

scene magazine

IT'S ALL ABOUT WHANGAREI

no.102/JANUARY 2017

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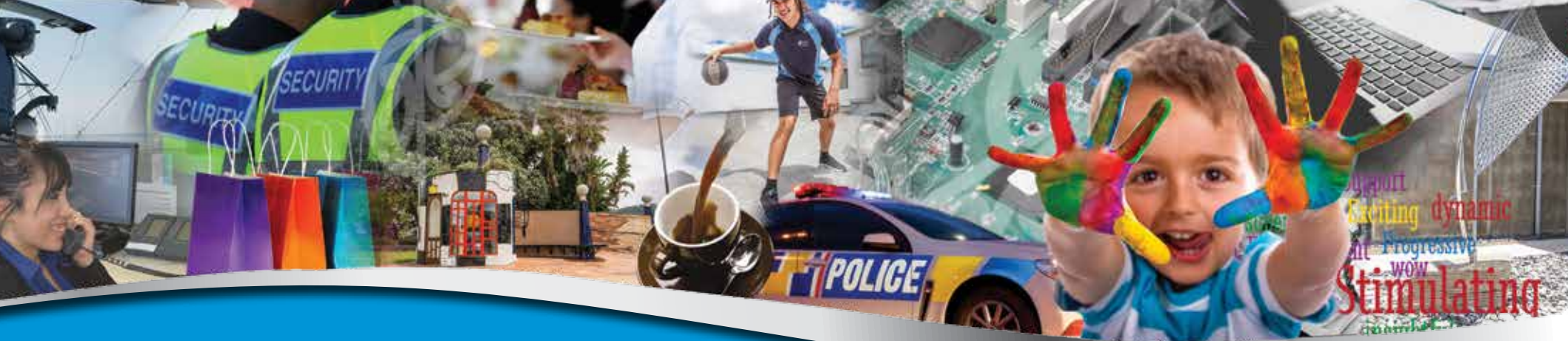
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ENROL NOW FOR 2017

Last month the team at People Potential celebrated the amazing achievements of their learners in 2016. So many have completed important qualifications which they can take to the workplace or which allow access to higher learning. We congratulate them all.



Hospitality and IT are two of our most outstanding programmes. Tourism is a growing market, and all kinds of businesses desperately need employees with high level skills in computing. Graduates from our programmes leave with skills valuable not only for our local economy, but for work all over the world.

The past year saw the introduction of the newly developed New Zealand qualifications, replacing National qualifications. 90% of all students enrolled in People Potential IT and Hospitality programmes achieved a qualification at Level 3, 4 or 5. Our students and tutors are very proud of this incredible achievement.

HOSPITALITY

The Food and Beverage Level 3 programme offers skills and knowledge in a range of hospitality areas so students can specialise in:

- Café service, including barista skills
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Hospitality Manager Shona Pivac and tutors Gina, Sylvia and Dayna have established a wonderful reputation for providing first-class service at events around the city. For over 10 years Shona has demanded a very high standard from those who enrol on her programmes. They leave with sound industry skills and an ability to move on to higher qualifications or directly into employment.

People Potential has a fully functional kitchen and operational café selling quality food to the students and staff on campus. If you have attended events such as the Westpac Business Awards and Bernina Northland Fashion Awards you will have seen the students in their professional attire providing a professional level of service. As the tourist industry here flourishes, our Hospitality programmes change and adapt.

COMPUTER EXPERTISE

People Potential is the only provider in Northland to offer programmes to Level 6, which concentrate on meeting the demands of the industry.

Exciting new programmes on offer include international certifications such as CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+, Cloud Essentials, ITIL Essentials, Microsoft Solutions Associate and Cisco Certified Network Associate.



These internationally-recognised certificates are essential if students are serious about entering the interesting and lucrative market of the computer industry. People Potential has made it its business to see that students can gain these qualifications without leaving Northland. The introduction of website design, programming and software development means we now have students who can BUILD THEIR OWN COMPUTERS and DESIGN THEIR OWN APPS!

The IT Level 4 programme is new to the Whangarei Campus this year. Hemi Paul is one of our experienced tutors. Hemi works with people of all ages who, like himself, have a love of computers. Hemi has outstanding results in the first year of the programme – another 90% completion rate. Each programme is designed to staircase into the next, developing and building on the IT skills learned starting from Level 3. These programmes are ideal for young school leavers who want to stay in Whangarei.

TESTIMONIAL

"My advice to students is to use the resources that People Potential provide and learn as much as you can while you are there. The staff are fantastic, they help and support you every step of the way." – NATHAN BISHOP – graduate of IT programme

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COVER/
FLOCKING FLAPULOUS!
He's 6'4" tall, built like a Sherman tank, sports dark-framed glasses the size of a TV set, and wears outrageously styley stuff from the fashionistas at World.
All in all, Whangarei entertainer Luke Bird (aka BIRDMAN) seems larger than life.
But here's the thing. Style and fluff will only get you so far in the dog-eat-dog world of entertainment and celebrityism. There has to be real substance if you are to make an enduring mark as an entertainer. This BIRDMAN is a star on the rise!
Comedian, actor, singer, dancer, MC, TV talent show judge, celebrity speaker ... Luke Bird has honed such a range of performance skills it's no surprise he is constantly flying off to big events.
Read more about the life and times of Whangarei's very own chirping BIRDMAN. He's AMAZEBALLS! **PEOPLE • 08**

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MR ED/HAPPY NEW YEAR!



STEVE CHALLIS
EDITOR-PUBLISHER

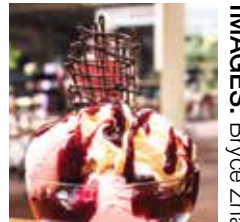
It's a good thing that we can start afresh on 1st January every year.
There's so much accumulated junk to get rid of – all that guilt for a kick-off, from past misdemeanours and old habits that die harder than Bruce Willis. (New year, new me, bla bla bla. Giving up this, giving up that, bla bla bla. Never doing this again, never doing that. Bla bla bla.)
The problem with all these New Year's resolutions, for me at least, is that they're usually 'gone by lunchtime' – on 2nd January. At various times I have resolved to never get another parking ticket, give up wine, go running/jogging/walking daily, and to never utter a word of cutting sarcasm or cruelty to anyone.

So instead of making silly promises I know can't or won't be kept, I have resolved to implement a new strategy. Before announcing it to you (and the world), I have to give credit for this to my beloved parents, both of whom lived into their early 80s.
Mum was a feisty character from a working-class English background. Her homespun wisdom was communicated to her four brats in short sharp sayings typical of Brits of her generation, who had survived the unspeakable miseries of the Great Depression and World War 2.
"Everything in moderation, my lad!"
"Including moderation!" says Dad.
Right clever he was. Strategy sorted!





global FOOD VILLAGE



IMAGES: Bryce Zhang

STEVE CHALLIS SAYS WHEN IT COMES TO DINING OUT IN WHANGAREI, WE REALLY ARE SPOILED FOR CHOICE

It is a bizarre fact of life that I can remember well the time, place and date I first sampled the delights of cuisine à la Whangarei. It was 16 July 1984, a Monday, my first night of residence in this small northern town that was trying hard to think of itself as a city.

The establishment? Well, since you ask, it was called Quo Vadis and to be honest I can't remember what I ate, how much I paid, or whether it was worth it. Steak, salad and chips, probably. What I distinctly recall is that it was the only place I could find willing and able to offer a decent feed I didn't have to cook myself!

Whangarei has become a lot more sophisticated, diverse and innovative in its culinary delights since those halcyon days. (I soon discovered the 'place to be' was Timothy's Myth in Vine Street. Discreet and stylish, great food, wine list from heaven, and hosted by a wine buff by the name of Dave Batten. He knew how to look after the 'execs' from Marsden Point and charged accordingly.)

Fast forward 30 years, glossing over a recession or two and tipping the cap in reverence to Plusone / Plumes, Café Monet, Water St Brasserie, Killer Prawn in its pomp), and here we are in the bustling 21st-century 'Funky Rei', where a world of cuisine has come to us.

In the '80s and early '90s, going to a Chinese restaurant in Whangarei (Tai Tong in the Regent, Golden Dragon in

Bank Street) was something you did for a different dining experience without having to pay the earth for the privilege.

You could order really unusual things, like bamboo shoots and horse chestnuts and cashew nuts. Lychees and ice cream for dessert, OMG! Deep-fried banana! You could even share each other's meals without fear of being called bad-mannered. They would bring out your noisily sizzling Rainbow Steak on a very heavy hotplate – and sizzle it did! Put your face or hand in the wrong place at the wrong time and you'd know all about it.

But an Asian occasion was limited, back in the day, pretty much to Chinese kai.

Not today. If you feel like trying *ngu vi*, the five basic tastes of a Vietnamese meal, go not to Ho Chi Minh City but to Mean's Vietnamese Café in Rathbone Street.

Whangarei does not yet have a teppanyaki-style Japanese restaurant, more's the pity, but there is Omoide, (formerly Asahi) in Vine Street and Ezumi in Bank Street. I'm told tempura and bento meals are very popular now.

Thai and Indian cuisine is very well established here (Pimarn Thai and Shiraz led the way for years), with several recent additions ramping up the competition. We have Israeli (Fat Camel), Turkish (Turkuaz et al) and Italian (Amici) eateries.

Perhaps we are not yet a truly global food village. There's nothing Malaysian here, nor anything Greek to me, nowhere local to parlez Français over frog legs and snails, no Mexican cantina or Argentinian steakhouse.

But fear not. Time and President Donald J Trump are on our side. ●

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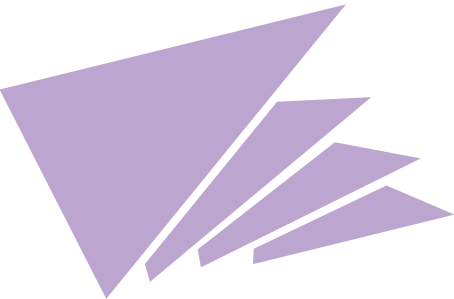


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ARTISANS market ON THE UP

JODIE HANNAM PLANS TO TAKE THE WEEKLY ARTISANS FAIR MARKET TO A NEW LEVEL

The new-look Artisans Fair website is just one proof of changes taking place at the city’s weekly Artisans Fair Market, held on Saturdays from 9am-1:30pm at the Canopy Bridge in the Town Basin.

I am reasonably well known in the arts community here through my work at the Manaia Arts, Craft and Food Show, at Whangarei Heads on Queen’s Birthday weekend, managing it for three years. In that time the event has more than doubled in size. With the help of some fantastic fellow volunteers we’ve raised record-breaking funds for the local school and kindy.



Coming from a background in event management in New Zealand and Australia, I bring strong organisational skills and experience, and a genuine passion for growing the region’s arts and craft industry.

My own complete lack of artistic ability is probably one of my strongest attributes! I am so in awe of the exceptional talents these people have. But the avenues for exposure for their products is so limited around the Whangarei area. I really want to create something here that becomes a thriving, busy environment where people go, not just to browse and

IMAGES

Above left: Bread from Rick’s Bakery.
Above right: Northland pottery created by Stacy Morrison.



shop for one-off handmade items, but where they can socialise and catch up. Something that becomes a destination, an event Whangarei people can be proud to show off, a ‘must see’ on their list of things to do with visitors.

Over the coming years we will be working towards engaging surrounding businesses and local talent for things like busking competitions, bake-offs, and art exhibitions for school-aged children. I would also love to find ways to help connect local artists of all ages so they can mentor and support each other during their journeys to share their art and passions with the world.

The plan is to make the market a key drawcard to the ever-growing Town Basin area, attracting both locals and visitors to this vibrant, thriving area.

The first Artisans Fair Market for the new season was held on Labour Weekend, and runs every Saturday over the summer until Easter Saturday (17 April 2017), after which it will then run fortnightly.

If you are an artisan, artist, craftsman, creative person, gourmet food maker, wine maker, exotic plant grower, or have a unique collection of collectibles to sell – then the Artisans Market on the Canopy Bridge may be the place for you this summer.

And for those of you who are coming through or visiting Whangarei this summer, we would love to see you there. ●

For more details check out www.artisansfair.org.nz or contact **jodie 09 438 6199**

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2016 REVIEW

PREVIEW 2017



AN UPDATE FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH WHANGAREI MP **DR SHANE RETI**

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I have been reflecting on some of the features of the past year and expectations for 2017.

LOCAL VOICE

'Wicked' Campers: Play by the rules or go home! Lobbied long and loud for changes to Australian Wicked Camper's offensive slogans.

Air New Zealand: "Please explain!" Fought to keep local flights and continuing to monitor the new flight schedules.

Kamo Bank Closures: Another "please explain!" Making sure there are provisions for the community, staff and older people.

Public Consultation: Consulted with locals on a number of key issues this past year, such as distribution of pokie proceeds at Ngunguru, the future of the Matapouri Education Centre and the proposed roundabout at the Portland turn-off.

Rural Clinics: Listened with locals at rural clinics including Parua Bay, Ruatangata, Maungatapere, Waipu, Whatitiri, Poroti, Ngunguru, Maungakarama and Mangapai.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Hundertwasser Art Centre: Lobbied hard for \$4M in central government funding. This will encourage cruise ships to visit and anchor Northland museums.

Rural Broadband Initiative: Petitioned Wellington for increased broadband access to benefit modern farming productivity.

Local Roading: Appealed to NZTA for speed reductions at Tauroa Street / SH1, the realignment of Saleyards Road, and \$25M for four lanes from Toetoe Road to Springfield Road.

National Roading: Monitoring construction on the soon-to-start four lane highway from Auckland to Whangarei.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs: On election night 2014 I promised 3,000 jobs in three years – done, with a year to spare and now working on more.

Whangarei Falls Economic Development: Initiated a cultural experience at Whangarei Falls to utilise the 90 vehicles per hour that visit. This will also encourage them to see more of Whangarei.

Trade Treaties: To distribute wealth you have to create wealth. Working to increase Chinese and Korean markets for Northland kiwifruit and avocado.

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Investing in Education: Government funded 18 new classrooms across Whangarei Girls' High School, Hora Hora School, Parua Bay Primary and Kamo Intermediate.

Northland DHB: \$28M funding boost for more elective surgery.

Housing: Funded 91 new emergency housing spaces in Northland.

More Police Fight Drugs: \$3M for more frontline drug police in Northland and drug education, treatment and rehabilitation.

AHEAD IN 2017

Infrastructure Growth includes monitoring the \$1.75B four-lane highway from Puhoi to Wellsford, maintaining strong air and rail links, and exploring the coastal corridor for shipping.

Social Services will need strong lobbying in Wellington to meet the needs of changing local demographics that include a growing population, increasing numbers of older people, housing availability, changing school rolls and vigilance on crime.

The Tipping Point – Northland is Progressing. Auckland, the economic powerhouse of New Zealand, is knocking on our door. Tourism is booming and tradespeople are busy. Further evidence of this is the recent Infometrics report predicting Ruakaka and Bream Bay to be an economic hotspot within the next 5-10 years.

My vision for 2017 is for Whangarei to continue to grow and to be that place where people want to live and raise their children under clear, warm Northland skies with a robust economy, quality education and safe vibrant communities. ●



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Kiwi at the coast

MALCOLM PULLMAN SAYS
OUR ICONIC NATIONAL BIRD
IS THRIVING ON WHANGAREI'S
EASTERN COASTAL FRINGE

Slap bang in the middle of the first kiwi corridor in the world, our iconic national bird is doing well.

The area is part of the Kiwi Coast initiative, where the kiwi population is on the rise while nationally it is declining at an average 2 per cent annually.

Kiwi Coast, linking 76 community-led conservation projects, iwi and hapu, forestry companies, government agencies and local groups, is based on the shared vision of increasing kiwi numbers along Northland's east coast – in essence, a corridor where kiwi are free to roam without threat or hindrance from the introduced predators that have decimated so much of New Zealand's wildlife.

Started three years ago, Kiwi Coast now extends more than 200 kilometres – from the 423ha QEII National Trust-protected Marunui block on the south side of the Brynderwyns to the Aupouri peninsula in the Far North.

Over 1000 predators are being removed from eastern Northland every week. Last year an extra 540 predator traps were purchased for trapping groups, with the main aim of decreasing the gaps between neighbouring trapping areas.

The result?

Kiwi populations of Whangarei Heads, Mt Tiger, Whanui and Tutukaka are now close to being linked by a continuous trapping network across a series of separate projects collectively called 'Kiwi Link'.



Likewise, 14 projects from the wider Bay of Islands area are now working together as the Mid North Alliance.

In addition to enhancing the survival chances of known remnant populations of North Island Brown Kiwi, several of the longer-running groups have been able to release further kiwi into their areas – after the groups have reached a sufficiently high level of predator control and complied with a raft of wildlife regulations.

The translocated birds have been reared in special kiwi crèches to the magic weight of 1200 grams. At this size they can fight off most predators, except dogs and ferrets.

These kiwi releases have become popular events, attracting upwards of 300 people to learn about the unusual physiology and life cycle of our national bird – nostrils at the end of the beak, marrow in their bones (like mammals), enormous eggs and many other unusual features.

People also learn about the ongoing threats to kiwi from stoats, ferrets, cats and – most importantly – dogs.

Man's best friend is perhaps kiwi's worst enemy. Not only does our national icon have a somewhat strong natural odour capable of luring dogs from great distances, it lacks a breastbone.

Without a breastbone the ends of its ribs are free-floating and therefore do not provide any structural protection for its internal organs. In essence, its chest is collapsible. A slight squeeze, or one nip

from an inquisitive dog, even a small dog, is enough to crush the kiwi's chest and damage vital organs, most often fatally.

Last year 2,027 people attended Kiwi Coast-supported events, workshops and 'Kiwi Experiences'.

In her annual report, Kiwi Coast coordinator Ngaire Tyson said these people had come together to celebrate kiwi as a taonga, to build skills and deepen their understanding about how to help kiwi thrive.

She also noted that many projects and groups involved in the Kiwi Coast initiative carried out a vast array of

biodiversity restoration, protection and enhancement activities.

"It is being defined by the projects linked into it, the Kiwi Coast is growing organically into a multi-faceted ecological corridor, with kiwi leading the charge as the iconic flag bearer.

"At this time of the year, when visitors abound in our special kiwi corridor, it is really important to get the message out about responsible dog control." ●

IMAGE: Malcolm Pullman
The fascination is obvious during a recent kiwi release at Tawapou, Tutukaka Coast.



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TESTIMONIAL
"My children were so happy and excited to go to Smiths City, they would ask to go at the weekend!"
– Parent



Scene Magazine's Mr Ed tries to interview chirpy NZ entertainer extraordinaire

Luke Bird, aka the **BIRDMAN**, doing what he does best – being himself.

FLOCKING FLAPULOUS!

Q: You've been described as a larger than life (196cm / 6'4") sequined exclamation mark, and New Zealand's No.1 MC ...

A: AMAZEBALLS GREETINGS to you my fluffy scrummy, feathered Kiwi BIRDwatchers! Tis I, the man about town, the sequin in your gown, the shine in your weave, the lint on your sleeve, the clinch in your top note, the warmth in your coat ... what was the question again?

Q: We hadn't actually got to a question. But since you ask, what's it like being a larger than life public figure?

A: FLOCKING FLAPULOUS. What's not to like about being yourself? The BEST thing I know about me is that I'm me and no one else can be me ... and some have tried (bye, Felicia!!). Being the

BIRDMAN is FUN! It's ENERGETIC, it's MEMORABLE, it's LIVELY, it's FASHIONABLE, it's CARING, it's VIVACIOUS and LIVING! The BEST part about being the BIRDMAN or being myself is creating smiles on people's faces ... everyone has a story, sometimes a smile is just what someone needs. Have one! 😊

Q: Thanks. What exciting adventures have you been flying around to in the past year?

A: One key saying I use every day is: 'Opportunity is like a visitor, you never know if they'll come back.' And this saying sticks like an ant to honey! I like to use my own saying: 'See a puddle, make a splash!' If you give up opportunity, you're MAD!

Q: Thanks for the advice, BIRDMAN. Can you answer the question now, please?

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- Professional photoshoot with edited images on a USB with Simply Beached (www.facebook.com/simplybeached)
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Week 14

- Big reveal event at The Orchard for friends and family and presented with your USB with your images, a photo album with your images and a certificate of completion.



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/WITH SHARON, MAMMABIRD



/WITH FELLOW JUDGES ON 'THE STAGE - HAKA FUSION'

A: YES, keep your flaps down Mr Ed, this isn't 60 Minutes, you know! This past year was AMAZEBALLS BUSY AND I LOVE LOVE LOVED IT! To make it happen I said to my agent, Kathryn Rawlings, that I need to start the year off with a BANG, I need something to sink my beak into, something that will turn heads and put the BIRDMAN on a stage that no one could get to ... and that she certainly did!!

Q: Ok. Can you tell me what happened?

A: Well, both my agent and a good friend of mine, singer sensation Lavina Williams, told me to look at the script for a true story, new NZ musical, 'People Like Us'. It's about a transgender woman, Bianca, and her family matters ... so I did, and HELLO! this BIRD landed the leading role of Bianca. You see, in 2015 I had been invited to perform in China for the prestigious Hainan Film & Music Awards and this BIRD made the BIGGEST splash, so I needed to do the same in NZ!!

So not only did I start the year with a BANG, on the stage, full musical numbers, but I did it ALL in diamante stiletto heels. What a show it was!! Reviewers loved it, the media loved it. By far the most rewarding show I've ever been cast in. Imagine playing a character where every night the person you're portraying is in the audience reliving her story, seeing her life on stage ...

Q: So a great start to the year ...

A: After Bianca, I've had a lot of FAB opportunities. TVNZ On Demand approached me and NZ entertainer 'Mika' to produce, write and perform a

new comedy series for Maori Language week. This was a HUGE deal and GREAT fun ... so in July we launched 'Pa and Ti' for TVNZ On Demand. And the producers of 'BIG GAY OUT' invited the BIRDMAN to perform on the main stage, alongside Annie Crummer and Aussie star Samantha Jade.

Q: You also do a lot of work as an MC.

A: Yes, so I get to travel a lot for the FAB splashes of work I do ... but when I come home to the BIRDMAN - Whangarei - to perform, it's always a bonus. I was invited to MC ArtBeat at Casler Park and the Fritter festival, a MASSIVE success!! A little BIRDy tells me that the BIRD will be making comeback appearances at both events this year. You know, it's HOW you make the event a success and enjoyable for everyone that makes an event FAB!

Q: What other events did you MC?

A: OH LORDY, let me see ... Te Taitokerau Kapa Haka Festival, Colour Splash, MSD Graduation Event, TWOA Graduation, 'Desperate Remedies' - Movie Premiere 2016, CYF Annual Ball 2016, Chartered Accountants Australia/NZ gig. Know what Granny HERALD said? 'An event is nothing without its people, however, an event is also nothing without the BIRDMAN'. How FLOCKING FLAPULOUS of them to say that!

Q: We're running out of space here, BIRDMAN. Most memorable gig in 2016?

A: Mr Ed, you can't cut me off in mid-warble. How devilishly MEAN and EVIL you publishers are! So CRUEL ... Ok ... performing the National Anthem



/SINGING WITH NATHANIEL HOWE

in front of 55,000 fans at the NRL Nines at Eden Park ... singing the Australian National Anthem at netball's Constellation Cup...YES I DID! Being the Celebrity Guest MC alongside 'MKR' mother and son Anna and Jordan Bruno for GAY SKI WEEK QT in Queenstown. (AMAZEBALLS!) But the best was being Entertainment Judge for the BIGGEST Dance/Theatre TV show in NZ 'The Stage - Haka Fusion' for Maori Television. I had the BEST time on set over a few months, so I learned lots doing all that. But the most FLOCKING FLAPULOUS thing was that my expertise and ideas were wanted and used to help progress teams further and make them aware of what it's like in the real world of entertainment.

Q: Let's shake your feathers out a bit. If you could invite four famous people to dinner, who would you choose, and why?

A: Now this is FUN! I would have Lady Gaga, she is the WOW in KAPOW, she even makes raw meat look attractive! I would have Francis Hooper, the AMAZING fashion designer behind WORLD, because I have to look AMAZEBALLS at dinner. How can I not have the one and only Lisa Vanderpump from The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills? She just kicks ass, and sees a spade as a spade, and being FABULOUS as BUSINESS. LOVE IT! Last, but not least, Gordon Ramsay. He's a GRAND chef and I certainly don't want to be cooking. Hahaha.

Q: What can we expect to see from you in 2017, BIRDMAN?

A: PURE AWESOMENESS!! This BIRD is already booked for events such as ArtBeat, Single Mingle 3, Fritter. I'm Guest MC for Relay for Life and I'll be one of the presenters for TV show 'Neighbourhood' which will air later in 2017. I'm going to launch my little kiddies T-shirt range called 'Little BIRD' and for all the gym-goers and those who want to get themselves active, my 'Active BIRD' range is coming to you!!

Q: Any final words of wisdom?

A: Life is for LIVING and if you continue to put life on hold you will live with regret. 'See a puddle, make a BIG splash!' Mary Poppins can have the final words: 'Anything can happen if you let it.' ●

#BIRDMAN #imaBIRDwatcher

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PETROLHEAD **DAVID MUIR**
PREVIEWS THE SECOND GREAT
WAIPU CAR AND BIKE SHOW

Car culture, bike culture.

The Kiwi affection – obsession? – for his or her motorised, shiny pride and joy. On four wheels or two. Combine this with that wonderful community spirit most often found in small towns, where community volunteers not only support good local causes but enable everyone to participate and have fun.

This combo gave us the inaugural Great Waipu Car and Bike Show in April 2016, and promises to repeat the performance on Sunday 5 February 2017, during the long weekend marking Waitangi Day.

Waipu Lions Club are the organisers. Spokespersons Chantelle Murray and Karen Cave say they have the luxury of more time to organise things this time around, preparing for an estimated 100+ cars and 100+ motorbikes. They're promising some improvements, too, such as a DJ to select music appropriate to the era of the cars, rather than a 'live' band.

The makes and models of vehicles will be many and varied. It is astounding what genres and gems come out of their hiding places in someone's shed. You just never know what you're going to see.

There could be examples of the earliest horseless carriages; vintage and classic cars; pre-war motorbikes from the long-gone British brands Matchless, Royal Enfield, etc. Perhaps military vehicles; vintage farm vehicles; American muscle cars. Maybe a Ford Zephyr or two – which young man of the baby-boomer generation didn't want a Zephyr at some stage?

European sports cars; big soft-riding street cruisers; modern muscle cars; hot rods; turbocharged Jappas; customised motorbikes and cars, where you get a glimpse of a form of motorised art, as expressed by their owners. And doubtless some competition vehicles.

Just to ensure the variety is acknowledged, there will be 15 prizes on offer – for example, Best British bike; Best British car; ditto for Best American; Best Custom and so on. And the grand Peoples Choice prize, sponsored by Louie Berkers Full Noise Auto Restorations.

Louie has volunteered to be the MC – it's that community spirit to the fore!

Louie reckons he wouldn't be surprised if the number of vehicles on display at this year's event is nearly double that of 2016.

A new feature will be the Sound Off. At a set time, the instruction to the exhibitors will be something along the lines of "start your engines", and there will be, for a short while, a wall of sound in Waipu.

No family-friendly event here would be complete without entertainment for the kids, food stalls (think spit roast, mussel fritters, ice cream) and local arts and crafts.

The venue, Caledonian Park, is dead-set the centre of Waipu, and most of the village shops and cafés will be open and within easy walking distance. ●

IMAGES: Simon Millar

Top left: A classic Kiwi car, the Ford Zephyr Mk 2, built 1956-1962.

Top, 2nd from left: Chrome horses, too.

Top, centre: True vintage. This is a 1929 Chevrolet AC 4-door Phaeton.

Top, 2nd from right: Imagine 100+ V8 engines in the Sound Off. Feel the noise!

Top right: American muscle cars, like this Pontiac Firebird, will be on show at Waipu, Sunday 5 February.

Left: Rare cars, like this Chevrolet Camaro, come out of the sheds for events like this.



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Authorised by Dr Shane Reti, 105 Lower Cameron St, Whangarei

so cool it's
**red
hot**



MARK TE RANGI'S 1956 FORD IS HARD TO MISS. **DAVID MUIR** FLAGS HIM DOWN

We like putting labels on cars – ‘hot rod’, ‘custom’, or ‘classic’, for example. Fair enough – it’s a human trait to categorise things. NZTA calls this a Low Volume Vehicle (LVV). But Mark Te Rangi of Whangarei built it, so if he calls it a “special interest vehicle” that’s good enough for me. It looks like, and is, a Ford F100 Pickup truck. A beautifully restored big-rear-window model, from 1956 – the year Elvis had his first No 1 hit with ‘Heartbreak Hotel’; the year Opo the friendly dolphin died in Hokianga harbour.



IMAGES: David Muir
Top centre: Mark Te Rangi and his red '56 Ford Pickup overlooking Port Whangarei.
Lower left: High, wide, handsome and unique. Red 56's specific tint is called 'Old Barry Crump Hilux Red'.

Mark says the car draws a crowd wherever it’s parked up. It’s no wonder, with the ripple-free bodywork draped in bright red paint. The name of that tint, Mark assures me, is Old Barry Crump Hilux Red. The paint was expertly applied by Krystal Klear car painters of Whangarei and is snappily offset by the glistening 20”x 9” chrome alloy wheels. But it’s not exactly a Ford F100. Because Mark has created a unique personal vehicle by installing the 60-year-old Ford body onto a 2007 Nissan Navara 4WD chassis and running gear! It runs like a Nissan ute – it has the standard Nissan 3.2 litre turbocharged diesel motor. Obviously, it has the fuel economy of a diesel-powered vehicle. It rides like a Nissan ute – almost sedan-like on the highway, and with a rock-solid chassis, four wheel drive when needed, and ventilated disc brakes. Inside, there’s a modern Bluetooth set-up, rather than the more usual radio/CD player, so that Mark can cruise to the sound of his own music compilations. An important point here is that Mark has done all this his way. He’s done what many dream of doing – created his own car to suit his tastes, his needs, his preferences. It’s built, not bought. There’s blood from skinned knuckles, and sweat from long days in the workshop. Tears? We didn’t quite get around to talking about tears. Mark set out to build a practical vehicle, one that he can drive every day, rather than a show car that is closeted in the garage. His attention to detail is obvious. All the original mid-'50s Ford badges are restored and fitted. Tyres are personalised with 'tyre tatz', glued-on raised white lettering.

Mark reckons his next set of tyres will say WHANGAREI, to save him from having to answer one of the most frequently asked questions. This is a low volume vehicle, alright. It’s truly unique, there’s none like it in the world – an old-school American pickup, redolent of a more laid-back era but blended with modern Japanese motor vehicle technology. Don’t be surprised if the idea catches

on – now that Mark has shown how we can have the best of the old style combined with modern safety and reliability. You can be assured that all such home-built vehicles are very closely scrutinised and given LVV safety checks and certification before being registered and allowed on the roads. And the final label we could apply to Mark’s masterpiece? “Cool. Seriously cool. So cool, it’s red hot.” ●

Mark has created a unique personal vehicle by installing the 60-year-old Ford body onto a 2007 Nissan Navara 4WD chassis and running gear ...



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AGE: 17
HEIGHT: 5'10"
BUST: 34"

WAIST: 25"
HIP: 35.5"
DRESS: 8

SHOES: 9
HAIR: BRUNETTE
EYES: GREEN

BRITTANE WATSON IS 17. A STUDENT AT TAURAROA AREA SCHOOL, SHE HAS MODELLING IN NEW YORK IN HER SIGHTS

I'm excited to be finishing school this year so I can really grow in my modelling! Apart from being in front of a camera, my favourite things are Art and Graphics.

When I was only 15, my photographer Megan from Muse Studio suggested I sign with an agency. That was unreal! Megan organised a meeting for me with the sweetest people at Unique Models.

I hope modelling takes me to New York – it's my dream to live there. Even though I love it here in Whangarei, in the country, I can't help but love the big city. I'd like to travel and explore the world, or even work with younger kids. The idea of helping little ones overseas is something I'd SO do!

For people wanting to join the modelling industry, I say give it a go! Build up a portfolio, get lots of good pictures, and you'll soon be noticed. Be prepared to work though. I'm always having to travel to Auckland, getting up really early. But I'm used to it now – it's SO worth it!

My biggest loves are family and friends.

They are always so supportive and I'm forever grateful for that. I also like pugs, baking, painting and doing makeup!

I only have insecurities about myself when I compare me to other girls – it's the worst thing to do! We should all love ourselves, whatever our 'imperfections'!

Happy New Year! Have a great 2017. ●

IMAGES: Megan Bowers-Vette
Left: Sea Folly 'Field Trip'.
Centre: Sea Folly 'Shimmer'.
Right: Sea Folly 'Summer Crush'.
Swimwear courtesy of One Seven.
Hair/Makeup: www.musestudio.space





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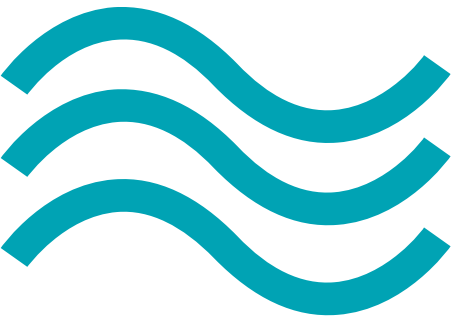
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SWELL time

PAUL DUNN OF MARINE NORTH TALKS ABOUT WHAT NORTHLAND BOATIES NEED AND WANT FROM A SMALL VESSEL

Combine Whangarei's coastline and temperate climate with the arrival of the summer school holidays and what do you get? A lot of people in small boats. But – more than that – a lot of people who don't often get in boats getting in and out of boats!

Some will just be joyriding others in the role of spotter or crew for a diver; some will be taking an opportunity to go fishing with a mate. Many, of course, will be learning the the art of fishing or diving. Quite a lot of them will be kids.

All of which begs a number of very interesting questions. What kind of small vessels are best suited to fishing in Northland waters? What are the most important features a small (say, sub-5 metre) boat can offer? What do boat designers take into account? What do boaties around the country ask boat manufacturers to take into account?

We all know that **SAFETY** is paramount, and **STABILITY ON THE WATER** is critical in a small boat. **SUITABILITY FOR PURPOSE** is very important, as is **VALUE FOR MONEY**.

Safety is certainly critical in the design and manufacture process. (The trouble is, you can't manufacture commonsense behaviour on the water. In our experience, the vast majority of incidents come from poor judgment/ decision-making from human beings, not from boats behaving badly!)



In 2015 Graeme Heapy, Stan Bates and I travelled to Invercargill, the home of Stabicraft, where Paul Adams and Bruce Dickens built their first rigid-hulled aluminium chambered boat in a backstreet workshop some 30 years ago – a 3.5m dinghy they called the 'Ally Duck'. They've come a long way since 1987.

We had been invited to test drive the prototype and give our input to the design and features of a proposed new Stabicraft, dubbed the '1550 Fisher'.

You see, boating and fishing conditions in Northland are markedly different from what you find in the South Island. Water temperature for a start. Did you know there has never been a snapper caught south of Dunedin? They just can't cope with freezing Mainland temperatures!

Graeme, Stan and I impressed upon the Stabicraft team that we wanted to offer local boaties a vessel that is not only safe, strong and stable, but easy to launch off the beach, easy to tow to various locations, and priced at a level that Northland fishos would consider value for money.

Stabicraft had done their own research, of course, at boat ramps up and down the country (amongst other places).



It stands to reason that people who don't have the discretionary income to buy a big boat need to extract maximum value from the modest amount of space available in a small (sub-5 metre) one.

For example, having decent ice storage without tripping over the chilly bin! For example, being able to reach the tackle box from anywhere on the boat. For example, having easy access to the anchor locker. Boat manufacturers have to take into account that not everyone who loves fishing is as young or as strong as Rambo!

What Stabicraft's design team came up with – the 1550 Fisher – is very impressive.

Safety, stability and buoyancy is built on the world-famous Stabicraft hull, developed over 30 years experience for the toughest sea conditions.

The Stabicraft 1550 Fisher has a 70L split lid Ikey-Tek chill box slotted into a purpose-built home beneath the portside rear seat. It has an XOS walk-through windscreen to make access to the anchor locker as safe and simple as possible. And a dedicated tackle locker under the driver's seat which keeps three Shimano tackle boxes within arm's reach of all four seats (with squabs).

It's easy to launch and tow. Who needs the misery of wasting valuable time getting the boat in and out of the water? Compact, versatile, value for money. Well done, Stabicraft! ●



WATCH: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qK4pQVgSelM



IMAGES

Top right: You can even choose your own paint, graphics and upholstery package.
Above: An XOS walk-through windscreen makes it easy to access the anchor locker.
Far left: The Stabicraft 1550 Fisher has an ergonomically designed steering wheel.
Left: The 70L split lid Ikey-Tek tackle box slots into a purpose-built home beneath the portside rear seat.



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(from Timmy's Greatest Hits, Volume 25)

I'm an almost builder
And ITM's turned twenty five
I've been learnin' how to DIY
Ever since I've been alive!

Ya mighta seen me at the Home Shows,
and the Trolley Derbies too
And heard me yappin' on the radio
Like all us celebrities do, eh

Yeah, I've got so blinkin' famous
At times it's a right pain
But I'll have to grin and bear it
To be nice to Uncle Shayne

It's all his fault, cos way back when
I was just a little pup
He said: 'Tim, we've got some work to do!'
And he won't let me grow up!!

(WHADDYA MEAN 25 MORE YEARS ...)



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