

LET'S PLAY!



JANUARY – JUNE 2026

PUBLIC PROGRAMMES



POP-UP BOARD GAMES BAR

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN MARCH • FREE • 5-8PM
NO BOOKING REQUIRED

Roll the dice, grab a drink at Dough Bakery, and let the games begin! Our once-a-week pop-up Board Games Bar brings together great drinks, tasty bites, and a huge stack of games—from timeless classics to party favourites.



BOGAN FILM CLASSICS

SATURDAY 14 MARCH & SUNDAY 15 MARCH • TIMES VARY
\$15 PER PERSON

Mullet, muscle cars, and movie mayhem. The Bogan Film Festival is a loud and proud celebration of the big screen at its roughest and rowdiest, from cult NZ favs to over-the-top action flicks. Check out www.whirinakiarts.org.nz for the full timetable.



SKETCHES FROM THE TRENCHES WITH ANZAC BISCUITS

ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL • 7AM-12 NOON • FREE • NO BOOKING REQUIRED

After the ANZAC Day Parade, drop in for a special morning at the Sketches from the Trenches exhibition. Enjoy a complimentary ANZAC biscuit, take in Nugent Welch's moving wartime sketches, and add your mark to a collective artwork honouring remembrance.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN



BRUSH, INK, IMAGINE

THURSDAY 8 JANUARY AND TUESDAY 20 JANUARY • 10AM-2PM
FREE • NO BOOKING REQUIRED

Join us for a hands-on Japanese Calligraphy Workshop for children, where creativity meets culture. Using real brushes and ink, tamariki will explore the ancient art of shodō (the "way of writing") in a fun and friendly setting.



MR FUNGUS

THURSDAY 9 APRIL • 10AM • \$12 PER TICKET • BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Mr Fungus brings a silly show that will amuse and delight kids of all ages. Featuring comedy, juggling and mime, with scrumptious and catchy backing soundtracks.

Presented by Whirinaki in association with Arts on Tour



BUILD YOUR OWN BOARD GAME

THURSDAY 16 APRIL AND FRIDAY 17 APRIL • 10AM-2PM
FREE • NO BOOKING REQUIRED

Join us for this free creative session in the school holidays where you can design and build your own board game.

Presented by Whirinaki in association with Arts on Tour

MUSIC & THEATRE @ WHIRINAKI



SEAN KELLY AND THE SUPER 8'S

SATURDAY 30 MAY • 8PM • \$25 PER TICKET • \$20 FRIENDS CONCESSION
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Irish folk music and stories, with old movies. Enjoy live Irish music played to the backdrop of Super 8 movies taken in Ireland, with Sean Kelly on vocals, whistles, bodhran and guitar, Jono Lonie on fiddle and mandolin and Maree Limpus on cello.

Presented by Whirinaki in association with Arts on Tour



SOCIAL ANIMAL

SATURDAY 6 JUNE • 8PM • \$25 PER TICKET • \$20 FRIENDS CONCESSION
• BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

You can't teach an old dog new tricks... can you? Biting satire and fiercely funny solo comedy features in this roller-coaster show about the healing power of an animal.

Presented by Whirinaki in association with Arts on Tour



CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY

SUNDAY 26 JULY • 8PM • \$25 PER TICKET • BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

A psychedelic exotic jazz band featuring vibraphone, tuba, harmonica, pan flute and more – all brought to life against a stunning backdrop of hand-drawn animations.

Presented by Whirinaki in association with Arts on Tour

Classical Expressions 2026

Let Music Astound You

Aotango Quintet

Thursday 30 April, 7.30pm

Michael Houstoun

Thursday 21 May, 7.30pm

Jian Liu

Thursday 18 June, 7.30pm

The Elouan Quartet with Bridget Douglas

Thursday 16 July, 7.30pm

Dolfin-Lin Duo

Thursday 3 September, 7.30pm

Aroha String Quartet

Thursday 8 October, 7.30pm



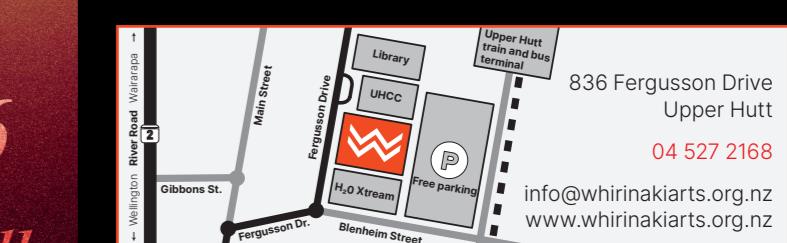
Summerset
RETIREMENT VILLAGES
Te Kauhanga
Te Awa Karangia ki Ta
Upper Hutt City
Council

Season Subscription tickets (6 tickets): \$165 / \$27.50 per ticket
Individual Tickets: \$38 • Friends of Whirinaki Discount \$35 • Under 16 years FREE
Groups of six or more \$30 • Booking fees apply
Proudly supported by Summerset at The Course



Chamber Music
New Zealand
Puoro Taitehanga Aotearoa

INFORMATION



83 Ferguson Drive
Upper Hutt
04 527 2168
info@whirinakiarts.org.nz
www.whirinakiarts.org.nz

10am-4pm, every day a week
One hour prior to performance
on shownight

BOOKING TICKETS: to
book tickets either pop into
Whirinaki Whare Taonga, call
04 527 2168, or book online at
www.whirinakiarts.org.nz
Booking fees online apply.

EAT & DRINK: For opening
hours of Dough Bakery, please
visit our website

SHOP: Our shop is open every
day 10am-4pm for the very
best New Zealand hand art,
design and gifts.

FREE WiFi: WiFi is available
throughout the building.



Information is correct at time of printing, but may be subject to change, including
late additions, cancellations, and other updates.

EXHIBITIONS



LET'S PLAY

24 DECEMBER 2025 – 19 JULY 2026

Are you a Snakes and Ladders superstar? A Chess Champion? A Monopoly Master? Welcome to the colourful and creative world of board games at Whirinaki. Celebrating the joy, excitement (and occasional frustration) of playing board games, this exhibition includes hands on games for everyone to play (young and old) such as family favourites Monopoly, Scrabble and Connect Four, as well as traditional games like chess. Get your Game On!

Curated and developed by Whirinaki Whare Taonga. Proudly supported by Nuku Ora.



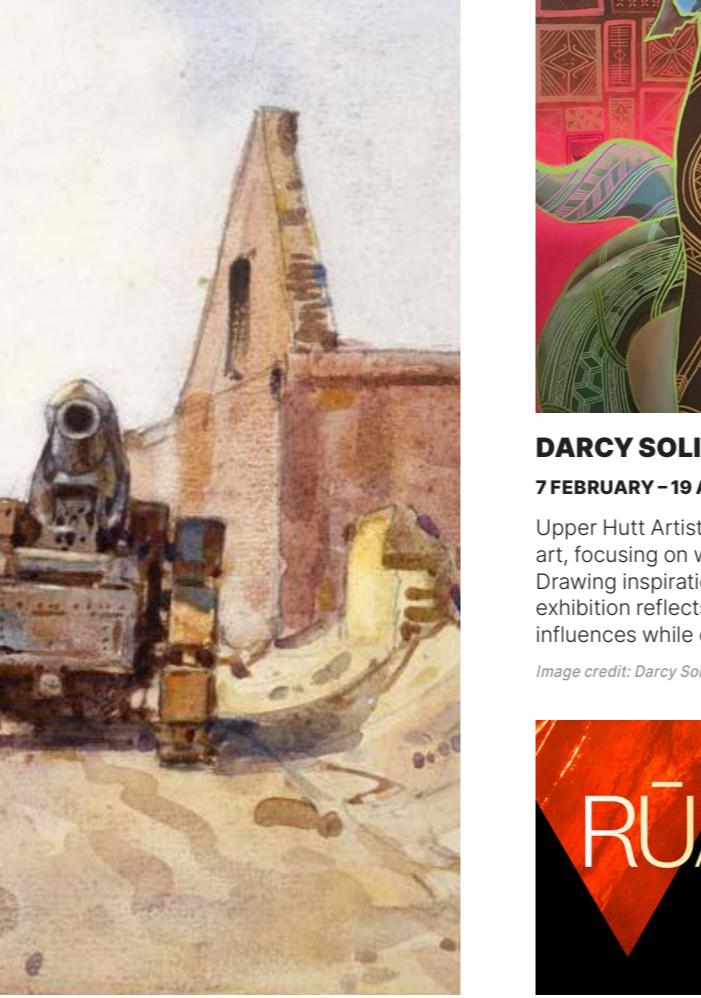
THE SUPERLATIVE ARTISTRY OF JAPAN

20 DECEMBER 2025 – 29 MARCH 2026

This exhibition captures Japan's creative culture and monozukuri spirit through a cohesive collection of work from a variety of art genres. Elaborate Meiji era (1868-1912) works are shown alongside kogei (traditional arts & crafts) as well as contemporary art, craft works, food samples, and shokugan (small toys sold with candy). All illustrate a strong commitment to craftsmanship and a high level of perfection and often an element of surprise.

Curated by Yuji Yamashita (Professor, Meiji Gakuin University) and toured by The Embassy of Japan in New Zealand.

Image credit: Kaiyodo, Capsule Q, 2013-2017, PVC, ABS. Photo © Shu Nakagawa.



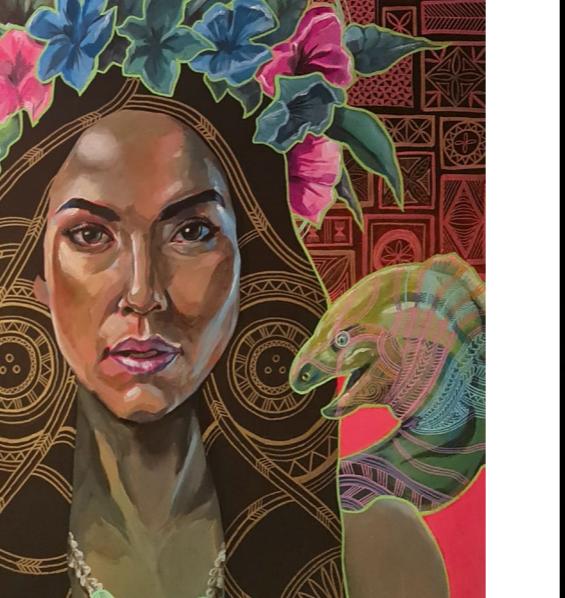
NUGENT WELCH: SKETCHES FROM THE TRENCHES

4 APRIL – 12 JULY 2026

Nugent Welch was New Zealand's first 'war artist.' The works he made stand as a unique and highly personal record of New Zealand's involvement in the First World War from the perspective of a soldier who served in the trenches. This exhibition explores what it was like on a WW1 battlefield through Nugent's intimate landscape watercolours and follows his journey back home to his early impressionistic body of work.

Proudly supported by Heretaunga Bookfest Charitable Trust

Image credit: Captured German Howitzer, Haucourt, Nugent Welch, c.1918



DARCY SOLIA: LE FAIFA 'ATO 'ANGA TUMAU

7 FEBRUARY – 19 APRIL

Upper Hutt Artist Darcy Solia explores the limitless potential of art, focusing on what it can become rather than what is expected. Drawing inspiration from a diverse range of artists and ideas. This exhibition reflects an evolving artistic journey, showcasing varied influences while expressing Solia's distinctive and growing voice.

Image credit: Darcy Solia, Sina Ma le Tuna, acrylic on canvas 2025



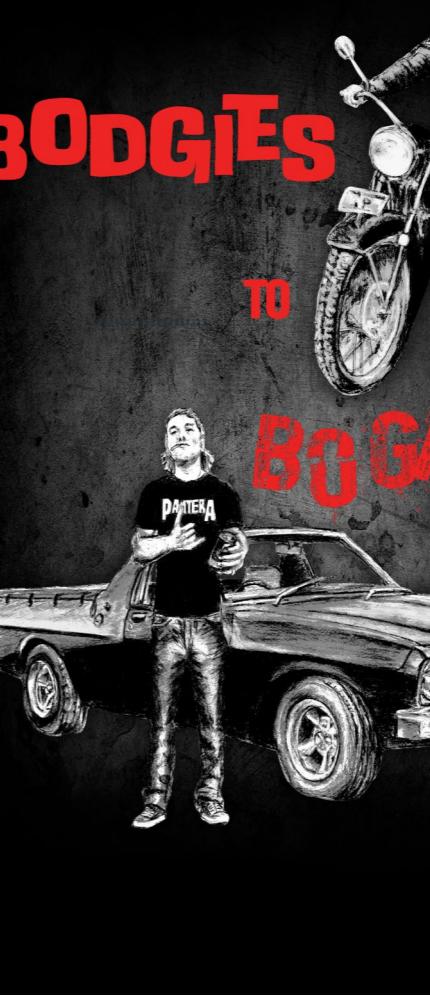
RŪAUMOKO: RESTLESS LAND

25 APRIL – 2 AUGUST

UNTIL 17 OCTOBER 2026

This hands-on, interactive exhibition delves into the realm of Rūaumoko, the atua of volcanoes and earthquakes, and the youngest child of Ranginui and Papatūānuku. You will be taken on a journey through interactive activities, tectonic plate models, volcanic rock samples, a shake table, and kōrero from Rūaumoko.

Developed and toured by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa



BODGIES TO BOGANS

5.30PM – 8PM

25 FEBRUARY – 25 OCTOBER 2026

This hands-on, interactive exhibition delves into the realm of Rūaumoko, the atua of volcanoes and earthquakes, and the youngest child of Ranginui and Papatūānuku. You will be taken on a journey through interactive activities, tectonic plate models, volcanic rock samples, a shake table, and kōrero from Rūaumoko.

Curated and developed by Whirinaki Whare Taonga. Proudly supported by The Rimutaka Trust.

LUNCHTIME LIVE!

A series of lunchtime concerts given by performance students from Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music. 1PM – 4PM by donation

March 3	July 14
Strings	Strings
April 28	August 11
Piano	Voice
May 12	September 8
Voice	Wind Band
May 26	October 6
Wind Band	Piano

Lunchtime live is brought to you by Whirinaki Whare Taonga, The Upper Hutt United Pia Trust and Te Kākāri New Zealand School of Music at Victoria University of New Zealand.



Late Nite Sound Bites is a once a week late night every Friday during February 2026, featuring fresh NZ music, gorgeous food at Dough Bakery and galleries open until 8pm. Live music starts from 5.30pm and entry is by Kōrero.

6 February Andrei Lomod Duo

13 February Hobnail Bots

20 February Wooden Box Band

27 February Lisa Tomlins and Vale Reeves