

### Retro Revival

The 1950s: rock'n'roll, the Cold War, the baby boom, and "Keeping up with the Joneses". What was the vibe in our southernmost main city? **Let the Good Times Roll** serves up a slice of 1950s Dunedin at Otago Settlers Museum (until March 2).



### Symphony Sounds

No need to trek to the city to hear the NZSO — our national symphony orchestra splits into two and takes to the road with a **Heartland Tour of the North Island** and **Town and Country Tour** of the south, November 29-December 3.



**Extreme Air** From paragliding to sky diving, helicopters to hot-air ballooning, air sports add to the spectacle of Wanaka's alpine backdrop at **Air Sports Live**, the largest air sports event ever to take place in the Southern Hemisphere (December 27-28). See sky divers race around free-fall pylons, helicopter stunts, tandem flying and eye-popping aerobatics — the aerial action's beamed live to giant screens from cameras mounted in cockpits.

# + Choice

events  
north + south

### On Ya Bike

New Zealand's only **Festival of Cycling** (December 1-2) returns to Christchurch's flat streets with circuit races, pennyfarthing demos and a celebrity tandem event at the city centre's cafe strip; for the muscular there's a hillier harbour bays challenge.



**Hairable Art** It's all eyes on the head as extreme hair and fantasy hats tangle in theatrical stage show the **New Zealand Hat & Hair Art Awards** (Timaru's Theatre Royal, November 25). This quirky take on wearable art is the climax of the **Timaru Festival of Roses** (November 17-25), a week of flower-focused tours, workshops, exhibitions, competitions and markets.



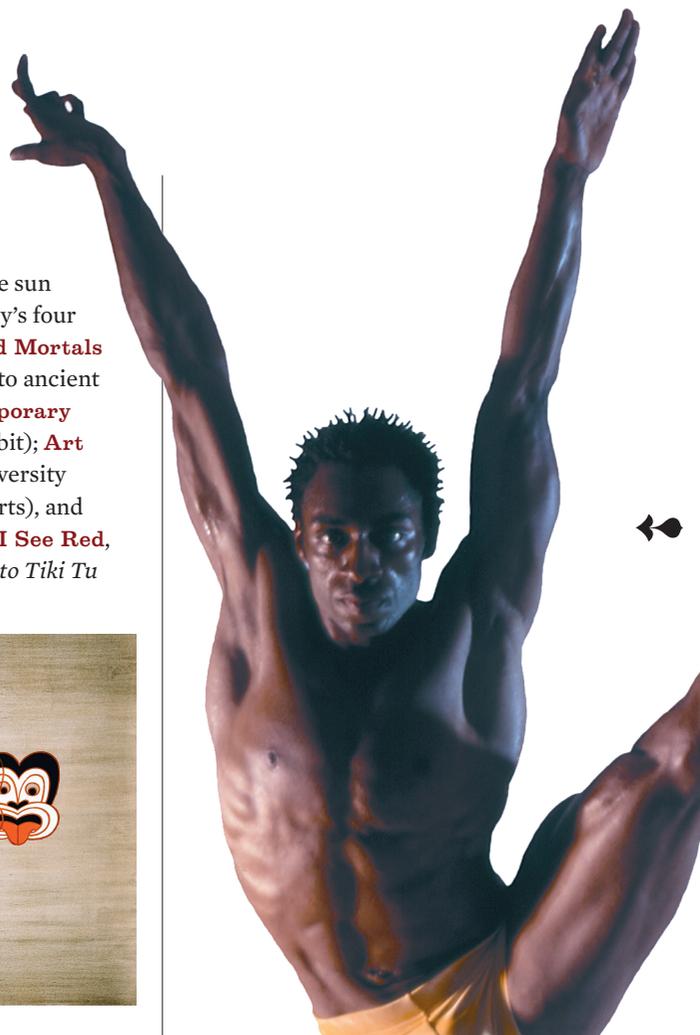
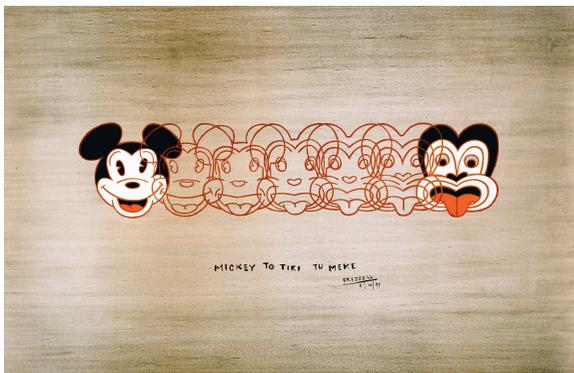
**Spring Strings** After rapturous applause at their BBC Proms debut in London, gifted young South African musicians the **Buskaid Soweto String Ensemble** return to our shores with a five-centre North Island tour, December 8-19.

### Invercargill Indians

Motorbike maverick Burt Munro achieved posthumous fame via *The World's Fastest Indian* — now he's remembered at the second **Burt Munro Challenge** (November 23-25). Thousands of bikers from around New Zealand and the world converge on Invercargill for street, speedway and beach racing, plus there's music and food in a giant marquee.



**Avon-side Art** Check out of the sun and into Christchurch Art Gallery's four fresh exhibitions: **Of Deities and Mortals** (artists' mixed-media responses to ancient treasures); **Canterbury Contemporary** (five rising-star local artists exhibit); **Art School 125** (125 years of the University of Canterbury's School of Fine Arts), and interactive children's exhibition **I See Red**, including Dick Frizzell's *Mickey to Tiki Tu Meke* (below).



**Buff Ballet**

Les Ballets Grandiva, an all-male troupe of top international dancers, takes its pirouette-packed send-up of both classical and contemporary ballet **Men in Tutus** on a nine-centre national tour (November 13-December 2). And punchy, provoking New York company **Complexions Contemporary Ballet** (left) jetés into Auckland December 5-9.

**+ Choice** : events : north + south



**Pip It** Heartland Central Otago town Cromwell, the "Cherry Capital of New Zealand", hosts our second-ever **National Cherry Spitting Contest** (December 1) in Old Cromwell Town. Can this year's pip-practised hopefuls trump 2006 champ Michael Robinson's impressive 11.12m effort?

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**Fossil Facts**

From a 500 million-year-old crustacean from northwest Nelson to a juvenile moa bone just a million years old, New Zealand fossils are the

stars of touring exhibition **NZ Fossils: Dead Precious!** The GNS Science exhibition showcases fossils not just as "time capsules" that reveal ancient environments



**Pohutukawa Party**

As the pohutukawa blooms crimson on the Coromandel coastline, the peninsula pulses with food-and-wine trails, seaside soirées, bands and art exhibitions at the summer-welcoming **Coromandel Pohutukawa Festival**, November 23-December 9.

**Christmas Concerts** It isn't Christmas without **Handel's Messiah** — or so say fans of the much-loved oratorio (performed by regional choirs and orchestras in Christchurch, December 8; Dunedin, December 11; Auckland, December 17-18). In other festive tributes, soprano Deborah Wai Kapohe and baritone Nicholas Dinopoulos star in the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra's **Celebrate Christmas** concerts (December 14 & 16); and on December 1 pianist Michael Houston joins **Manukau City Symphony Orchestra** in concert.

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but also as predictors of climate change, natural disasters and oil and gas resources. This three-year national tour kicks off at New Plymouth's Puke Ariki (until February).

