

SPOT LIGHT



Customers and staff at the Suter Cafe in Halifax St are enjoying the vibrant colours and detailed images painted on a mural by artist Geoff Noble. **Judith Ritchie** finds out more.



Joel Bolton conducts the Greenhill Community Orchestra. Photo: PATRICK HAMILTON/FAIRFAX NZ

Te Koki Trio in concert

The Chanel Arts Centre will host a concert by the Te Koki Trio, who are based at the New Zealand School of Music, where its members are lecturers in classical performance. Jian Liu, piano, Martin Riseley, violin and Inbal Megiddo, cello perform regularly in New Zealand and internationally. The programme includes Beethoven's *Piano Trio Op. 1 No. 1 in Eb*, Psathas' *Islands Songs* and Ravel's *Piano Trio in A minor*. Presented by the Motueka Music Group in association with Chamber Music New Zealand, as part of the 2015 Encompass Series.

Te Koki Trio, Chanel Arts Centre, Corner High Street and Fearon Street, Motueka. Tickets: Adults \$20, high school students \$5; Thursday, June 18 at 7.30pm. Information: Alison Gamlen: alison.gamlen@actrix.co.nz, phone: 03 528 8864.

Community favourites

The Nelson Greenhill and Golden Bay orchestras combine with singers and dancers for *Music from the Stage and the Screen*, a concert of all time favourites. "These two community orchestras have been collaborating for many years now but this year for the first time are performing with singers and dancers," says conductor Joel Bolton. Accomplished vocalists Sophie Ricketts and Mike O'Malley, accompanied by the 55 piece orchestra, will sing solos and duets from well known stage shows including *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats* and *My Fair Lady*. For the *Cats* medley they will be joined by dancers from A Star Academy of the Arts Ltd. The orchestra has a busy weekend as it will be performing the programme in both Golden Bay and Nelson.

Music from the Stage and the Screen, Golden Bay performance: (minus singers and dancers) Saturday, June 6, 7 pm, Takaka Primary School Hall. Nelson performance: Sunday, June 7, 3 pm, Nayland College. Nelson performance: \$15 adults / children - gold coin. Door sales only for both concerts.



Artist Geoff Noble sits in front of his completed mural at the Suter cafe. Photo: ALDEN WILLIAMS/FAIRFAX NZ

Cafe mural keeps it real

Geoff Noble has been recognised for his art work locally on several occasions: he won the 2015 Lisa Grenell Top of the South Art Award, was second place in the Resene National Mural Comp 2012 for a giant mural at Brightwater School, and has previously won Art in Windows.

Now he has just completed a large mural, measuring 2.4 metres wide x 12m long, a major collaboration between Noble and cafe owner Katrina Kallil. His mural features images of a large outreached hand with a cake floating above it, a scene of Queen's Gardens, two

women chatting over coffee and a panel of culinary tools.

"Katrina approached me about doing the painting to cover the wall. I conceptualised ideas and would run them past her as I went," says Noble. "We would meet in my studio every couple of weeks and go through the progression of the painting together."

The theme of the painting is based on the Suter Cafe's past and present by including an oval scene of the Queen's Gardens.

"I wanted to do a painting that had a bit of punch, combining bold colour and stylised realist subjects," says Noble.

Painting in a realist style was time-consuming, taking Noble 300 hours, working on a series of panels in his home studio. The idea of painting on panels was so they could be removed later, perhaps taking up residency when the new cafe is completed.

"I really enjoyed working on them [the panels] in the studio, as a lot of my public works have been created on site, and it was great to have the studio comforts this time," says Noble.

"It has been a great pleasure to make this work.

"Working in the studio for long periods of time is such a great way to

explore, develop and refine your process and application."

Noble took around four months to complete the project, in between working at other jobs, including painting a house in the Marlborough Sounds.

Noble started the project by painting the levitating cake, then the hand and then moved on to the Queen's Gardens scene. "This was a large undertaking as painting foliage on a large scale is heavily time-consuming," says Noble. "Once this was painted, I think it took about one hundred hours, two weeks, then I cracked into the women drinking coffee and conversing."

Noble found this scene a bit conservative so decided to "pop it up" by introducing a pattern through it.

"This took another couple of weeks and on installation I had 20 hours or so of onsite fill-ins to do which I did in the afternoon and evenings," says Noble.

The final stage of the mural was Noble's credit to the "chefs and cuisine creatures", moving from the literal images to a pattern that would incorporate the "tools of the trade".

"I hope the public enjoy the painting as much as I did painting it," says Noble.

More of Geoff Noble's work can be found on: geoffnoble.co.nz.

Creative outlets offer calm, rewarding experiences

Three artists from Magenta Creative Space, the art group for people with mental illness, will show a range of artwork in an exhibition at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology's (NMIT) G-Space. Titled *Creative Lights*, work ranges from delicate textiles to bold acrylic paintings.

Celebrating the work of Oliver Finley Smith, Marina McPherson Whyte, and Phill Malcolm Sigglekow, the four-day exhibition is open to the public and entry is free.

Smith, Whyte, and Sigglekow are three creatives from Magenta, who with courage and determination have come forward to share their artwork with the public. They capture emotions through portraits and fantasy drawings, delicate metallic thread images or as wearable art, and comic superheroes represented in bright acrylics.

This exhibition is as much about art as about the manifestation of the artists' perseverance and learning how to overcome difficulties.

Being actively creative, as demonstrated by all three, can be a means to manage anxiety, which is a



Artists at Magenta Creative Space, Oliver Finley Smith, left, Phill Malcolm Sigglekow and Marina McPherson Whyte.

common symptom of people with mental illness. "Because I do hand sewing and it is

quite slow and repetitive it gives me a calming feeling after a stressful day," says Whyte. "I actually prefer to be

creative on bad days because it gets me out of the mood, it makes me much happier."

Sigglekow sees this in a very similar way: "Painting is very therapeutic; it is kind of like a therapy for me".

The exhibition has been curated by Level 6, NMIT Art & Media students, Petra Malkova, Jessica Shirley, Samara Davis and Vinny Arora.

Exhibition co-ordinator, Petra Malkova says that in this instance the emphasis is not on the stigma attached to mental ill health, but rather a celebration of what can be achieved through "determination and strong will".

Smith is very interested in the subject of long distance online relationships, depicted in hand drawn portraits, later altered in Photoshop, then finished by hand. He feels great satisfaction upon completion of any work, commenting, "when people give the right feedback, that is very rewarding".

Whyte's signature work is the use of metallic thread on organza; she also makes ornate scarfs and gloves. She researches different artists and styles, especially art nouveau and antique jewellery designers, such as Rene Lalique, which she then applies to her own work.

Superheroes and superpower is something that appeals to Sigglekow. He paints comic heroes in vibrant colours, including Wookee from Star Wars, Spiderman. Sigglekow's favourite character is Batman because he thinks he is a master at hand-to-hand combat and he likes the dark story surrounding him.

"All three artists use the creative space for doing their art at Magenta, which provides a safe and friendly environment where people can structure their week around the open days at Magenta, and come out of their isolation", says Juliette Fox, art tutor at Magenta.

"Magenta offers a creative space so I can focus on creativity - rather than curriculum", Smith says, while Sigglekow adds, "Some days I'm not into painting at all, but I would still try to make it to Magenta, just to be around people and have a cup of tea."

Creative Lights, Magenta artists exhibition, G-Space Gallery, Centre for Creative Industries, NMIT, Nile St, opens Tuesday June 9, 5.30pm, all welcome, to June 12.

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