As a result of the findings, a service redesign is underway. Under the new model, they will look at the whole picture of what’s happening within a family surrounding a client rather than the historical siloed approach.

Through evaluating what clients need, staff can provide tailored, holistic support, says Eadie. The aim is to empower individuals and their family to truly understand their situation and transform their lives. “If we want to make lasting change we’ve got to be prepared to walk with these people,” says Eadie.

The organisation works individually with the 300-400 clients on their books at any time, most of whom are motivated to change, says Eadie. When someone walks through the door or rings, staff celebrate their bravery in asking for help. “Each person coming to us, whether they are experiencing violence or using violence to control their partner, we want them to experience we care and we don’t judge”, says Eadie.

The first step is listening to their story to understand how staff can best support them, making sure they and their

family are safe and helping with any immediate needs. These might be legal support for a protection order, a safety alarm, food, accommodation, and help with addiction.

Once these have been taken care of, staff sit down with clients and try to understand what brought them to this place. It’s a time-consuming process that takes training and experience from dedicated staff, says Eadie. “It’s normally taken a lifetime to come to this place, with a lot of hurt along the way. So understandably it takes time to work through the issues and plan a way forward.” Most clients work with DOVE for several months.

As well as tailored individual support, DOVE offers a range of programmes for all ages and genders to help clients to make lasting changes to their lives.

One of the most recent programmes is Male Survivors Hawke’s Bay, which supports men who have been sexually abused or assaulted. It’s an important and much-needed programme, says Eadie. The level of male sexual abuse is higher than people think, affecting around one in six men according to national figures. However, the percentage of DOVE male (and female) clients who have experienced sexual abuse is significantly higher than national averages, and the trauma they suffer is significant. Evidence shows these families desperately need support to break entrenched intergenerational patterns, says Eadie.

Addressing social issues including, trauma, mental health, addiction and poverty in the family and collaborating with community partners is key to reducing our shocking domestic violence levels. Early intervention to protect future generations must also be a focus, says Eadie.

The approach echoes recent findings by the national Family Violence Death Review Committee, which describes the current system as fragmented. The report recommends taking a comprehensive approach that responds to family violence within the family context of social issues to create systemic change. Children are born into families where they experience intergenerational violence and without intervention this has a lasting detrimental impact. “Prevention for these families and whānau is about interrupting intergenerational patterns of violence and the associated transmission of trauma,” says the report.

Hawke’s Bay Police recently confirmed a formal partnership with local

iwi to address domestic violence in the region. The aim is to help further improve coordination and collaboration with agencies to get the best outcomes for those experiencing family harm, says Senior Sergeant Martin.

As a society, we need to break down the barriers of family violence so people start talking about it and asking for help, before it's too late, says Eadie. "The ripples of family violence are extending faster than we can intervene. If we don't do something this is going to get bigger and bigger." ●

A survivor's story

Tina (not her real name) has experienced domestic abuse her whole life – first at the hands of her father and then her partners. Growing up in Hastings in a large family, life was stressful, chaotic and unpredictable. Physical violence was part of daily life for Tina and her siblings, who lived in fear of their father coming home drunk and angry. Looking back, she describes home life as "something like *Once Were Warriors*".

After she left home, Tina's romantic relationships followed a similar pattern. As a teenager, Tina met her first

boyfriend and the man who would become the father to her children. A gang member, he had also grown up with extreme violence. At first the relationship went well, but after Tina gave birth to their son things changed, she says. "He became emotionally abusive – it was jealousy when we had our son because all my attention went away from him to our baby," she says.

The abuse started with put downs and social isolation, which Tina didn't recognise as abuse at the time. "He would tell me I was nothing; I was being treated like a doormat, and he said I wasn't worth being alive. The thing is, I let him do that to me."

The couple stayed together for several years and had two more children. During the last six months of the relationship the abuse turned physical. Tina suffered regular beatings, at times, in front of their children. "The thing I regret is our son was in the next room and he heard him bashing me, and [my son] came running in and tried to grab a butcher's knife."

Tina tried to leave numerous times, but she always went back. Eventually, with the support of family members who were fearful for her life, Tina left the relationship.

Her next partner was also emotionally

abusive. "The put downs and saying I'm a hopeless mother. I was thinking 'Why are you treating me like I'm nothing?'. I promised myself I would never ever let someone treat me that way again but then I let him do it to me." After several years together, Tina gathered the strength to leave him and change direction for good.

DOVE has been integral in helping Tina move on by providing education, resources and emotional support whenever she needs it. "If it wasn't for DOVE Hawke's Bay I would be absolutely lost," she says.

The trauma of her past still affects Tina, but she's determined to show her children and grandchildren a better life, free of abuse. "It's the mental stuff that stays with you, not the physical. The only love I've known my whole life is abuse."

If you or someone you know is being exposed to physical violence now, call the police on 111.

For support services and resources for family harm contact:

- **DOVE Hawke's Bay on 0800 368 342 or 06 843 5307**
- **Heretaunga Women's Centre on 06 878 5401**
- **Women's Refuge on 06 878 9519**



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My EV driving experience



Disclaimer: I am a retired businessman with no interest in selling cars, charging networks, power or anything at all. I just passionately believe that to counter climate change, we all need to change the behaviour patterns that have got us here. By writing about my experiences, I hope that I can convince a few more people to change to EVs. So, having taken delivery of a shiny new EV and driving it for 7,000km over a few months, this article shares some of my experience.



Story by Peter Robinson

Choosing the car

We wanted an EV that would be suitable for both local running about the Bay and for longer trips around the country. We concluded that a car with a 100-150km range would be great for the former but not very practical for the latter. A range of about 400km felt about right and whilst even longer-range models are available, extra range comes at a substantial price premium and you need to consider carefully what you need.

An aspiration is one thing, reality is another. At the time of looking, we found that EVs in the 400km range bracket were a lot more expensive than our budget would allow. An inheritance plus the Government EV rebate made it possible.

First impressions

Silky smooth and amazingly quiet with instant acceleration at any speed. Electric motors provide full acceleration instantly, which is great for overtaking. The relative silence and swift acceleration mean that a close eye has to be kept on the speedo for a week or two as the lack of noise cues makes judging speed tricky. Other than that, it's just another car.

One pedal driving

EVs all have regenerative braking. This is where the drive motor is used to create a braking effect which puts energy back into the battery (in principle, rather like the old dynamo on a bike to power the lights). This greatly increases the efficiency of EVs in urban driving.

How strong the regenerative braking effect is and how it is triggered/adjusted varies from one make of EV to another. In the case of the car I bought, for normal driving, one pedal does it all - easing the accelerator pedal slowly up brings the car to a very smooth and controlled stop (brake lights are activated by the regenerative braking). The brake pedal only needs to be used if something unexpected happens or you are driving aggressively.

And if say a child runs out, whilst you are transferring your foot from the accelerator to brake pedal, the car has already started to slow rapidly. So far, I have only used the brake pedal to slow the car four times in 7,000km! Apart from making town driving more relaxed, I really like the smooth transition from acceleration to deceleration when driving along a twisty, up and down road through the hills. I think this is one of the best features and it's amazing that car companies have never tried to do one pedal driving before.

Servicing

Missing in an EV are hundreds, if not a few thousand moving and wearing parts that make up an internal combustion engine drivetrain. The obvious upside of all this stuff missing is that there is very little to go wrong in an EV. Our car has no scheduled servicing (this may differ slightly from make to make). In fact, the brakes as noted above are used so infrequently, they should last the life of the car. So, a significant money saving in scheduled maintenance.

However, the mechanical simplicity of EVs has major implications for dealer

Even if all cars on the road were EVs, we would need fewer fast chargers than the current number of fossil fuel service stations, since 80-90% of charging is done at home.

service revenue and those employed in manufacturing or servicing petrol/diesel engines and transmissions.

Charging at home

Now we're getting to it!

We charge at home and leave with a full 'tank'. This is one of the key concepts of EV ownership and was a huge 'aha' moment for me when I first started reading up about the practicalities of EVs. Even if all cars on the road were EVs, we would need fewer fast chargers than the current number of fossil fuel service stations, since 80-90% of charging is done at home. Plus, slow charging at home is the preferred way to maximise battery longevity.

Lots of people are 'EV curious' and the first question is generally, "How long does charging take?" The answer is that for 90% of my driving, it takes no time at all as it happens overnight at home and I leave home with a full tank. I'll get to charging away from home on road trips shortly.

All EVs, I believe, can be charged by plugging into a standard household wall socket and for smaller cars (with a small battery), this is all that is needed.

But for cars with a larger battery, the rate of charge is probably too slow for most. For my car, which has a 54 kWh battery, 10 hours on charge via the standard wall socket would add only about 100km of range. So, we purchased a dedicated charger (type 2 plug) from the car maker which has been installed in the garage (could also be outside for driveway parking) with a separate supply cable from the main circuit breaker panel. This has a



16-amp connection and a 10 hour overnight charge adds about 250km, which is fine for our use. Using a 32-amp connection would double the rate of charging and 3-phase would speed up the charge rate an extra 50%. With some larger, high performance cars having batteries of about 100kWh, the speed of charging vs what is possible using the local domestic power supply will need careful consideration.

Charger costs vary from maker to maker and ease or complexity of running a dedicated cable from the circuit breaker panel to the charger will vary from house to house. One point to note is that the Building Code requires that a special circuit breaker (approx. \$600) must be included in the installation.

A key point about home charging is getting a good deal from your power retailer.

I had seen adverts from Mercury in particular for 'EV power plans' with cheap overnight tariff for car charging. A bit of digging revealed that Meridian and Genesis also have EV plans. Overnight rates are typically from 9pm till 7am. As usual, they don't make it easy to compare apples with apples. I had to set up a spreadsheet, working out likely car charging usage and apportioning our household power consumption between day and night, as the two tariffs differ substantially.

I was disappointed to find that the EV

plans worked out more expensive over a full year than a regular power plan from Mercury with the same cost/kWh at all times. Maybe it is because we are a heavy power user in winter but it is definitely worth looking into for your particular circumstances because the overnight rates are much lower. And your charging can be scheduled to run only during the lower tariff times.

Charging away from home

The big worry some have!

The key issue is that you need to think ahead a bit more and plan where you are going to charge - and preferably use this time for coffee, stretching the legs, a meal or shopping break. For charging away from home, there are fast, even faster and slow options.

NZ currently offers two main networks of fast chargers. Chargenet has 275 fast (50 kW) chargers around the country. And according to their website, they will be adding 36 more stations throughout New Zealand over the next three years. Each Chargenet charging station has two plugs, CCS-2 and CHAdeMO (but can charge only one car at a time). CHAdeMO is for Japanese cars and CCS-2 covers all other current EV models - a situation reminiscent of the old video tape standards. However, I have read that the latest Nissan Ariya and Honda e use CCS-2 only, so it will be interesting

to see which type Toyota decides to adopt, as and when it launches an EV.

Additionally, Chargenet has just started to roll out some Hyper chargers which at 300 kW are up to six times faster than the existing network of 50 kW units. They're also capable of charging up to six vehicles at a site (CCS-2 only). Most current EVs can't charge so fast, but for some new models just arriving or coming soon to NZ - which are capable of being charged at 300kW - up to 400km of range could be added in 15 minutes.

At the Chargenet charger, plug in, activate either via their phone app or a RFID tag which can be purchased from Chargenet. By default, it will stop at 80% charge, but there is an override button which will take it to 95%. Alternatively, dial up how much charge percentage you want either via the car/car's app (depending upon model). Once charging is complete, a text is received from Chargenet. Apart from stating that charging is complete, it details before and after battery charge percentage, kWh put in, time on charge and cost.

Super easy. I can monitor charge progress via my car's phone app so I can know when to return to the car to avoid occupying the charger once charging is complete.

Tesla has installed a network of Superchargers (CCS-2 plugs) at strategic locations around the country. So far, these are exclusively for Tesla cars but the company has announced that they will be opening up their charging network globally to all EVs.

Rated at 120 kW, these are over twice as fast as the Chargenet's 50kW units. There are currently 12 charging stations, each with 4-6 chargers and a further three stations planned or under construction. The latest installation, in Hastings, is 250kW. The 'plug and charge' Superchargers recognise the Tesla-registered car when it is plugged in and no activation is required. The owner is billed via their Tesla account with details accessible online.

Slow charging options are numerous.

Scores of accommodation businesses have installed Tesla Destination chargers to attract EV car owners (using Type 2 plugs) to stay there. These have a similar charging speed to home chargers so effectively, they are overnight options. It's worth noting that some venues such as restaurants have installed these but the amount of charge that they can usefully put into a car during say an hour-long lunch is hardly worth bothering with.

Alternatively, an overnight top-up whilst on the road, as per using a standard mains socket at home, can be available if staying at a bach or when camping by using a powered site (using a suitable adaptor). But if staying in a rented bach, it would be unfair to do so without agreement from the owner. I calculate that an overnight charge would add about the cost of a cup of coffee to the power bill, while adding maybe 100km or so in range to a medium sized EV.

We found that the car park at Zealandia in Wellington was equipped with about a dozen slowish chargers (type 2 plugs), free to use for visitors to the attraction. So during our half-day there, we were able to get a useful top-up.

Trip planning & finding chargers

www.plugshare.com (also a phone app) is a global map site for all EV chargers and also includes a useful trip planning tool. Filters can be set to show the type(s) of charger.

https://charge.net.nz (also a phone app) details on a map all of Chargenet's fast chargers. You need to open an account with them to use the chargers.

Both of these apps show whether a charger is currently in use or not, which is really handy.

For longer journeys, a very good route planning tool is <https://abetter-routeplanner.com> (also a phone app) which shows chargers (but not if they are in use or not), can be set up for your exact model of EV, shows how long each charging stop will need to be, even takes hills into account etc.

Additionally, Google maps knows where all of the fast chargers are located but does not show if they are in use or not.

Fast chargers in New Zealand that we have come across are mostly located in a remote corner of a supermarket car park. We have a way to go here till we get to the charging stations being built in Europe with 20 or so chargers under cover with toilets, a cafe, etc.

We recently did two road trips totaling about 3,000km, one to Wellington and then on to Taranaki, the other to the Coromandel. The latter included dirt roads and lots of steep hills, all easily handled by our EV. Both trips meant charging a number of times at public fast chargers. We took a cautious approach, typically re-charging when the battery was down to 40-50%, which always left a safety buffer in case the next planned charger was

Are there enough public chargers? So far, the answer is yes but clearly, as the EV fleet grows, the fast charger network will need to grow with it.

unavailable (didn't happen). Our charging sessions were a mix of planned and opportunistic stops, utilising the time for coffee, meals, toilet/stretching the legs or shopping.

So back to the frequently asked question, "How long does charging take?"

For our road trips, the average stop at the (50 kW) Chargenet chargers was 27 minutes. Another factor is that the speed of charging slows significantly as the battery fills, especially for the last 20%. So, two shorter stops, topping up to say 70% can add more range in less time than one longer charging session.

We had no real issues with charger availability. The exception was New Plymouth, which despite a population of about 80,000 has only one fast charger which meant that it was not always available. Especially on one occasion when a blue MG EV was parked there for most of the afternoon, long after its charging had completed. On the upside, Tesla plans to install a Supercharger there.

Are there enough public chargers? So far, the answer is yes but clearly, as the EV fleet grows, the fast charger network will need to grow with it.

Is the claimed range realistic?

Yes and no. EV manufacturers' generally use the internationally agreed WLTP (World harmonised light vehicle test procedure) which involves a mix of urban, suburban, rural and highway driving. The WLTP range quoted for my car of 440km is realistic for local driving around the Bay - mostly town, rural at 80km/h and some expressway at 100km/h. I do not need 400km or so of such local driving in one day and I can charge every night at home, so it is a meaningless number.

Much more important is the range when undertaking longer road trips. And here's the catch. Whilst EVs are at their most efficient when driving around town, partly due to the energy recovered when braking, efficiency starts to drop off with higher speed. So, for sustained State Highway driving, the actual range will be significantly less than the claimed WLTP.

On a trip such as Hastings to

Wellington, I have found that the realistic range drops to about 75% of the claimed WLTP number. Whilst we found that this was perfectly adequate for our road trips, it is a trait of all EVs that the manufacturers do not publicise. The website <https://ev-database.org> gives a good estimate of real world versus claimed range for current EVs.

So claimed range (as per WLTP) is a great way of comparing cars but be aware that the WLTP cycle is heavily skewed towards urban driving. So, you cannot expect that the claimed range will be achievable when driving on State highways.

It is also worth noting that for most EVs, charging to 100% on a daily basis is not recommended. To maximise the life of the battery, charging to max 80% and not letting the charge drop below 20% plus using slow charging at home are recommended.

Running costs

Another frequent question from the EV curious. Like every car, the faster you go and the harder you accelerate, the more juice you will use and EVs are no exception. And the efficiency measured in Wh/km varies from make to make.

My car provides detailed information about total kWh used, km travelled and Wh/km since last charge. Best consumption is local driving around town. I have calculated the cost of charging at home to be \$3.21 per 100km (at \$0.26/kWh). On road trips where there was a high proportion of faster state highway driving, plus using public chargers where the unit power cost is higher, I calculated that the cost rose to \$8.50/100km. In comparison, a similar sized petrol-fueled car consuming, say, 8L/100km at the current price of \$2.48/L results in a cost of \$19.84 /100km.

The net result: our power bill is up about a quarter of what we used to spend on petrol.

It's worth noting that presently EVs are exempt from Road User Charges (RUC). These are included in the price of petrol and diesel users need to buy their RUCs directly. The RUC exemption lasts until 31st March 2024 and it will be interesting to see how the Government handles this whilst encouraging EV uptake.

Summing up my experience ...

Are EVs a practical car for NZ, even in rural areas? Emphatically, Yes.

Does owning an EV mean spending hours at public charging stations? No.

Does it make sense to drive a zero emissions car? Absolutely. ●



“ It's only
one straw.”

billions of people



Environment Centre offers solutions

Story by **Katie Nimon**

Photos by Florence Charvin

I want you to do an exercise with me. Open your rubbish bin. I'll wait.

Is there plastic in there? I get it. Sometimes throwing plastic in the bin can seem easier than solving the complicated web of rules that is our recycling system. It's hard enough keeping up with the seven types of plastic; it's worse when our curbside recycling only takes two or three of them. And what constitutes a soft plastic? Where do you take it? Why do they only sell hummus in polypropylene (PP5)?

Let's dig a little deeper. Figuratively, not literally, although I won't stop you. Everything in there can go somewhere other than landfill, and if it can't, don't buy it.

Can we talk about the Tetra Pak carton for a second? With the rise of dairy milk alternatives comes the rise of Tetra Pak cartons going to landfill. I can't count the number of times I've had to be the bearer of bad news and pull one out of the cardboard recycling bin and explain that they're made from a combination of aluminium, polyethylene, and paper.

Don't worry, if you're panicking because you just realized they're not cardboard, you're not alone, and there's good news. Although they can't go in your black bins, they're now recycled in New Zealand. Into building materials no less.

Now, this might not be groundbreaking to some of you, but for others, it's not common knowledge. So, if we don't already have home-compost, refillable milk bottles, and an empty rubbish bin; where do we start?

At the Environment Centre.

With the climate emergency we're facing, there should be no excuses, only solutions; and the Environment Centre have kicked it up a gear.

Yes, they recycle your Tetra Pak cartons. Yes, they recycle your electronic waste. Yes, they recycle the plastics you don't know what to do with (don't put them in the bin, soft plastics are now being made into fenceposts). Yes, they specialise in waste minimisation (21 specialisations to be precise), but no, that's not all they do.

I talked to Emma Horgan-Heke, the new general manager at the Environment Centre, to ask her what she wants people to know about what they do. While you might have seen Environment Centre volunteers sorting your waste at events; and know them as the place to take the stuff you can't find a bin for, they're doing more than that now.

Emma is humble, so she won't take the credit, but I could read between the lines when she talked about all the new things the Environment Centre is doing to solve the climate crisis in Hawke's Bay. A new five-year strategic plan (you can find it on their website) developed by Emma and the Environment Centre Board, sees the charity develop three core focuses: food resilience, water resilience, and circular economy.

Emma comes from a project management role in community housing, and has a background in regenerative solutions, so it makes sense that she brought a wider lens to the Environment Centre. No one would disagree with Emma when she talks about now being the crucial time to

solve climate change, and that we need to do more, faster, and work collaboratively.

Emma argues that we're not doing enough in Hawke's Bay or New Zealand, and the Centre needs to grow to achieve that. I like ambition.

While they're focused on growth into new areas, they continue to develop their specialist recycling, including solutions for polystyrene (hallelujah!). They have also introduced waste audits for businesses, and they've secured the funding for a mobile wash station (Wash Against Waste), so events don't have to offer single-use serve ware.

How does a charity achieve all this? They're supported by the Ministry for the Environment and Hastings District Council, but it takes seven streams to get them to where they are: donations, grants, contracts, memberships, fundraising events, sponsorships (i.e., Tetra Pak, Otis Milk), and volunteer hours. Every dollar counts, and so does every hour, especially when the goal is to save the world.

The Environment Centre has 10 employees and 90 volunteers, ranging from retired electricians to Hohepa residents. During a time of growth, there is always a need for more support. Whether it's volunteering at a Zero Waste event, or helping people solve their recycling and upcycling enquiries, there is a role for everyone: including you. Yes, that's a call to action!

I asked Emma to talk me through their move into food and water resilience. Her answer was quick and clear.



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Henry Coulson,
Emma Horgan-Heke,
Ilena Holden and
Laura Hamilton.

Hawke's Bay is a major player in agriculture and horticulture, yet we still have water issues. The Environment Centre knows they can make an impact on water with advocacy and education, and as with most recent innovations, Covid has drawn attention to the fact that we grow so much locally, yet there are still empty shelves in the supermarkets. Any work they can do to make our systems more resilient, they will; like bringing together 12 partners to create a climate and food resilience hub. Right now, Emma can't say more, so watch this space.

Now, don't worry, this growth doesn't mean they're going to move away from the core community work they do, and step completely into the big picture. The growth is about achieving alignment in environmental resilience, so the results are sustainable. If you're working to build a circular economy, and minimise waste, it makes sense to have a self-reliant and self-sustaining region.

When I asked Emma what she would say if she only had five seconds to make a difference, she went straight to the rubbish bin (you can see where I was going with my exercise). If she could remind everyone of how much can be recycled (70%-80%), we wouldn't end up with so much waste in our bins. Now might be a good time to mention their popular composting and bokashi bin workshops they

run with Hastings District Council (if you're interested, they subsidise half the bin cost).

Whether it's at home or at work, we need to take responsibility for our waste. In San Francisco, residents pay for every ounce of rubbish they leave out for collection. In Hawke's Bay, our rubbish bins are bigger than all our recycling bins combined. If we can find a way to reduce, reuse, or recycle everything we consume, we would make a huge [it could be measurable] difference.

There are no excuses, only solutions; even candle wax can be recycled into fire starters. Which gave me an idea.

Last year, some of the Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) teams turned fabric waste from the fashion industry into hats and bibs. Some of them turned home compost into plant fertiliser. What if every team worked with the Environment Centre to reduce waste with a product or service? I have no doubt we would see some breakthrough innovations. Three years ago, a team of St John's College students made concrete benches incorporating plastic bottles. What if this year we found a way to turn polystyrene packaging into something useful?

The Environment Centre acts, educates, and advocates. We're lucky to have an organisation like this in our community, and even luckier that they're unstoppable.

Speaking of advocating; I have it on good authority that we can expect Napier City Council to announce the inclusion of PP5 plastic in the curbside recycling scheme. Honestly, I'm relieved I won't have to learn how to perfect home-made yoghurt, or hummus as good as Turkish Kitchen.

We can all make a difference. While the Environment Centre grows in new directions, so can we, and here are five simple ways to start.

1. Every household needs a champion. Be the person to take the lead on soft plastics. Start a bag and find your nearest recycling location.
2. Do a rubbish bin audit. If you have kids in the house, get them to do it with you (or for you). You'll be surprised by how much you can recycle if you make the time and space.
3. Look for a product with the most sustainable packaging option. We can't all make cream cheese at home, so buy it in the foil or card packaging.
4. Encourage people to boycott products made from non-recyclable packaging. If it only comes in styrofoam, it's not worth it. If no one buys it, they'll get the message!
5. Start a bench top compost bin. Food waste in landfill is a major contributor to greenhouse gasses. If we compost it properly, we're reducing emissions and giving back to the soil. ●

Tyre King

Story by Brenda Newth

As a whippersnapper, nine-year-old Byron Duncan used to collect scrap metal to earn pocket money. More than 50 years later, he's still making new money from old rope, as one of Hawke's Bay's first end-of-life tyre processors. The journey to business owner and participant in the circular economy is full of setbacks, opportunities, and detours; here's how a kid from Ahuriri got his start, where he is now, and what happened in between.



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Byron Duncan. Photo: Florence Charvin





Adele Rose, 3R

The work ethic was strong in the Duncan household. “There were five kids, Mum and Dad, and two full-time boarders living in our three bedroom house. Dad was taxi driver, and Mum looked after us,” says Duncan. “At night she worked as the taxi despatcher and for 20 years she took in laundry and ironed people’s clothes.”

Young Byron mowed lawns, chopped wood, and had milk and paper rounds. He wasn’t much of a student and left school at 14. Apprenticed to his grandfather, he earned his ticket as panel beater and coach builder. By his early 20s, things were looking pretty good. He was married, in his first home complete with mortgage, and a proud, young dad.

That is, until Grandad passed away. The sale of Grandad’s business to a co-worker came as a shock, and Duncan was out on his ear, and out of a job.

“I didn’t know what to do,” says Duncan. “It was the first time I’d had any pushback in my life. But the old saying of when one door closes, another opens, is true. I was sitting at home, and got a job offer by phone. The guy said to me ‘I can only pay XX amount’ but

Tyrewise... is a credit to the tenacity of Adele and her team and the commitment of leaders in the industry that New Zealand finally has a way to deal with one of our most ubiquitous man-made environmental risks.

it was double what I had been earning. The job was moving and re-piling houses. I started the next day.”

Since then, there have been many jobs and life events along the way. After the end of his first marriage Duncan took a break in 1986, with the intention of travelling with friends in Europe for six months. He arrived in Denmark in April of that year, the day after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

That short-term vacation turned into a long-term OE. Duncan travelled a lot, and ended up in Taiwan, at the invitation of a friend. He stayed seven years. During that time, he had a successful sales career in the liquor industry. It was during this period that Duncan

learnt about the importance of relationships in business. “The suit and tie doesn’t mean anything; it’s all about the deal.”

He came back to the Bay in the mid-late 1990s, accompanied by his new wife and son. At the time, it wasn’t clear what they would do. Eventually, on the advice of friends back in Taiwan, they established a business importing new and second hand tyres from Taiwan.

The business was called Big Value Tyres, which Duncan sold after 12 years. After taking a break, he started Tiger Tyres, and that business is still running today. Ironically, both businesses were/are based in the same building in Hyderabad Road as his grandfather’s was all those years ago. He had come full circle, arriving back at the place of his first great challenge. But this time, he was in charge.

Despite his success and other business interests, you’ll find Duncan on site every day, looking after his customers, and finding the best deal. But that’s not all he does. Small, and nuggety, and in his early sixties now, he shows no sign of slowing down, regularly working seven days a week.

Tiger Tyres remains a one site operation, and by all accounts is a good business with a steady stream of customers.

In 2018, Duncan established a new venture, with strong environmental credentials; tyre shredding. He takes old tyres and processes them into fuel for the concrete industry. He explains: “I got sick and tired of having to pay to dispose of old tyres. Contacts of mine from Korea were doing a similar thing, and doing quite well out of it.

“So I did my homework, found a New Zealand company that could make the tyre shredding machinery, bought a building in Awatoto, and got started.”

What was in the building was also useful to the fledgling tyre shredding business; a massive stockpile of 50,000 tyres. Duncan also had a customer for his shredded tyre material; known in the business as TDF (tyre derived fuel). His Korean contacts were the catalyst for a relationship with Samsung, the South Korean chaebol (mega conglomerate) that has among other things, a concrete business.

Since then, Duncan has grown the business to the point where it's processing up to 1,000 tyres a day. Over

Of NZ's five million end-of-life tyres, currently only 25% are recycled, with the rest stockpiled or dumped.

the past couple of years Duncan has shipped the equivalent of 800,000 tyres to South Korea, and he's established relationships with all of the local councils and collected tyres from around the region and beyond. The business operates five days a week and employs two full-time staff.

He reckons he's taken thousands of tyres from the Omarunui landfill, and is pleased to be doing the “right thing”.

Covid-19 has left its impact on his business; shipping costs have skyrocketed and it's no longer viable to ship TDF to South Korea. Instead, the resourceful Duncan cold-called Golden Bay Cement and his shredded product now journeys to Whangarei.

Duncan describes the Golden Bay relationship as a “really good arrangement, that's just starting to flow”. He says his business is doing ok, and hopes that it will move from break even to profit next year.

Of NZ's five million end-of-life tyres, currently only 25% are recycled, with the rest stockpiled or dumped. The environmental impacts are well known. The sector has lots of operators collecting tyres and charging a range of prices. Often it's these tyres that end up dumped in a gully somewhere or in the far reaches of a forest. Improperly disposed of tyres litter landscapes and waterways and can be a source of health and environmental concerns. Fires in stockpiles can release toxic gases, and tyre stockpiles provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes and vermin.

Dumped and landfill tyres also represent a loss of potentially valuable resources, as EOL (end of life) tyres and tyre derived products can be put to use in many productive ways.

This market failure is the key reason behind the New Zealand Government designating EOL tyres as a high priority waste stream. As such, it requires a regulated product stewardship scheme

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to be put in place. Many countries have long-established tyre stewardship schemes to tackle the problem of EOL tyres, leading to innovation and the creation of new industries and uses for these problematic rubber rings. New Zealand has been slow to get on the bandwagon.

Adele Rose probably hears more about end-of-life tyres and their potential commercial applications than anyone in New Zealand. She is the CEO of 3R Group, a Hastings-based, nationwide business that is expert in product stewardship schemes. In fact Tyrewise - New Zealand's tyre stewardship scheme - is project managed by Rose and her team, who also co-designed the scheme with industry and government.

By the time the final piece of regulation is passed that enables Tyrewise to go live, it will have been a 10-year process, says Rose.

"Based on international examples, we didn't expect it to be any quicker."

The first step was to build trust and understanding within the industry, and between the importers of tyres and the collectors of tyres.

At the beginning, there was an element of distrust, says Rose. "Distrust of what the process would be, distrust of the Government being at the table, distrust of creating a system to address market failure.

"One of the brilliant outcomes of this process is that the working group that co-designed this industry-led scheme worked so well together, that even though the work is completed, the group remains intact and functional."

Liz Read, former independent chair of 3R, says: "the adage "good things take time" certainly applies to Tyrewise. It is a credit to the tenacity of Adele and her team and the commitment of leaders in the industry that New Zealand finally has a way to deal with one of our most ubiquitous man-made environmental risks.

"Chairing a business that was leading the design of the first regulated product stewardship scheme for New Zealand brought its challenges for Directors. With no roadmap to follow and changes in government and ministerial priorities along the way, our risk focus was well and truly exercised."

Rose says that there is huge opportunity for the creation of high value products from EOL tyres.

There is huge opportunity for the creation of high value products from end-of-life tyres. We are currently wasting a resource that has value and is harming the environment.

"We are currently wasting a resource that has value and is harming the environment. Tyre-derived fuel for the concrete industry is the best use of EOL tyres to start with as it takes volume, enables the creation of systems, and encourages innovation.

"As a result of the work on the regulated scheme, there has been a general uplift in more robust business that have secure supply agreements in place."

Rose cites Treadlite, a Cambridge business that uses EOL tyres to manufacture premium equestrian arena mix made from recycled rubber, transforming a low-value product.

"They have state-of-the-art plant, are highly compliant, with a strong business and sales model, and are getting noticed internationally."

With support and oversight the market will open up new opportunities, says Rose. But the regulated scheme isn't without sceptics.

"One of the fears was that there would be a monopoly controlling the market. But the opportunity to pivot, be innovative, create new materials, new relationships would actually mean there is healthy competition in the market. This is playing out for the betterment of the industry and the EOL tyre sector. Those fears haven't come to the fore, and we only see it getting better."

The good news for consumers is that the fees will be set, transparent, and will pay for the tyre as it is processed at end of life. From a local and regional body perspective, dumping becomes far less likely when old tyres have an intrinsic value, which means fewer ratepayer dollars spent on clean up in the years to come.

Other countries, who are ahead of New Zealand have very successful schemes, and very successful R&D

programmes that invest in EOL tyre materials with added value, evidencing that there is economic value for a tyre beyond its life as a tyre. Interestingly, Rose says: "in countries with tyre stewardship schemes you don't see stockpiles of EOL tyres". Here's hoping that happens here too. If overseas experience is anything to go by, the future looks bright New Zealand tyre recyclers like Byron Duncan and the circular economy that will benefit from new uses for EOL tyres; an item once considered so worthless it was chucked away. Proof indeed that there's plenty of new money available for old rope. ●

New Zealand's tyre stewardship scheme

- Addresses 5 million EOL tyres pa
- A priority waste stream
- Expected to take effect in 2023
- 10 years in the making
- Co-designed by industry, government and Hastings based 3R Group
- Regulated by Government
- Transparent declared fees "attached" to tyres
- Expected to create new business and use for recycled tyre products
- Incentivises creation of high value products from end of life tyres
- Controls the supply of EOL tyres to processors
- For more information: www.tyrewise.co.nz



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The ice queen cometh

I'm a terrible skier.

In the few times I've tried it I've caused otherwise competent skiers to lose their poise and collapse on the ground in hysterics. I'm at my best on the chair lift. It's nice to glide through the air surrounded by pristine views.

But what happens when you get off at the top and two signs confront you? The first is double black diamonds - you're out of your depth and great caution is required. The second says 'Avalanche Risk'; fate is not entirely in your hands.

Our world has felt fragile since Covid-19 arrived - in terms of its threat to our loved ones, a health system that might not cope and how profoundly divisive it has been in society. The vaccine zealots and vaccine sceptics are mostly intolerant of each other. I haven't felt so much tension since the Springbok Tour in 1981.

On top of this is the horrendous trauma experienced by small business owners. Much of our tourism sector is closed for business, the hospitality industry has experienced death by 1,000 cuts and the events industry has ridden a rollercoaster of hope and despair. Institutions like Friday drinks, Saturday sports and Sunday church have been cancelled, restricted or labelled 'potential super-spreader events'.

Our emotional shock absorbers are worn out.

Risk is cumulative and there is much else to be concerned about. How about soaring inflation likely followed by soaring interest rates? We have sky high public and private debt, over-priced financial markets with technology allowing new and naïve investors to join the late cycle boom. It's not so long ago there was no Reddit crowd, meme stocks, Sharsies, Robinhood or

multiplicity of crypto currencies.

Geopolitical tensions are on the rise with both China and Russia having expansionist ambitions. Who would you rate as stronger and smarter - Xi Jinping and Putin or Biden and Bojo? Throughout the western world there has been a loss in trust of governments and democracy, an increase in inequity, the erosion of social cohesion and rise of polarising leaders.

Basic economics

From an economic wellbeing standpoint, the factor that worries me the most are the supply chains.

When there are supermarket restrictions on breadcrumbs and oat milk, consumers can reasonably conclude there is trouble brewing. Modern delivery systems are highly optimised. In Hawke's Bay we simply don't have 50 nurses or 50 truck drivers sitting idle. If there is a Covid outbreak in the wrong place at the wrong time it will be immensely disruptive. Our exporters are also spooked. Freight rates are up an average of 60% and the shipping schedule quite unreliable.

Second on the list are the impacts of inflation. Legendary economist Milton Friedman said "inflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon". The money supply is controlled and regulated by government and all inflations are caused by governments.

What we learned from the Great Financial Crisis (GFC) is that Quantitative Easing (money printing) isn't inflationary in terms of the CPI. The new money is distributed through the banks and shores up the financial system. If this does empower the banks to lend, it's to their financial buddies, the corporations and perhaps

The Governor of the Reserve Bank denies monetary policy was too easy and the Prime Minister denies fiscal expenditure has been inflationary. That's dishonestly or stupidity, or a combination of the two. There is no other explanation.

to 'safe' home loans. This isn't surprising as central banks have breakfast with the bankers and lunch with corporate CEOs.

What the GFC showed us is that little of this money makes its way into the hands of those that need it most, but the stock market, the bond market and house prices soar. It's worth pondering why a 'kind', left-of-centre government would allow policies that increase the wealth gap between the rich and poor. The government's fiscal spending and various support packages are inflationary, but at least some of the cash ends up in the hands of ordinary people.

The Governor of the Reserve Bank denies monetary policy was too easy and the Prime Minister denies fiscal expenditure has been inflationary. That's dishonestly or stupidity, or a combination of the two. There is no other explanation.

The most egregious of lies to watch out for is that 'Inflation is a global issue' and that we are not masters of our own destiny. Where there is a floating currency, each government controls its own inflation. For this reason inflation is close to zero in Switzerland and 36% in Turkey.

I'm not sure what will trigger it, but there are so many risks that we're surely on the precipice of disruptive change to the financial and social order. So how should you negotiate these tricky slopes?

Inflation is non-linear, a schizophrenic beast. You pump in \$1b and nothing happens. Another \$1b and still nothing happens. A third \$1b and whammo ... you have inflation. Stopping it is equally unpredictable. A great deal of what feels like point-less pain can be incurred before finally inflation is bought under control.

Manage your risks

I'm not sure what will trigger it, but there are so many risks that we're surely on the precipice of disruptive change to the financial and social order. So how should you negotiate these tricky slopes? I'm not a financial advisor and no one should take my advice, but I can tell you what I've done.

Sell any property you don't want to hold for a decade

A great many baby boomers have a residential rental or commercial property as their retirement investment. If you're 70, now is a good time to cash up. The two big drivers for house price growth are immigration and low interest rates. The new lending laws have also become a real roadblock to first home buyers. After going up 50% in the last two years, the property market will blow cold for a while.

Reduce your debt

During the GFC Mr Market wanted a debt deleveraging. He still does and Mr Market always wins eventually. Government debt, household debt and business debt are all much higher than they were in 2008 and vulnerable to economic shocks. I'm fearful for so many young people who have signed up to 30-year mortgages and are about to have their mortgage rates double and their equity evaporate.

Hold some cash

The stock market is at giddy heights with the S&P500 up almost 77% in three years. An investment firm I respect says that the number one driver for the stock market is monetary



policy. It's not profits, innovation or productivity, but what levers the government and reserve bank are pulling. And they've clearly signalled they're tightening the purse strings and raising interest rates. I'm not saying you should sell everything but it's a good time to hold maybe 30% in cash or gold. Holding cash you might lose 6% a year to inflation, but the rule of thumb for bear markets is that they last a year and the stock market drops by 36%.

Be careful when listening to experts

This is particularly true of financial advisors if they make their money by investing your wealth. Many will say 'stay in the market' as it suits their interests. Excepting some Covid palpitations, this has been the longest bull market in history, beginning 13 years ago. The party won't go on forever.

If you don't own much, you can relax a little. 'The rich man has much to lose' said Seneca and they're the ones that will lose sleep.

In tough times my grandfather

planted up the veggie garden and bought a side of mutton from over the fence. Plant some winter greens, buy a book from the Little Red Bookshop, bake those lockdown scones and have a cuppa with the neighbours. There is so much pleasure in the small things of life. Maybe that lesson is the good thing to come out of the pandemic.

For now the world looks a prosperous place. Many are out to lunch or installing a swimming pool on the basis their house has doubled in value. The wealth effect of paper profits can lead us astray.

Governments always try to deflate financial bubbles slowly and over several years, but it never works out that way. One day animal spirits will rise to the fore and they can't be reined in or regulated. It's best to watch the carnage from a safe distance if you can.

Today as I write our endless summer casts warm rays across the bountiful harvest of the Heretaunga Plains, but make no mistake - the ice queen cometh. It's worth contemplating the hazards ahead and just how you might negotiate the unavoidable downslope. ●



Is 2022 the Year of Sustainable Investing?

We've seen a few articles recently touting 2022 as the year sustainable investment comes of age.

It certainly feels like something that should be commonly accepted at this point - investors have been demanding change in various ways since the mid-20th century, creating space for ethical alternatives to the traditional fund offerings.

Corporate governance expert Betsy Atkins calls our current climate the era of the conscientious consumer, "where more than ever before, a wide range of stakeholders care deeply about ESG." We're now seeing a cultural shift where companies have realised that strong ESG practices are not just appealing, but necessary for future proofing their relationships with their stakeholders.

(ESG refers to the pillars commonly identified for sustainable investments - environmental, social and governance factors. These create a holistic way to look at whether investments are 'green' or not.)

If 2022 is to be the year of sustainable investment, it must also be the year of transparency.

In October 2021, 60 organisations released an open letter for the European Union to act on standards for ESG disclosure. That wouldn't happen in a world where we can trust ESG standards to be globally consistent and comparable, so we must start by accepting that, currently, they are not. There is a real risk of greenwashing, where companies can overstate their sustainability contributions and understate their environmental or social impact, because a global standard for this reporting does not exist yet.

Of course transparency does not

We're now seeing a cultural shift where companies have realised that strong ESG practices are not just appealing, but necessary for future proofing their relationships with their stakeholders.

equal action. It just means it's much more difficult for products to be sold as something they are not.

Your average consumer is more likely to pay more for (and expect more from) products or services that make environmentally and socially conscious claims. With that comes an increased risk for companies who don't walk the walk - should they be found to be greenwashing their contributions, it can deeply fracture any trust earned.

We don't have to look far for examples of companies greenwashing their products. Just last year Volkswagen was fined a record A\$125 million for deliberately deceiving both regulators and customers about the environmental performance of their cars.

More locally, in December 2021 Consumer NZ identified four brands not able to back up specific aspects of their sustainability claims - among them brands typically championing sustainable practices, like Maggie Marilyn and Ruby.

As consumers we're likely more sensitive to retailer claims being overstated than we used to be. We want to get what we pay for, and we want to get it as guilt free as possible. The

advice Consumer NZ gives on this is applicable to any investments as well.

From the article:

"The best way to protect yourself against 'green' marketing hype is to look for precise claims and evidence backing them up."

So how can you look for this evidence as an investor?

If you're not sure where to start on due diligence, look for areas where it's been done for you. Take KiwiSaver for example - as of December 2021, all of the default funds now meet criteria excluding fossil fuel production or controversial weapons. The Government has already chosen the KiwiSaver schemes it thinks are suitable for this, and which it thinks will get you the best bang for your buck. So, if your only investments are through KiwiSaver, you might consider switching to one of those updated default providers, or checking that your current fund aligns with your personal values.

For those with other portfolios, information about where your money is going should be readily available to you. Transparency in all areas should be part of due process. Your adviser should be engaging in conversations about your expectations and requirements so you understand any potential trade-offs or caveats your investment decisions may have.

Another great thing to look for is third party validation. For example, firms with CEFEX accreditation voluntarily undergo annual audits by independent analysts to promote a culture of continuous improvement. It's the nearest thing we have to a global stamp of approval for trustworthy investment professionals, so while it's not a guarantee of ESG, it's a good indicator a



Firms with CEFEX accreditation voluntarily undergo annual audits by independent analysts to promote a culture of continuous improvement.

firm is dedicated to best practice when it comes to looking after your values and needs.

If you're going it alone through retail apps like Sharesies and Hatch ... first, a reminder that you can't predict the market no matter how closely you follow it, so be wary of jumping into these kinds of investment platforms as a get-rich-quick scheme. In terms of research, you would need to perform that due diligence yourself and make sure your DIY

portfolio aligns with your values. This might involve some deep diving into funds and/or companies.

Often we can do more than we think simply by looking at our current situation. It's like choosing to recycle, rather than throwing your plastics in the trash - small actions can make a wider impact and be better in the long run.

And hey, even if 2022 isn't the year sustainable investment finally comes of age... it's certainly getting closer. ●

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Nick Stewart is a financial adviser and CEO at Stewart Group, a Hawke's Bay-based CEFEX certified financial planning and advisory firm. Stewart Group provides personal fiduciary services, wealth management, risk insurance and KiwiSaver solutions.

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SCAN FOR MORE



Make a plan for Omicron



Hawke's Bay like the rest of the country is experiencing increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases and that's likely to continue for some time.

Our modelling shows we won't hit the peak of Omicron cases in Hawke's Bay for some weeks, but as each day goes on more and more of us are likely to be exposed to the virus one way or another.

As a health system we are well prepared.

We've been planning for some time on how we manage and support people in our community with Omicron. We have hospital plans in place to manage surges in cases and we have been working hard with our community colleagues, GPs, pharmacies, iwi health providers, regional leaders and others to make sure there is health and welfare support when you need it.

The most important thing you can do is make a plan. Make sure you have all the medications you need on hand

if you suddenly have to isolate for 10 days. It will be key to also ensure anyone in your care has all the medications they would need as well. The last thing anyone needs is running out of something like asthma medication in the middle of the night.

Have supplies of paracetamol and throat lozenges and other medication that you would normally use if you had a heavy cold, on hand. For most people, especially those that are vaccinated, Omicron will be a mild illness and most people will be able to manage their symptoms safely at home. There's great advice on the Unite Against Covid-19 website with all sorts of useful tips and things to consider for managing at home as well as a checklist to keep you and your family safe.

If you test positive to Covid-19 you will likely receive a text message so cases and contacts can be more quickly notified. The text will in-

clude an access code and a link to a self-assessment form. The form takes about 30 minutes to complete and will ask for information to help make sure those with the highest health or welfare needs are prioritised and supported accordingly.

The best way to manage the symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- Bed rest
- Taking paracetamol or ibuprofen to relieve headaches, aches and fever
- Honey or lozenges for a sore throat
- Decongestants for a blocked nose

Most of us will recover within 10 days, but it's important to track your symptoms every day in case you become more unwell and need urgent medical care.

Most of us will recover within 10 days, but it's important to track your symptoms every day in case you become more unwell and need urgent medical care.

Anyone who experiences difficulty breathing or chest pain should call 111 immediately. Our emergency services are there to support you whenever you need them.

You may live with someone who is more vulnerable because they have other health issues or are older and frail. These people need to take particular care and get support as soon as they can if their symptoms worsen in any way. If you become concerned about someone in your care contact your GP, or call Healthline 0800 358 5453 anytime for Covid-19 health issues.

But if it's an emergency call 111 and let the operator know you or someone you care for has Covid-19. Do not

turn up at a GP clinic or emergency department without letting them know so they can make sure all the right protective protocol is in place for your arrival.

It is going to take some time for the virus to run its course and for the peak of illness to hit our community, but if we are all prepared and keep an eye out for our neighbours who live alone and look out for each other we will get through this.

Our vaccinators and testing staff continue to be there as they have from the beginning of the rollout of the vaccination programme. Hawke's Bay has done so well with nearly 95% of our community double vaccinated. Our booster numbers are steadily increasing with 70% of those who are eligible having had their booster (as at 18 February).

If you become concerned about someone in your care contact your GP, or call Healthline 0800 358 5453 anytime for Covid-19 health issues.

That's a phenomenal effort as vaccination remains the best protection from Covid-19, with overseas experience and hospitalisation reinforcing this view.

Health services are there for you should you need us, but being prepared will help you and your whānau get through this. ●

Chris McKenna is the Hawke's Bay DHB Covid-19 lead. She has worked in a variety of acute settings, largely in intensive care and emergency care, her career spanning a range of health leadership, managerial and education roles.



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Trash into treasure

Hawke's Bay is one of the country's biggest food producers, which also means we are one of the biggest creators of food production waste.

But an exciting new project is set to tackle this.

The recently launched initiative – Sustainable is Attainable Hawke's Bay – is working to change trash into treasure, not only keeping waste from landfill but developing high-value by-products. With around 30 local businesses already committed to the project, it's off to a strong start.

Nicky Solomon from Food & Beverage Hawke's Bay is the coordinator for the project. "It kicked off at the end of 2021 after I had heard about the project in Timaru. Sustainable is Attainable Timaru has been running since 2019 and, with the backing of the district council's development agency Venture Timaru, they're already into the advanced research and feasibility stage."

"I immediately saw the potential for Hawke's Bay to do something similar, and to join the dots with another similar region," she says.

Nicky approached a number of organisations, including the 3R Group, for both technical support and funding. "Funding is crucial for a project of this kind. Fortunately, we have received support from all five Hawke's Bay councils, Callaghan Innovation, Massey University and the Bioresource Processing Alliance," Nicky says.

The project was a good fit for us at 3R with our focus on reimagining waste, so two of the three interns working on the project, Olivia Cotter (University of Waikato) and Sara Dooney (Canterbury University) are based at our offices, with a third intern, Nelson Harper, based at Massey University.

Over the past three months this team has been working with Nicky and

"When industry and academic and research institutions collaborate, we get greater resources to improve existing processes, pool knowledge and find solutions which can be rolled out at scale."

NICKY SOLOMON

Natalie Martin, 3R's materials innovation manager, to identify and focus on a number of waste streams from the region's primary industry. These range from the pomaces (pulp and other by-products) from processing fruits and vegetables to the plastic wrap around pallets, and tanned (chemically treated) timber like fence posts.

While some of these, such as food waste, can and are used for composting, other materials end up in landfill. Pallet wrap, for example, is a widely used and recyclable type of plastic, but because it's soft rather than rigid processors can't accept it. Tanned timber presents a different set of challenges as the chemicals in the wood need to be neutralised before high-value uses for the timber can be found.

Organic waste, which accounts for tens of thousands of tonnes a year, currently has the highest potential for having value added to it.

For example, pomaces from juicing fruit and vegetables could be further refined to extract high value compounds like essential oils, antioxidants, dyes and enzymes. The 'waste' from this process could then be processed further to extract other commodities like sugars, starches, proteins and cellulose.

The good news is these challenges aren't insurmountable. Much of the know-how and research is already

around in some form. However, individual companies or organisations working on their own are less able to progress this research or get it to scale due to a lack of time and resources. Collaboration is key.

"When industry and academic and research institutions collaborate, we get greater resources to improve existing processes, pool knowledge and find solutions which can be rolled out at scale," Natalie says. "Using waste or by-products are seldom core businesses, so by collaborating we are more likely to find opportunities that make sense."

"Continuing to think in terms of a current linear economy (take, make, waste) just isn't environmentally or economically sustainable. Whereas if we take our cues from nature and adopt circular economy principles then we make sure waste becomes a thing of the past as resources are reused, repurposed or recycled and their maximum value extracted."

"It's not only in line with the Government's current focus on moving New Zealand to circular economy, it also makes good business sense," Natalie says.

"Climate change, which brings fluctuating, unseasonal weather patterns and severe weather events, also poses a significant risk to primary production. Diversifying and building resilience into existing business models will be key to business survival and success."

Currently Sustainable is Attainable Hawke's Bay is in its first phase, which involves developing an understanding of the waste streams, their challenges, and opportunities. This means looking at what the waste is, how much there is, where it's currently going, and what others around the country and the world are doing to keep it from landfill and add value.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Sara Dooney, Dr Nicky Solomon and Olivia Cotter. Photo: Tom Allan

The outcomes of the students' work over the summer will be presented to the business collective, funders and other interested stakeholders in early February. Businesses will provide feedback about which opportunities are of interest so they can be prioritised and solutions further developed.

For many of these waste products there will already be pieces of the puzzle scattered around – it's a matter of connecting the dots by facilitating

collaboration. For others, there will need to be further research, innovation, invention and development.

The possibilities generated by this project can't be underestimated as they have the potential not only to reduce waste going to the landfill but additionally to create value for the region. The opportunity to get some fresh and enthusiastic eyes on the project means I'm excited to see what comes from it. ●

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

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De-commodifying nature

Sustained inspiration can be found in surprising places. One recent example for me is the granting of legal personhood to three major environmental features of New Zealand: Te Urewera (formerly the National Park) in 2014, the Whanganui River and Taranaki Maunga (formerly Mount Egmont), both in 2017.

Why surprising?

Western legal practice and economic systems have most commonly commodified the natural world. Individual ownership focuses on short term use of natural resources. The goal is maximising profits without regard to consequences for either the resource or human communities. Damages to the natural environment, including the ecosystem services that support human life, are left to future generations.

Climate change and the biodiversity crisis exemplify the worst outcomes of commodification of nature.

Legal personhood turns that thinking on its head, instead requiring that protected features of the landscape be treated with the same respect accorded another person. In this construct, humans are not owners of nature any more than we own relatives – our proper role is guardianship.

Why inspiring?

Legal personhood provides a pathway to a respectful, sustainable long-term engagement with nature. Legal personhood for nature provides mechanisms similar to those of a corporation to protect itself. For example, with all the rights of a legal person, the Whanganui River through its human guardians may be able to sue individuals or corporations who harm it or threaten its existence.

But ... why should legal personhood be limited to the most obvious natural features?

The Whanganui River, for example,

Legal personhood turns that thinking on its head, instead requiring that protected features of the landscape be treated with the same respect accorded another person. In this construct, humans are not owners of nature any more than we own relatives – our proper role is guardianship.

is partially protected by its size and isolation. Why doesn't the neighbourhood stream that I walk along almost daily deserve equal respect and protection? Don't the places where we all live, raise families, and earn our livelihoods deserve respect? Don't we want to leave behind a better world for our mokopuna?

In that context, I'm heartened by a recent Wellington initiative that aims to expand the use of 'legal personhood'. Zealandia, famous for its urban ecological restoration work in the middle of a city, launched the Sanctuary to Sea Kia Mauriora te Kaiwharawhara project in 2017. The project aims to protect the Kaiwharawhara stream's fish life by restoring an entire watercourse in a catchment of ~1900 hectares within urban Wellington. The area includes not only Zealandia, but also Otari-Wilton's Bush, suburban housing areas of Khandallah, Ngaio, and Wadestown, and even some farmland and town belt.

Now, Terese McLeod and her Taranaki Whānui are exploring the possibility of legal personhood for the Kaiwharawhara awa. Their project seeks to understand what personhood might mean for the awa and for the iwi. The Kaiwharawhara once provid-

ed food, waka, and kāinga (home) for the mana whenua. By understanding the values of the awa, the Whānui hope to learn how best to restore and protect the waterway and estuary that have been highly altered by urban development.

The Sanctuary to Sea project breaks new ground. Previous grants of personhood have all occurred within the context of Treaty of Waitangi settlements. In contrast, the possibility of personhood is being pursued as part of a community-wide environmental restoration initiative. Partners include not only Zealandia and the Whānui, but also the regional and city councils, the Department of Conservation, CentrePort, and a number of local community groups.

The Sanctuary to Sea project is also novel in aiming to apply the personhood concept to a modest-scale environmental feature – a stream or awa – in an urban environment. Cities are leading players in ecological restoration in New Zealand, and their work deserves the respect and recognition that personhood would bring.

One measure of the vision of Sanctuary to Sea as a restoration project is that it attracted Māori partnership. By considering possible personhood for the awa, Taranaki Whānui are endorsing the project and potentially adding future protection. Their endorsement indicates that the project reflects their values.

The project is being actively supported by Professor Catherine Iorns Magallanes of Victoria University of Wellington, an expert in indigenous rights and environmental law. With international colleagues, Professor Iorns Magallanes has written that "Recognising the rights of nature is an opportunity to elevate the power of Indigenous Peoples' laws and world-view to benefit all peoples."



The Mohaka River. Photo: Florence Charvin

Is the Sanctuary to Sea project a model for Hawke's Bay? Water will be a defining environmental issue for Hawke's Bay in the coming century. Securing its future for the region will be critical for our cities, tourism and the agriculture that drive our economy. Restoring our rivers is also a central component of environmental justice for Māori.

Respect for nature and a desire for a healthy natural environment are driving dozens, probably hundreds of local community environmental projects. But we need to think bigger and learn to work together — we have a mighty task ahead to restore our

waterways and leave future generations the environment they deserve.

Concepts like environmental personhood might just provide the inspiration we need to envision and realise that future. ●

Charles Daugherty is Emeritus Professor of Ecology, Victoria University. Awarded an ONZM for his work on tuatara ecology and management. A former trustee of Zealandia, he's involved with Biodiversity Hawke's Bay since retiring to Hawke's Bay, serving as chair of the trust board, but writing in his personal capacity.

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Richie Jackman at Music Machine. Photo: Tom Allan

Can't stop the music

Hawke's Bay is alive with the sound of music! Sure, it may not involve Julie Andrews cavorting across the upper slopes of Te Mata Peak, but almost everywhere you go you are likely to hear or experience some form of local contemporary music.

Gigs at the Cabana or Common Room, Jamie McPhail's 'Small Hall Sessions' getting performers out to the sticks, live music accompanying Hawke's Bay Farmers' Market goers, winery festivals, buskers in Napier's Emerson Street, entertainment for corporate events, wedding covers bands, or just suburban garage jam sessions, you're never too far away from the sound of music in Hawke's Bay.

A big, diverse ensemble

Unlike Dunedin in the early 80s, or Seattle in the 90s Hawke's Bay doesn't have a unique "sound".

In the early 90s bands like Jakob, who achieved some international fame, led a post-rock theme in the region, but with changing times, trends and populations the types of music you can experience in Hawke's Bay these days is much broader.

"If you look at Paisley Stage or The Cabana, one night you'll have a "Metal" night with five heavy metal bands. The next night it's folk trios, and the next night it's a DJ" says managing director of the Napier Music Academy, Rob Franks.

"When I moved here five years ago I was surprised by what a big musical community Hawke's Bay has. Everyone knows everyone and they all go to each-others' gigs and help out."

"It's really so diverse and I think that comes from so many young musicians

"It's crucial with Covid and all the lockdowns, that it'd be lovely to see something really revolutionary to come through – like the Punk era, or Grunge period were. It would be lovely for the youngsters who are writing great stuff now to feel something that causes a new movement, an identity thing and it would be great if it was a positive identity thing."

RITCHIE JACKMAN,
MUSIC MACHINE

coming through, but also the older ones who have been doing it for years and they have their style," adds Hayley Munro, a teacher at the academy, as well as being a musician in several local bands, including The Miserables.

"Lots of people are in lots of different bands, and others will often fill in when you need a guitarist or something, because they're close-knit and know most of the songs already."

Music Machine proprietor and local font of musical wisdom, Richie Jackman, was asked to judge a performance of EIT music students recently "and the music ranged from rather heavy, to hip-hop, soul, to pop, right across the board there is some great stuff coming out of there!"

Raising stars

Musical tastes and styles, like fashions, constantly change with time. While I remember playing the recorder in the Tamatea Primary School Orchestra in the 80s alongside violins, "pianicas" (a keyboard you blew into to produce a sound somewhere between an accordion and a kazoo), and wooden xylophones, you could be forgiven for thinking the trusty old plastic recorder had gone extinct as many kids these days want to be guitarists, or rock drummers.

Ukuleles had a bit resurgence five to ten years ago and many schools, including my daughter's, still have a ukulele group. Unlike the recorder the skills picked up learning the ukulele are transferable to instruments like the guitar and bass. So the downfall of the recorder may be just an evolutionary thing, but it could also be a digital thing.

Hayley Munro says, "When I was learning the recorder at school I couldn't just pull out my device and learn about this instrument, or listen to this sort of music on Spotify because it just didn't exist! Today they have a lot more information and access to a far wider range of music."

"We're not just teaching students how to play an instrument, but how to write songs, and how to perform and even showing some how to record."

The Napier Music Academy has around 250 students mainly aged



The Munros: Rob Franks, Hayley and Daniel Munro

between 7 and 11, with about a dozen older (18 and over) who they teach in schools and at their premises on Craven Terrace. Lots of schools don't have a set musical programme anymore, so this is where the academy comes in to help.

For older musicians Eastern Institute of Technology's New Zealand Diploma in Music, headed by Sarah Terry and Tom Pierard, is the place to go and was roundly praised by everyone I talked to. EIT also has the advantage of advanced recording studios, giving students the opportunity to learn the technical side of recording, mixing and sound engineering, as well as song writing and promotion.

Confidence is also a big part of performance.

Often getting musicians to perform is one of the biggest and hardest steps. "They're great musicians and enjoy jamming with one another, but might think they're too young, or don't have enough songs, but they can do a small set at Paisley or the like," says Hayley.

"When I was learning the recorder at school I couldn't just pull out my device and learn about this instrument, or listen to this sort of music on Spotify because it just didn't exist! Today they have a lot more information and access to a far wider range of music."

HAYLEY MUNRO,
NAPIER MUSIC ACADEMY

The academy and EIT help grow that confidence.

"One of the best things I have seen recently is when we hold Muso Nights and you see some of the young ones from the academy come through and their first performance is a little nervous, then a year later they're up on stage, confident, playing good songs - It's one of the things that keeps me going is that good buzz" says Music Machine's Richie Jackman.

The Music Machine man

Jackman has been running Napier's Music Machine store for 28 years. Originally based in the AMP building on Hastings Street (which was demolished to make way for the current Farmers department store), it relocated to the art deco era Hartson's building, Napier's original music store, several years ago.

His shop is a hive of musical activity, instruments, equipment and advice, with Richie and co-worker (and Jakob guitarist), Jeff Boyle taking centre stage.

A musician and songwriter himself, Jackman wrote for music label Warner Brothers Chappell back in Liverpool and was also a member of the group who bought and resurrected The Cabana as a music venue in 2008 after it had closed in 1997 and been turned into an art gallery.

"When I originally came here 30 years ago I was blown away by the level of playing and ability. Hawke's Bay has always been a very creative area - a place for music and artists," Richie says.



Kevin Murphy, The Backline Charitable Trust



Cashek

Jingle all the way

It's fair to say very few people work in music in Hawke's Bay as a fulltime job (Richie and Jeff exempt). If they do it's mainly teaching music as their main income earner, with playing and performing coming second.

One of the few people to turn his music into a living in Hawke's Bay is Rick Toner. Rick comes from a family of well-known Hawke's Bay musicians and plays in covers band Playing Mantis. He has also been an announcer at a number of radio stations across the region's airwaves.

Toner combined his media experience and musical skills to start Jingle King - a company that creates memorable, advertising jingles - those catchy 30-second musical advertisements you hear on your daily commute or in a shop that sticks in your head. He has produced successful ditties for local real estate agents, optometrists, cafes and more.

Rick has diversified even further by creating "The Jingle Studio", which teaches the jingle business online to an American advertising market.

Supporting acts

Some people play at home and don't really perform at gigs. Others write music and play as much as they can in various local original and covers bands

"We launched the HB Vinyl Record project "Under the Sun" last year - 40 artists submitted their music and we had 10 songs on the record, of which we pressed 300 copies, with half of those sent to the NZ music industry showcasing Hawke's Bay artists."

KEVIN MURPHY, THE BACKLINE CHARITABLE TRUST

on the pub/weddings/corporate circuit.

Some write and play their own original music and want to be on the national and international scene, and this is where Backline Charitable Trust really want to help.

The Backline Charitable Trust was formed in 2015 after Kevin Murphy had discussions with Mike Chunn of Split Enz fame around his "Play It Strange Trust" - an organisation that supports youth song writing in Auckland. Trustees are Tom Pierard, Hamish Pinkham and Murphy.

"When the Backline Charitable Trust launched the www.hbmusicHub.co.nz website in 2019 we thought 100 artists would have been a good target. This site is a free platform for any HB artist

to register and is a window to the scene in HB. Currently there are around 150 listed on there," says Kevin. The site also showcases local venues and has an event guide.

"We encourage promoters to view the site if they want local support acts and we encourage people looking for acts for their private functions to go there."

The trust secures funding to host mentors and since 2015 has hosted a range of artists, songwriters, managers and producers. They have formed relationships with MMF (Music Managers Forum), APRA, NZ on Air, NZ Music Commission, Recorded Music NZ, and Creative NZ.

In 2020 Hawke's Bay hosted APRA Songhubs writing sessions. "This was an awesome week of song writing involving six local artists writing with approximately 12 NZ producers and artists. Some amazing connections were made from that week," says Kevin.

"We launched the HB Vinyl Record project *Under the Sun* last year - 40 artists submitted their music and we had 10 songs on the record, of which we pressed 300 copies, with half of those sent to the NZ music industry showcasing Hawke's Bay artists."

Typical of the artists featured on *Under the Sun* is Floyd Pepper, appearing on the album as 'CASHEK'. Floyd, who teaches Screen Production at EIT



Devil's Elbow

by day, also plays in local band Groove Foundation. CASHEK plays a style of “downtempo” electronic music - the perfect sort of tunes for long Hawke’s Bay afternoons. Having signed with distributor DRM, CASHEK’s music is streamable on Spotify.

Floyd had used just a keyboard and laptop to record earlier works while travelling abroad, but since moving back to the Bay he now works out of a home studio where other acoustic and electric instruments like piano, guitar and percussive elements can be added into arrangements for depth and difference.

Projects scheduled to happen this year that Backline Charitable Trust will be involved in include AMPS - The Aotearoa Music Producers Series with the NZ Producers’ Guild. This is a session where local music producers are encouraged to attend and learn from an established professional NZ producer. Also on the schedule is Going Local - a two day seminar organised by INDIE Music NZ will be held in May.

After the success of last year’s release, *Under the Sun Volume 2* - HB Vinyl Record Project was launched in February and will be pressed by October/November this year.

Press record

Technology has made massive leaps across every aspect of life over recent years and music is no exception.

Richie Jackman says recording equipment and associated electronics has seen an exponential increase in sales in the last decade as people look to do their own recording.

Rather than having to go exclusively to studios to record, the DIY approach assisted massively by computer programmes, and phone and tablet apps has become far more common. “I’ve recorded songs in my kitchen,” says Hayley Munro. “We live on a main road, though, so you have to contend with trucks and other vehicles interrupting your recording sessions. That was one bonus of recording during lockdown - at least the roads were silent!”

Alec Withers of one of Hawke’s Bay’s more long-established bands, Devil’s Elbow, says “We’ve been handling our recording since the band began, it can be tedious but it’s not too hard to capture decent sounds if you know what you’re looking for. But we don’t mix our music; that burden gets handed over to the pros.”

The availability and range of online tutorials, how-to guides and the like is

now utterly phenomenal, too.

Napier-based Guitar Mastery Method is one company reaping the digital rewards. When *BayBuzz* profiled company founder, and member of local band Black Smoke Trigger, Charlie Wallace in 2020 he had over a dozen staff around the world, almost 400,000 registered students, 51,000 YouTube subscribers and the company’s revenue was in the millions of dollars.

The company is now getting in celebrity guitarists and offering hi-end one-on-one lessons via webcam. As I write, Wallace is advertising on Seek for an ops manager, offering a handsome wage, plus bonus to work in a “Kick ass company culture”!

Social media and digital streaming have taken over from analogue music formats, all but obliterating CDs, while vinyl has made a nostalgic comeback, showing that New Zealand’s “tyranny of distance” as Split Enz sang is a thing of the past.

“We used to make so much money selling CDs at the Farmers’ Markets, but CDs aren’t such a thing anymore,” Hayley Munro laments.

“You have to build up your social media side of things,” says Jackman. “It’s almost like in the old days where

you had to go and tour everywhere. But now you can ‘virtually tour’ much more widely on social media and someone from the United States or Britain can hear your music and go ‘Wow!’ without you having to go to those places.”

Devil’s Elbow’s Alec Withers thinks it’s more of a combination: “There is no money in having music free online, it’s there because you want to be in the game. Any action that comes from those channels is usually a day or two after a live show, people will still be on a buzz and check out your videos and buy a CD, or digital download. If you are not active with shows or have a new release/video out on media then things simmer down pretty fast.”

Unfortunately those live shows have hit a bit of a speedhump of late.

Covid causes concert chaos

Local musicians and venues have suffered greatly under Covid - losing concerts, festivals, weddings, events and thousands of dollars of income from performances that have been cancelled or repeatedly postponed due to Covid lockdowns and restrictions.

You really have to sympathise with the likes of Roy Brown of The Cabana, who typically hosted 10-15 local performers per month pre-lockdown and traffic light system. He says the local live music scene is currently almost dead and, with all the Covid health rules and regulations, there’s nothing he can do about it.

“Virtual gigs” aren’t really an option at the local grassroots level, because of the cost to set up, record and broadcast is too high for a typically smaller

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ALEC WITHERS,
DEVIL’S ELBOW

“virtual ticket” return and the venues don’t make the money they would across the bar from live patrons.

Smaller venues like Ahuriri’s Urban Winery are still able to hold more intimate gigs, but such scaled down shows are not an ideal situation for all acts.

But it’s not just rules, vaccine passes and venue limits causing issues, says Hayley Munro.

“People have become far more cautious because of Covid. Some don’t want to go to places with crowds, others don’t buy tickets thinking the gig would already be over capacity, or it will be cancelled.”

While Covid may be the bane of local venues, it has given others time to write and create.

“From my personal point of view I wrote some of my best songs for years, because I had the time to do it,” Jackman says.

Future sound of Hawke’s Bay

“I think the music scene in Hawke’s Bay has been tested (by Covid),” says Hayley

Munro. “It’s going to take patience and perseverance to be able to play together again in bands and festivals.”

“But we can hold our weight against other, bigger centres like Auckland. A lot of it is due to places like HB’s wineries - we have lots of amazing venues hosting amazing events and people want to support young musicians, and local talent and music is such a big part of those events.”

Jackman says there is a lot of great music writing coming out of Napier’s high schools. “Napier Girls’ has some tremendous vocalists who are writing their own, original stuff. There’s Liberty Fowler, there’s Ella Pollett, similarly Napier Boys’, and all the schools. The music teachers are admired so much because they put their heart and soul into their music and that goes back to the guru of them all, Mr Dave Boston.”

Boston, who received a Queen’s Service Medal for services to music in 2009, has taught guitar to generations of young aspiring Hawke’s Bay musicians for over 40 years.

“Some of the now-not-so-youngsters he taught, like Jason Alexander (of band Naked Gun and a music teacher himself) have grown and are now passing their wisdom and musicianship onto the next generations.”

Jackman’s hope: “It’s crucial with Covid and all the lockdowns, that it’d be lovely to see something really revolutionary to come through - like the Punk era, or Grunge period were. It would be lovely for the youngsters who are writing great stuff now to feel something that causes a new movement, an identity thing and it would be great if it was a positive identity thing.” ●



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John Eaden. Photo: Florence Charvin



Needed: more space for art makers

Hawke's Bay expects to see further population growth with people moving in from other parts of New Zealand, a growth spurt that includes residents of the many retirement lifestyle villages.

The wellbeing of a community is nurtured by the engagement of citizens in the local community, with regular recreational activities and common interests facilitated by well-appointed community facilities with adequate provision for creative interest groups.

Toi Tū

Inclusiveness in the arts and culture has been recognised by Napier City and Hastings District Councils and is at the heart of the Toi Tū Hawke's Bay Strategic Framework guidelines that are being applied to all future planning. Both councils have formally adopted the Toi Tū Framework and it is anticipated that Central Hawke's Bay and Wairoa will also adopt it, covering the whole region.

It reinforces the fact that we need creative spaces to work on our projects, develop new learning, and foster friendships while finding joy and communal fun in collaborations with others. A stimulating, participative life is essential for wellbeing, whatever the age.

Developing more community facilities

By community facilities, let's consider a *genuine* community centre, i.e. somewhere people can gather in their own localities with meeting rooms, creative workshops or artists' studios, a café or food store, etc.

Such a cluster of buildings would be a great asset and would provide a cultural balance to the big investment in sporting facilities located in every town and suburb in Aotearoa.

We have seen buildings originally conceived as community centres, such as the Havelock North Function Centre and the Napier War Memorial Convention Centre effectively lost as community facilities when they became commercial venues geared to business and entertainment events.

In Hawke's Bay, established specialist membership-driven groups such as pottery clubs, art societies and wood-turning groups provide an introduction for beginners and weekly 2-hour sessions for established members. The most popular of these groups are bursting at the seams - in particular, the thriving pottery groups for which there are waiting lists for courses and membership all around the motu.

Retirement creativity

Many would-be artists and creatives reach retirement age before they can fully engage in their creative passion. Now, at last they have the time, savings and National Super to explore their long-delayed talents ... an opportunity for fun and stimulating creative work as they make the most of this precious time of life.

Younger generations of young people study art and design, media, film-making and a myriad of creative skills courses, if that is their desire. That was not the case for most of the post-war generation who started work when they turned 15 or 16, learnt trades and made a living in practical jobs that would fund a family and a home. After a lifetime of work and raising a family, now it is their time to really focus on their own personal growth.

But then the decision looms - to downsize the family home or move into a retirement village? Either way, there may not be space for the creative activity after the move and why would you stop your creative work because you've changed your address? Isn't it time our decision-makers were proactive in this respect?

The Retirement Lifestyle companies aim to provide facilities according to the perceived needs of their residents and some have a room or small shed that could be used for a project. When I enquired of several villages about workspaces I was told it wasn't seen as a priority and that people could convert their garage into a workspace.

Designated studios

For the serious artist there is an urgent need for a designated studio space.

Hastings painter, John Eaden, managed to maintain his painting practice alongside his working career in an arts-related role in Auckland. He retired here a few years ago and turned over his double garage to serve as studio. "Having a designated space to work is pretty much a requirement for an art career," he says. "An artist needs an ongoing workable space that they can work in, where they can leave their works-in-progress." However, he believes a committed artist would find a space to work and he has known of successful artists who have worked on a kitchen table. But that would depend on the medium and the family situation.

Having a dedicated workspace made all the difference to my own art practice. I was then in my early sixties and a late-starter. On my property was a

"Having a designated space to work is pretty much a requirement for an art career. An artist needs an ongoing workable space that they can work in, where they can leave their works-in-progress."

JOHN EADEN

long-disused orchard shed that I converted into a studio and I'm certain that without the studio to work in constantly I would not have established the skills or momentum to create a body of work worthy of exhibit.

Affordable studios

Fulltime artists always need somewhere to work and like Eaden, some would say those who are committed to their art will find a space, somewhere, somehow. True, but rent can be a killer and is a serious dilemma for the dedicated artist living on an unpredictable income stream.

A solution to the 'affordable studio' problem can be a cluster of studios for artists where socialising and creative vibes may result in collaborations and new ideas. They are quite commonplace overseas and a few exist here. The Waiohiki Arts Village in Taradale is such a place and an enviable solution for those fortunate enough to rent one. Waiohiki is governed by a trust that provides separate art studios with affordable rents for up to a dozen practising artists. When one of the studios becomes available there is a scramble amongst local artists to acquire it.

Spaceship is a shared working space for eight artists and creatives located in Karamu Road. It's a social enterprise collective that has been operating for just over a year and is a unique model that doubles as a bar and live music venue on Friday and Saturday nights. Its contributing artists take an active role in the running of the bar and venue instead of paying rent, but now Spaceship is at a crunch point in terms of viability thanks to intermittent Covid restrictions and its volunteer manager, Sophie Watkins, feeling

overwhelmed by the conflicting demands on her time and goodwill.

Evidently, there is a need for art studio facilities that are localised and suited to purpose, but shared community facilities must be formally set up with a salaried manager to administer their operation.

FabLabs worldwide

The FabLab Network is an open, creative community of fabricators, artists, scientists, engineers, educators, students, amateurs, professionals, of all ages located in more than 149 countries in approximately 2,000 FabLabs. Christchurch opened its first FabLab in 2014, Wellington has a FabLab attached to the Massey Campus and in Auckland's Sandringham, The Pocket Lab has been going since 2017. Each is unique to the community it serves.

The FabLab may employ a skilled technician who can repair broken electrical goods and often has a recycling focus. Some provide access to 3D printers, Laser engravers and cutters and other tools. The mission is to provide ordinary people with opportunities to learn, invent and innovate.

Historically, 'Creative Spaces' is not new in Aotearoa. Helen Clark's Government funded creative spaces that were accessible to all, whatever the age group or demographic and they bloomed around the country, establishing artist communities. They largely disappeared when the National Government scrapped adult community education in its 2009 budget, along with community funding for the arts and creative spaces.

Now, the only government designated creative spaces in Hawke's Bay are for clients of the mental health and disability agencies such as Hohepa and Presbyterian Support, funded through the Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

However, in the bigger cities a number of successful creative spaces offering open access do exist. They are funded by MCH, but currently, building costs do not come under the existing community arts funding structures and would require special budgets. It is likely that such funding would have to come from central government.

If there is a sincere intention within local and central government to support participation in the arts, access must be a priority for those who want it, no conditions, no age limits. This requires buildings in which people can work and gather. ●



Mixing it up (big time)

One of the great things about being a reader is the lives you can live and the places you can go. Seeing as we're living in strange times indeed, escapism from the comfort of your own home has never been a better idea. But how to read the meaty, worthy tomes, without getting into a hole of worthiness and gloom? Here's what I've been reading, and how I coped with it all.

A really depressing book I read is the novel *Anthem* by Noah Hawley, and don't get me wrong, it's absolutely brilliant, but it begins with a worldwide teen suicide pandemic. Kids are giving up and the powers that be, not to mention parents, are terrified as more and more succumb with only the written clue 'A11' linking the thousands and thousands of sudden deaths.

Hawley brings in absolutely everything that's going on, particularly in America, as reasons for this malaise: climate change, 'post-truth', the God King who lost the election (or did he?), Covid-19, big Pharma and oxycodone. It's too much for the world's youth and those with parents rich enough to pack them off to wellness centres for anxiety and depression treatment do so. This is how Simon, whose sister Claire killed herself, meets Louise, the Prophet and Duane, and embarks upon an absolutely crazy mission to knock some sense into the world as it goes to hell in a handcart (riots, lost continents, disease, all of the things).

This isn't so much an anthem for doomed youth as a wild and epic tale of a youth with nothing to lose but maybe, just maybe, something to hold out for. It was amazing, but you need to brace yourself and have a lovely book to read for afterwards whilst you process it all.

So what I read next is *Batpig: When Pigs Fly* by Rob Harrell. Gary Yorkshire is a wee pig who goes to school with his great friends Brooklyn the bat and Carl the fish. All the other kids at school appear to be human but we're



not going to worry about that.

Brooklyn has nodded off one day (presumably because nocturnal) and Gary plays a grand trick of putting shaving foam on her hand (claw?) and tickling her nose, expecting her to wake up and rub it all over her mush. But no, Brooklyn awakes with a start and gives Gary a good hard nip with her sharp batty teeth.

Cut to a bit later and strange things start to happen to Gary including the ability to levitate himself and others and a bit of super strength going on. Turns out that Brooklyn is perhaps a 'little bit' radioactive. Lovely Carl, who has to pop into the loo (like, in to the loo) whenever he starts to dry out a bit, is terrible at keeping secrets and Gary and Brooklyn try to hide Gary's powers from him. As with most secret keeping in books, that doesn't turn out well.

Anyway, a superhero is born, and of course then a super villain enters the plot and the whole thing is funny and sweet and wildly entertaining. A nearly 50-year-old woman shouldn't be reading bits of a cartoon out to random strangers and cackling, but hey, I did.

I then picked up *Mim and the Baffling Bully* (The Travelling Bookshop #1) by Katrina Nannestad because it's a slim volume with a perky pink cover and is about books.

Mim is 10ish and her brother Nate is six. They live with their dad in a caravan pulled by a horse named Flossy. Flossy takes them where she feels they need to go and in this first book of the series they're off to Holland. When they arrive, the caravan door opens and some tingly magic occurs, dividing bookshelves and creating a staircase down to many more books, sofas, a pair of hedgehogs who are nesting in a dictionary, and some bats (not radioactive this time though).

The story is one of madcap adventures with the children's bonkers dad

and of worrying about important things like kindness and eating delicious cake every now and again, rather than if you have the right shoes. The bookshop has a book for every occasion, even if it doesn't immediately appear to be the right one. There's a lamb in this one too, a ram called Daisy who may or may not be able to fly. It's great.

From Holland, we're off to Auckland for an epic love story. *Shelter* by Douglas Lloyd Jenkins (Bateman Book, \$34.99) is about Joe and Leo, and it's as much a love affair with the city as between the two protagonists.

Joe meets Leo, and after a mating ritual that Leo finds perplexing but inevitable (he's not queer), the pair move into Leo's beautiful, tiny home in the grounds of a large property in the heart of Auckland. Life is good, but as time goes on and Joe wants the normal stuff - to meet Leo's friends, to introduce him to his mum - Leo withdraws and in a bungled attempt not to end but to redefine their relationship, devastates Joe by leaving Auckland.

Leo comes back into Joe's life eventually, and the re-moulding of their relationship is heartbreaking and beautiful. I was captured by this story - of a young man with so much love to give, of the nooks and crannies of Auckland discovered on magical night walks, by the passion and the yearning to live life authentically.

Whatever life chucks at us this year and beyond, at least we're safe in the knowledge that there will always be a bloody good book to take us somewhere. Let's mix it up a bit, go to the dark places, the brooding, romantic places, but make sure to seek out the places where there are ridiculous things to laugh at and cakes to eat. ●



Found!!!

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.
The artworks created by Ricks Terstappen could
be regarded as the epitome of Aristotle's aphorism.



Story by Michal McKay
Photos by Tom Allan

Strolling through the streets of Hawke's Bay it would be impossible to miss the statuesque structures that stand tall in such social centres as Napier, Hastings and Havelock North. Significant art statements of the kind some observers may regard as controversial - until they stop, stare, and study their aesthetic.

Some are the creations of Ricks Terstappen, recognised as one of the foremost contributors to shaping the artistic landscape of the Bay ... and the region's expert in the Found Art movement.

It's an art form with both critics and acolytes. It certainly calls for controversy, mainly because some consider it to be an overt and crude way of challenging pre-existing notions of art.

It blatantly confronts what connoisseurs regard as the norm - not only in art but often also in society. Its implementation by the likes of Picasso, Marcel Duchamps, and latterly Robert Rauschenberg and Damien Hirst have helped the form gain acceptance.

Ricks' own work is an exploration of scale and form and often colour. And demands attention. Time to contemplate the thought behind. That may be whimsical, wry, even wicked; it can also be a political statement. Or a poke at tradition.

Undisputed however is the fact his creations are a result of deep conceptual thought which plummets the superficial to produce work full of hidden meaning. Much like Ricks himself

“The officer said I’d be an ideal candidate – young, fit – a perfect farm hand. I liked the sound of that and filled out the forms ... I had no idea what emigration even meant.”

who upon initial meeting offers a kind, humble and genial impression. Do not be fooled. It’s camouflage - yes, he is all of those things - but beneath there also lies a caring, charismatic and incredibly creative talent.

His name conveys his origins. Born in Venlo, Holland - number two child of a family of seven children - art played a role from childhood: an influence from his very artistic father. Ricks discovered his talent early. From the age of ten he began using found objects to create. But at the age of 17 - pretty much at a loose end as to ‘what next’ in his life - he walked into what he assumed was a travel agent. The window displaying cowboys sitting round a campfire suggested to him a wonderful place for a holiday. In fact, it was an emigration office for New Zealand. “The officer said I’d be an ideal candidate - young, fit - a perfect farm hand. I liked the sound of that and filled out the forms. First time I was refused as I had no trade. So, I did a short stint on a farm - reapplied - and with the same officer’s encouraging support was accepted. I had no idea what emigration even meant.” That was in 1978.

Life has a way of offering opportunity. His mother’s brother lived in Hawke’s Bay - one of the three Crasborn brothers who have put their stamp on the region’s apple business. Ricks headed directly there. “I’d never been on a plane before, didn’t know a soul outside the Netherlands - but I loved the trip; getting to know people like the nun who sat next to me returning to England after thirty years, the discovery of other places like Tehran riddled with warfare and guns.”

He worked in the orchard by day and did a lot of carving by night. “I came with one chisel.” Wood was his initial material of inspiration followed closely by a connection to steel, but ultimately a love for salvage and the disused (more

often than not found in junkyards) and marrying and moulding them into art forms along with wood and iron was a metamorphosis which formed his transition into a found artist. “Something clicked as I was spending a lot of time clearing up debris and it held a fascination. I thought to myself ‘I could make sculpture’.”

“So, I went to EIT - I was one of the first lot in ’88. Para Matchitt was there and Jacob Scott (both becoming well-recognised NZ artists). I did four years - two as a student and two as a technician.” While there he found a building site being demolished - “I had no idea what the process of acquiring a demolition yield involved - so I offered them \$1,000. The contract was a six-inch-thick stack of paper which - naturally - I did not read. It was only later I discovered that this is a business and usually a site garners about \$80,000 a bid.” He won the contract. “A friend and I went fifty/fifty and we had about a week to get everything off the site. Otherwise, we would have been in deep trouble. His wife was having a baby so in the end it landed up as my project.”

That was the start of a decades-long love for demolition, “What they throw out, I’ll find.”

“I still have some of those materials now.” No surprise there - anyone who takes the turning into Mt Erin Road from Te Aute cannot help but notice the first houses on the right surrounded by a prolific array of art works plus a host of found materials being permitted to deform and deteriorate. Yet as their function value decreases, in Ricks’ eyes it is simply increasing in artistic value; and certainly it is not what many may regard as rubble.

He shares the four acres with a cousin and his wife. Ricks’ partner chooses to live elsewhere “she likes things tidy” (smiling) - the whole making the perfect natural backdrop

to his unmistakable gift for transforming wood, iron and steel, debris, and a multiplicity of found objects into works of art. Much of his work is in metal, the properties of which he has a complete and innate understanding. His course at EIT taught him to weld although he hastily admits “I am not a professional, but I know enough.”

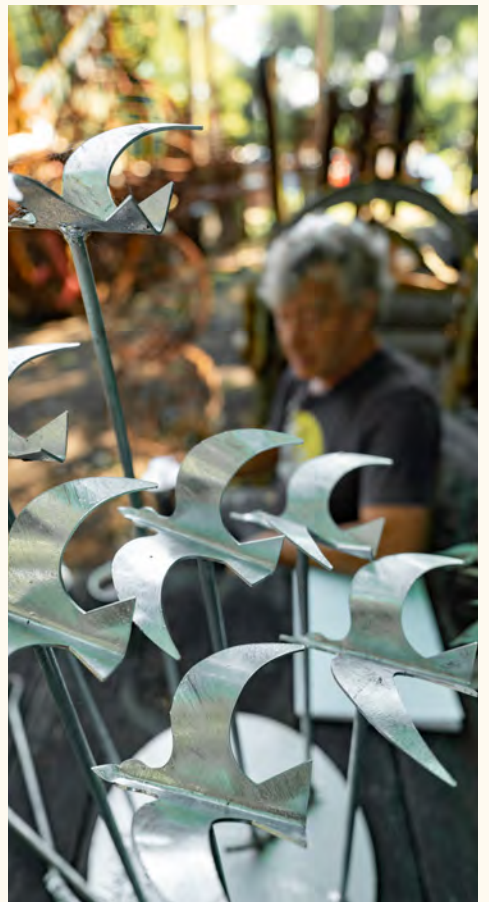
His creations cover a vast stratum, some with a superb and obvious sophistication achieved by spherical and undulating forms with high lustre lacquer finishes plus natural polish and sheen. Cool, calm and classed as collectors’ cache.

Others, reflecting the true meaning of found art, are more mindful and intricate requiring thoughtful viewing and comprehension. Like his ‘Pillars’ - a collection of tall statuesque columns of industrial memorabilia outside the Hastings Art Gallery utilising elements of machinery, orchard and farm equipment and other idiosyncratic bits and pieces garnered from the outback of Hawke’s Bay to create art forms which represent the region’s industry and culture.

He’s known as a collaborator. Many of his public works have been commissioned in conjunction with other artists - William Jameson was his student who became a very good friend with whom he worked on many projects; the stylised steel godwits which welcome everyone at the Napier Airport were created in conjunction with his long-time friend Jacob Scott.

Drop by his property for even an hour and there will be a constant stream of cohorts, passers-by, tour groups and the curious who stop for a coffee and a chat. His assistant Sharlene who works with him every Friday laughingly says he is the most easily distracted artist she has ever known. “He is someone who likes and needs people.”

Today Ricks works mainly on commissions - local, national, and



Ricks Terstappen on his property – a prodigious mix of finished and unfinished works.



LEFT: Ricks and his library of found materials waiting for a new life.

international. A procedure which can take time. And he is busy. Remarkably busy. Booked up for months (as reported by others; he's not one to shout out his success). "It's not so much the actual realisation of the work, it's the process. Producing the concept, the meetings, the paperwork, the permissions required. And a lot of people involved who all have to agree."

But in the meantime, he is constantly experimenting.

A walk through his property is revealing - a plethora of unfinished and finished works almost casually disclose themselves at every corner turned. A small church built for a friend's mother's funeral of no-longer-fit-for-use (thanks to health and safety) iron baking trays, hundreds of them - complete with steel drum and mallet for the church bell which rings with authority as it tolls.

An archway of carved parrots

commissioned by a friend who owned two of the rarest (and most expensive) parrots in the world - who would not mate. Desperate to produce a chick he asked Ricks to create a totem to help harness their fertility; it worked. But said friend (no longer we gather) failed to cough up. So, Ricks drove an exceptionally large nail into one of the carved parrots. The chick died. "Well, it was pretty weak in any case," comments Ricks with a chuckle, shrugging off the suggestion that something more mystical may be involved.

Many waka have emerged from his hands. Of varying sizes. Some enormous. There's one at Elephant Hill and others at Kimi Ora and Mahora Schools. "But each one is always different," he emphasises. 'Jandal on the Mandal' in Thames and part of the Hauraki Rail Trail is shortly to become a pair. The winner of the Thames Public Art Trust's Open Sculpture

Design Competition in 2017, its new match highlights Ricks' love of rust - a finish he finds particularly satisfying.

The jandal is also particularly heavy. Like many of his works. He is strong and fit but admits these days he has to be ingenious in finding ways of lifting heavy metal - as it were. "I do have a crane, of sorts," said with another grin (he made it himself), "but you do get quite good at working out how to move the really heavy works - like getting a truck to push it." His humour gets him through many a testing moment one suspects.

Ricks' library of material sits expectantly in the property - waiting for him to recognise the hidden potential and create something beautiful out of what the less imaginative of us would discard. One can only wonder what this irrepressibly innovative original will produce next as he brings the discarded and abandoned back to a new life. ●


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BREATHE.**

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HEART OF HAWKE'S BAY

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‘New’ is for the tacky ... the Joneses

I just bought six dining chairs.

I saw them online. Obsessed over them for a week. Showed pictures to a friend who confirmed I have good taste. Rearranged half the house to accommodate them. Booked a van to collect them last Thursday. Then rebooked it because Kate from Crownthorpe wasn't back from the beach yet and Saturday would work better for her.

They were her chairs. But now they are mine thanks to her toddler who doesn't fit with the cream cushioned seats. And Facebook marketplace.

Except for underwear and footwear, I don't do 'new'. New is for the tacky nouveau riche. New is for the nump-ties who hanker after trendy and end up with trashy. New is for the Joneses and those trying to keep up with them. Classic, classy and timeless only come with brocante.

There's so much stuff in the world. So many people remodelling, redecorating and reworking their interiors so often. So many people buying on-trend, shedding weight, piling it back on, changing their look, discovering they're not a 'spring', they're an 'autumn'. Then flicking their schmutter at the recycle boutique. So many people buying the things they want instead of what they need, then finding it's the feeling of new they needed and not the thing itself. I may as well win from their whims and their whimsies.

Trade Me is groaning with people's consumption misfires. And the stuff they got - or gave - for Christmas, which wasn't wanted, 'cause they had one already. That's why I'm more into 'Buy Now' than 'Buy New'.

Quality costs the first time around, but lasts, so second time around it still gives out. Cheap 'mink' from the Warehouse won't keep you warm come winter while op-shops are bursting with quality blankets: 100% wool, hand knitted, peggy-squared or pastel tartan donning the Napier Woollen

So many people buying the things they want instead of what they need, then finding it's the feeling of new they needed and not the thing itself. I may as well win from their whims and their whimsies.

Mills emblem. If your goal is warmth, quality and value for money, go for used not new.

There's joy too in rummaging for curios. That heart flutter that comes with finding a bona fide Sylvac condiment pot, Cobain clout goggles, atomic Eames-era barkcloth curtain sequestered in the back of some Granny's garage. You can't go gooey over mid-century modern unless you commit to cast-offs. Those interiors you salivate over in *House and Garden*? ...they don't come from Freedom Furniture. They come from years of collecting bits and bobs from op-shops (or their flashy siblings: vintage, retro, antique).

My favourite bumper sticker is one that says I Swerve For Thrift Stores (it's American but you get my drift). The only reason I drive to Wellington is to stop at the big-barn junk'o'rama in Woodville. Best of all though is driving through <insert small town name here> and spotting a flea-market. The electric thrill of that first glimpse of the obsessive collector, one driftwood owl away from becoming a hoarder, hocking off brown Crown Lynn coffee cans for \$2 a pop. I once bought a set of six nesting enamel dishes from a woman in a patchwork turban who aggressively insisted they were called 'Nana dishes'. That's the stuff real memories are made of, not a quick whip round to Kmart for another piece of Pyrex.

When you do 'go new' - and sometimes there's little choice - thinking

about how you're going to dispose of the thing before you even acquire it is vital. If it's plastic or packaged in polystyrene, liable to break within the year and unfixable when it does, then stop, think and reconsider. Chances are there's a second-hand, upcycled alternative.

Back in the day there was a saying: "Use it up, wear it out, make do or do without".

Implementing that rule of thumb now would take us a long way towards less consumption and more pride in the objects we do love, use and value. Looking at the true cost of the whole life of an object means thinking about how much you'll use it, how long it'll last, what you'll do with it once it's no longer fit for purpose. It means thinking about how much it cost to make, not just money-wise but environmentally, ethically, socially, culturally.

A rampant lion plant stand from Guangdong might be cheap in dollar terms but it's price-prohibitive when we add in sweatshop labour and airmiles.

If it's been made well enough in the first place that ornamental Chinoiserie could go on to have a whole other life once its original purchaser carks it and their descendants - seeing no discernible use for it and having no discerning taste - cart it off to their local auction house. Mine's in Hastings. It gives me endless fun when on Wednesdays I peruse the goodies, place blind bids, forget all about them until I'm messaged on Thursday, then turn up by Saturday to collect my latest whatnot, firkin or chatelaine.

The fun is in the hunt. And when your newly acquired wysiwyg is lovingly placed on the hutch in the hall it does well as what-ever-it-is, but it does better as a memento, a middle finger to the consumption society, a supportive salute to all those who would rather fossick for treasures than trawl through the Big Box. ●

NAPIER

Everything's within easy reach in the little city by the sea.

Wide tree-lined roads lead to town and are made for bicycling. Surrounding suburbs boast classic builds from quaint villas to Art Deco beauties. Corner shops include a traditional butcher, a secondhand bookstore, cafes and bakeries.

Quality schools, community halls and churches of every order pepper our neighbourhoods. There's a wealth of greenspaces, including walking and cycling tracks that lead around the city and out into the countryside. Napier is liveable, lovable and easy breezy.

At its heart, Napier has a bustling inner city. It's 'strollable' with a score of experiences within an easy walk, day and night.

Look up while you're wandering and you'll spot all the flourishes and fancies of our famous Art Deco architecture; down below, contemporary city life is all 'Go'. Napier is a busy commercial centre and a magnet for tourists so streets are alive with workers and visitors, bringing a lively buzz to the air. At coffee-o'clock there's limitless choices, and everyone has their favourite.

Plenty of options too for a bite to eat. From Turkish to Mexican, sushi to gelato, a hearty salad to a healthy sandwich, from the deli to the pie shop to the pizzeria, every taste is catered for. Two steps away from the bustle is the seashore. A walk, scoot, run or bike-ride down Marine Parade is perfect for clearing the head. There are plenty of charming picnic spots in public gardens; peaceful, picturesque and just a minute from the city centre.

When the sun goes down the city lights up with hospo offerings. Some of the best food in the Bay is within a few short blocks of Napier's heart. Take a peak down alleys festooned with fairy lights and you'll spot folks sipping cocktails tempting you to join them. Friendly and fun to be part of, easy to explore, central for business and wonderful on the weekend: Napier is a city for everyone.



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