

## Auckland

### Auckland Architecture Week The Joy Of Architecture

Inspired by flourishing festivals in the world's biggest cities, Auckland stages its first celebration of its architecture, buildings and urban spaces. Come experience The Joy of Architecture — the festival hotspot is Britomart Pavilion.

In the Can Construct feature event, seven teams of Auckland architects eschew regular building blocks to fashion sculptures from thousands of cans of food (destined post-exhibition for the Auckland City Mission). Also at Britomart, 11 student-designed bars spring up, serving drinks from September 8.

At 1pm and 5pm all week, lectures and debates run at various venues on hot architectural topics, including the relationship between art and architecture and the innovation (or lack of it) in modern house design. Key speakers are Japanese architect Waro Kishi, renowned for his ultra-skinny buildings, and Melbourne's Nonda Katsalidis, doyen of apartment tower design.

Plus there are heritage walks, building tours and exhibitions including *The Architecture Of Brazil*, a photographic display of beautiful Brazilian buildings snapped last summer by architectural students from Auckland's Unitec.

**When:** September 6-13

**See:** [www.architectureweek.co.nz](http://www.architectureweek.co.nz)

## Coromandel

### Whitianga Scallop Festival

If you fancy indulging in succulent shellfish, this taste-test fest is a must on your winter calendar. Around 50,000 scallops will be shucked fresh on Whitianga's waterfront, alongside 50 cuisine stalls and guest chefs such as Ray McVinnie concocting delectable dishes.

Try a crayfish-and-scallop sausage, scallop pâté, scallop paella, kina roe on a fresh seared scallop — even scallops on rosemary-stick kebabs with caper-and-mayo dressing. While the scallop's the undisputed star of the show, other Coromandel seafood and produce on offer include mussel-and-venison patties, lamb shanks, wild pork, ostrich, and organic cheeses.

Need time to digest? Head for one of three stages where bands play, people plucked from the crowd cook up mystery dishes in the Battle of the Barbecues, and budding bards recite their Ode to the Scallop.

On the evenings encircling the festival, local cafes and restaurants offer seafood-studded menus, a winemakers' dinner, a jazz evening and a comedy night.

**When:** August 26 (surrounding festivities 24-27 August) See: [www.scallopfestival.co.nz](http://www.scallopfestival.co.nz)

### Walters Prize 2006

The biennial \$50,000 Walters Prize, modelled on Tate Britain's Turner Prize, is our richest and most prestigious contemporary art award. While the winner's not announced until October, Auckland Art Gallery presents the four finalist works: all are installations, modified to suit the gallery's space.

Visitors will be encouraged to jump into Stella Brennan's *Wet Social Sculpture*, a portable spa above which a slowed-down film sequence plays to a humpback-whale soundtrack. Dry off if need be, and move onto Phil Dadson's *Polar Projects*, video, sound recordings, drawings and photographs capturing the icy landscape he

visited on a 2004 Artists to Antarctica fellowship. Peter Robinson's *The Humours* (below) is a messy playground of splattered sculptures simulating junk food, cigarettes and other consumerist excess — while Francis Upritchard's *Doomed, Doomed, All Doomed* evokes similar gloom with its sculptures of ominous prophets, tatty trinkets and museum relics.

The winner collects \$50,000 plus an all-expenses-paid trip to New York to exhibit their work at Saatchi & Saatchi's world headquarters. Who's your pick?

**When:** September 2-November 19

**Where:** Auckland Art Gallery.

See: [www.aucklandartgallery.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandartgallery.govt.nz)



## Agenda

### Bay Of Plenty

#### Kiwifruit Festival

Seven single 18- to 25-year-old women vying for the Kiwifruit Queen crown will grace nearly every event at Te Puke's celebration of its number-one fruit. (As the Queen fills an ambassadorial role the contest is personality-based, with kiwifruit knowledge a factor — plus there's a Senior Queen Contest and a Junior Princess Competition.)

Bubbly belles aside, on the opening Saturday (September 2) you're spoilt for choice with a festival gala, a market day starring street entertainers, and a wine-and-jazz festival. Over the rest of the week there's a fashion parade, a squash tournament, kiwifruit-themed dinner, kids' magic shows, a charity quiz, art exhibition and auction — and a mystery Great Debate starring comedians Michele A'Court, Raybon Kan and a panel of local wits (September 5). The eagerly anticipated festival finale is the Kiwifruit Ball where the Queen is crowned.

**When:** September 2-8.

**See:** [www.tepuke.co.nz](http://www.tepuke.co.nz)

#### Silent Film Festival

Grab a pew at Opatiki's classic art-deco theatre for this three-day extravaganza of films from the 1910s-20s "silent era". Commended silent-movie pianist Tama Karena accompanies on a Bechstein grand piano as the three main movies screen: Universal Studio's 1928 Maori folk drama *Under The Southern Cross: The Devil's Pit*, the 1926 action blockbuster *The Black Pirate* (one of the only silent colour films), and the 1918 technical masterpiece *Tarzan Of The Apes*.

Given full houses of 400 at last year's festival, the Deluxe's 42-seat "Little Theatre" comes into play to fit in a few more bods — screening three movies including

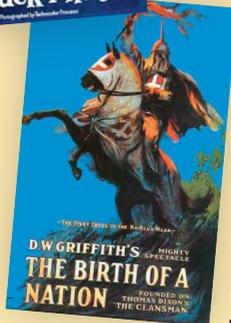
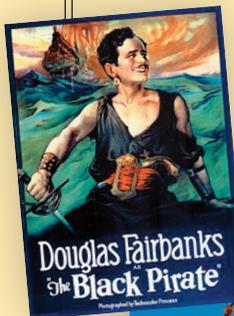
1915's controversial *The Birth Of A Nation*, set around the US Civil War.

Festival spirit persists outside the theatre — restaurants offer old-fashioned smorgasbord fare, shops have pirate-theme window displays, and the vintage car club cruises down mainstreet at 1pm Saturday. Oh, and don't forget to dress up: there are spot prizes for best-dressed movie-goers.

**When:** September 1-4

**Where:** Deluxe Theatre.

**See:** [www.silentfilmfest.org.nz](http://www.silentfilmfest.org.nz)



Zoologist James Hector (second from right) with whale skeleton, friends and colleagues in 1874.



### Wellington

#### Butterflies, Boffins & Black Smokers

What the heck's a black smoker? The "chimney" of an underwater volcano. Illuminating sundry scientific titbits, this major National Library Gallery exhibition takes viewers on a journey through 200 years of New Zealand science, from traditional Maori navigation and cosmology through to modern cutting-edge research.

Encounter eminent names such as Ernest Rutherford, Charles Fleming and Alan MacDiarmid alongside lesser-known scientists like pioneering geologist, zoologist and director of Wellington's Colonial Museum James Hector (who gave his name to the Hector's Beaked Whale and Hector's Dolphin); and Crop & Food scientist Meto Leach and Tuhoetohunga Hohepa Kereopa, who are exploring traditional Tuhoeto medicinal plants.

The exhibition's accompanied by lectures and panel discussions, film and performance nights and kids' activities.

**When:** September 4-November 26

**Where:** National Library Gallery.

**See:** [www.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.natlib.govt.nz)

#### World Of Wearable Arts

Step into a world where art, fashion, dance, music, elaborate sets and special effects tell a story of the body as a canvas. It is, of course, our iconic wearable arts stage show — snap up a seat at one of seven performances.

On its second Wellington outing, WOW has attracted international entries from as far afield as Japan, India, Germany, Thailand and Iceland as well as hundreds of local offerings. Many of the 150 garments selected employ materials foreign to body drapery — in past years bicycle tubes, plastic bottles and paper clips have all featured. In 2005, former Green MP Mike Ward won with "The Emperor's Entourage": a model wearing two large canvases appears in glad rags from the front, but from behind "bares" (painted) buttocks.

From a \$100,000 prize pool, the supreme award winner receives \$10,000, a \$10,000 mystery travel prize and a \$2000 glass trophy.

**When:** September 21-24 and

September 29-October 1

**Where:** Events Centre.

**See:** [www.worldofwearableart.com](http://www.worldofwearableart.com)

## Canterbury

### Mt Hutt Spring Festival

Saying giddy to spring, Mt Hutt whips up madcap events on the mountain and in Methven village. There's sure to be loads of laughs at K2 Mania (ride any contraption you like down Mt Hutt), the Downhill Dummy (make a dummy and watch it race down the slope), and the Peak to Pub (a ski/bike ride down the mountain to the local pub). It's not all about snow, though — there's outdoor bowls and volleyball, live music and a family fun day.

A likely spectator favourite is the town centre "Big Air" (September 22) — skiers and snowboarders performing gravity-defying tricks on a 16-metre-high floodlit ramp — followed by bands and fireworks.

**When:** September 22-30

See: [www.mthuttvillage.co.nz](http://www.mthuttvillage.co.nz)

### Christchurch Writers Festival

Christchurch booklovers can't wait. Fifteen critically acclaimed international authors, fresh from the Melbourne Readers & Writers Festival, fly to the garden city for this biennial writers festival. Speaking mainly in individual sessions, they include Australians, journalist/travel writer Christopher Kremmer and non-fiction writer Anna Funder; acclaimed Brit thriller writer Robert Goddard; Anglo-Indian novelist Glen Duncan (of *I, Lucifer* fame); political cartoonist for *The Observer* and *The Guardian* Chris Riddell;

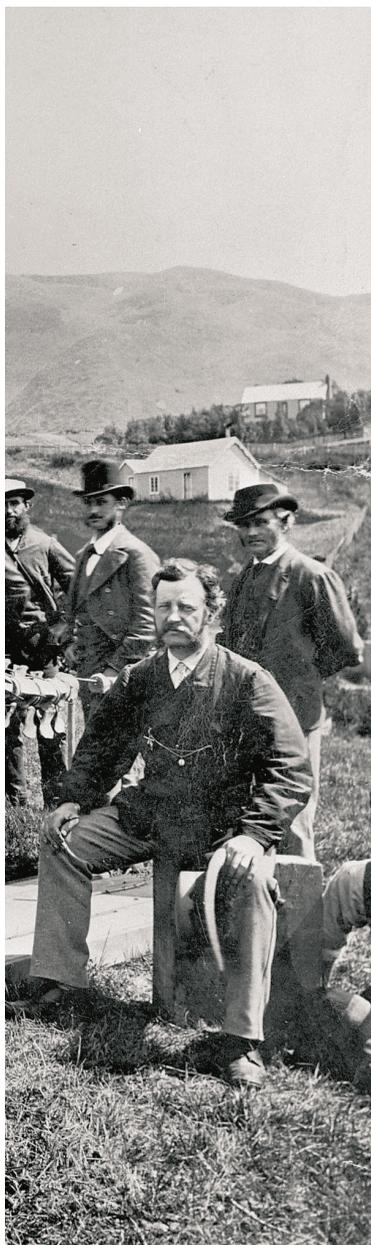
a great-great-granddaughter of Charles Darwin, historical novelist Emma Darwin; and Ishle Yi Park, current Poet Laureate of Queens, New York.

Themed panel discussions present many of New Zealand's premier poets and prose and political writers (such as Witi Ihimaera, Patricia Grace and Célestine Hitiura Vaite in "Pacific Voices"). Speaking at the gala evening (September 8), titled "Welcome Home From Abroad", are Emily Perkins, Karyn Hay, Julian Novitz, Andrew Fagen and Paula Morris.

Don't forget to vote (online or via *The Press* entry forms) in a search for Christchurch's favourite book. And budding writers can recite verse at a new poetry idol competition, or attend writing workshops over the festival leadup weekend (September 2-3).

**When:** September 8-10

**Where:** Town Hall. See: [www.chchwritersfest.co.nz](http://www.chchwritersfest.co.nz)



Australian writers Christopher Kremmer (left) and Anna Funder.



## Hamilton

### The Gallagher Great Race

A speed of 1.3 metres per second doesn't sound like much. It's how fast the Waikato River churns along its serpentine trench, the current switching from the east to the west bank as it wends from Karapiro to Port Waikato. But if the pace sounds gentle, just try rowing against it. Over the 4.8km Great Race course, in which the University of Waikato elite men's eight will charge upstream against the British might of Cambridge University, it's enough to turn beefy thighs into silly putty.

The trick is to grab the side of the river where the current is at its weakest — local knowledge that won't go astray as the Waikato lads look to defend the Harry Mahon Trophy in the fifth annual clash of the international varsity oars. Last year they beat Washington University by a whopping six boat lengths, but the task may be stiffer against Cambridge, the only international crew to have edged them out in past clashes, the slim victors in 2004.

Pick a riverside possie early: 20,000 spectators are expected to line the banks, live commentary provided through speakers all along the way to the finish line, where a giant screen means you can watch the race progress. A series of secondary school and corporate races will precede the curtainraiser, in which the Waikato University women's eight will race Melbourne University's finest for the Bryan Gould Cup, with the gun for the Great Race set to fire at 2pm. The race course starts at Anne St and finishes under Victoria Bridge, then everyone decamps for that other great annual event, the post-race black tie Masquerade Ball.

**When:** September 2, from 9am.

See: [www.thegreatrace.co.nz](http://www.thegreatrace.co.nz)

### Spark 06

Havana designer-academic Flor de Lopez Hernandez opines on the evolution and inspiration of the Cuban political poster at Spark 06, a five-day festival of international media, arts and design. Originally open only to students, due to its popularity the seventh Spark (run by the Waikato Institute of Technology) opens its doors to the public.

Cutting-edge national and international artists, writers, designers and filmmakers speaking at presentations and panel discussions include one of Britain's hottest young graphic designers, Michael Place, and Southampton software artists Vicky Isley and Paul Smith. Two home-grown orators are Derek Henderson, who photographs for *Vogue* magazine, and abstract painter Mark Braunias. Don't be shy about asking questions — the aim's to stimulate debate.

**When:** August 21-25.

**Where:** WINTEC. See: [www.spark.net.nz](http://www.spark.net.nz)

## Agenda

### Hawke's Bay

#### The Festival

In the Chilli Cook-Off, a chaotic competition at wee Waipukarau's arts festival, amateur chefs go head to head to create the best chilli dish. (Poet Sam Hunt will keep water on hand while judging.)

The vineyard and vistas of Pukeora Estate host all four days of festival fun. Artists fashion sculptures on the hillside; there's a flower and garden expo, wine tastings, a free Friday night jazz concert, and demonstrations including oriental rug repairs and doll making. A must-see is The Centralines Art Extravaganza, a showcase of 120 paintings by local artists as well as respected painters from around New Zealand.

**When:** September 7-10.

**Where:** Pukeora Estate. See: [www.thefestival.org.nz](http://www.thefestival.org.nz)

#### Hastings — 50 Years A City

On September 8 1956 Hastings tallied the necessary 20,000 people to become a city. Fifty years on, the city celebrates with a two-week event buffet: including orchestral performances, parades, drive-in movies, a song-writing competition, free concerts and even a one-off performance by rock'n'roll king Johnny Devlin (September 16).

There's plenty of '50s-style fun, like drive-in movies, a vintage car procession, Devonshire teas — and a '50s family day out sporting rounders, bullrush and sack races as well as rock'n'roll music and dancing (September



10). Among art exhibitions, "Golden Queens and Silver Tureens" traces Hastings' growth from settlement through to the post-war economic boom.

This year the famed Blossom Festival, begun in the 1950s, comes under the anniversary umbrella. Floats adorned with crepe and fresh flowers, clowns, marching teams, brass and pipe bands, acrobats and stilt walkers wend their way through town to the central-city fairground (September 16).

**When:** September 4-17.

**Where:** Various Venues. See: [www.hastingscity.co.nz](http://www.hastingscity.co.nz)

## National

#### Provincial Rugby

And so a new era begins. They used to be perennially stuck in division two or three in the old NPC, now a renovated competition format called the Heartland Championship gives players a grand chance to beat sides once considered their provincial superiors.

This is how it works: 12 teams, from Thames Valley in the north to North Otago and West Coast in the south, are divided into two pools. For the first five weeks (August 19-September 16) they play the other

teams in their pool to sort out who's best. The 12 teams are then reorganised into the Meads Cup pool (the top six teams) and the Lochore Cup pool (the bottom six).

Carrying over their points from the opening round, they play the teams in their Cup pool that they haven't already played (September 23-October 7). That will sort out who plays who in the Meads Cup and Lochore Cup semifinals (October 14) and whoever wins these will meet in the respective grand finals on October 21.

Meanwhile, the inaugural Air New Zealand Cup is in full swing — that's where you'll find the old first division teams together with the new Tasman union (an amalgamation of Nelson-Bays and Marlborough), Counties Manukau, Hawke's Bay and Manawatu. There's a new \$2 million salary cap per team to try to keep the proverbial playing field level. It's seen 37 players move to new unions; just don't expect to see many All Black stars in action until the business end of the season.

The Air New Zealand Cup format involves pool play and repechages (through to October 1), quarterfinals (October 6-8), semifinals (October 13-14) and of course the Air New Zealand Cup final (October 21).

And don't forget to don your black scarf for the All Blacks' Tri-Nations clash with Australia (Auckland, August

19) — the last home test of the season — with an earlier-than-usual kick-off time of 5.30pm.

**When:** Heartland Championship, August 19-October 21  
See: [www.allblacks.com](http://www.allblacks.com)

#### DOCNZ

After a rave response to 2005's inaugural documentary film festival, DOCNZ returns to showcase challenging, edifying documentaries from New Zealand and around the world.

Must-sees include *The Giant Buddhas*, winner of numerous international film festival awards, which traces the 2001 destruction of Afghanistan's famous Buddha statues, *Taking The Heat: The First Women Firefighters Of New York City*, which tells the story of the "upstarts" who dared to want a man's job, and *Mozartballs*, which peers into the lives of modern-age Mozart disciples.

In either national or international categories, films contend for best feature-length, medium-length or short doco — plus there's a new Best New Zealand Student Award. The festival also partners Wellington's biennial documentary conference offering workshops, master classes and screenings (September 22-24). Come delight in DOCNZ.

**When & Where:** Auckland, September 7-17; Wellington, September 25-October 4; Christchurch, October 12-15; Dunedin, October 26-29.

See: [www.docnzfestival.com](http://www.docnzfestival.com)



BY SARAH LANG