

NELSON ARTS FESTIVAL TAMARIKI

TAMARIKI & RANGATAHI

PROGRAMME

23 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER 2025

[NELSONARTSFESTIVAL.NZ](https://nelsonartsfestival.nz)

11 days of unmissable arts experiences
for our community in Whakatū

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI



Kia ora students, teachers and parents,

We're delighted to bring you a bespoke programme of events for Tamariki & Rangatahi as part of the 2025 Nelson Arts Festival. In this booklet you'll find both specific student events to participate in, and all ages/ family friendly events to come along to.

FOR SCHOOLS TO BOOK:

- **Authors in Schools - Pukapuka Talks** - workshops with awe-inspiring Aotearoa authors
- **Performing Arts and workshops for Tamariki and Rangatahi** - including Yes Yes Yes and the NZ Dance Company
- **Free community performance** - NZ String Quartet at Motueka Library
- **Mask making workshops** - with a master mask maker that your kura can do for free | Primary & Intermediate
- **Mask Parade** - how to sign your school up and what's happening for the street party of the year | All ages

WHAT'S ON FOR STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE

- **Tune Up** - A line up of incredible rangatahi musicians, food trucks and dancing at Kirby Lane | All ages
- **Mask Parade and Carnivale** - Celebrate our community's rich diversity through bold masks, joyful movement and shared creativity
- **WHO WHAT WHERE NOW** - An app-based adventure takeover of the Theatre Royal, for kids aged 4-10yrs
- **ALL THE THINGS I WISH I COULD BE** Family-fun with a comedic trip to the moon at the Suter Theatre. Best for kids aged 7 and younger
- Other all ages/ family friendly events happening during the Arts Festival - find them [here](#)

How to Book:

Schools will be invited to book on behalf of their students. Direct bookings from families who belong to the homeschooling community are also accepted.

Book Here: [SCHOOL BOOKING FORM 2025](#)



Questions: education@nelsonartsfestival.nz

Any bookings with a fee will be invoiced to your school or directly with participant (if not attached to school group). All details including the number of students should be locked in by 17 October 2025

PUKAPUKA TALKS

HE KUPU, HE MANA: THE POWER IN WORDS

NELSON ARTS FESTIVAL

Matariki Bennett and Airana Ngarewa are two exciting new voices in Aotearoa who shape worlds with words, both on the page and in performances. In this 'noho marae' style sessions for students in years 10-13.

Hineora McLeod-Bennett will facilitate an immersive group kōrero with these two young kaituhi Māori about their latest books, their relationship with te reo Māori, and how they are navigating the opportunities and challenges of the online world.

Airana Ngarewa (Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Rauru, Ngāruahine) was born and raised in Pātea, a small town in Aotearoa famous for the song Poi E. His first novel, **The Bone Tree**, was published in 2023 and was the number-one bestselling book of fiction in New Zealand for 11 weeks. His second book, **Pātea Boys**, was released in 2024. It is a collection of stories about young boys and girls getting into mischief. The book reads one way in English and the other in te Reo Māori. His new book, **The Last Living Cannibal**, is set in Taranaki during the 1940s. It explores the concept of 'muru' as attempt to find balance rather than an act of revenge and is destined to become the epitome of a classic Aotearoa novel.

Matariki Bennett (Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Whakaue) is a 22-year-old award-winning Poet and Filmmaker. Matariki's first book, **'e kō, nō hea koe'** was published by Dead Bird Books in May. She is a founding member of **Ngā Hinepūkōrero, a bilingual Slam Poetry Collective**. A number of her performances, including a presentation to thousands of people who gathered in Aotea Square to in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, have gone viral.

How to Book:

Schools will be invited to book on behalf of their students. Direct bookings from families who belong to the homeschooling community will also be accepted.



SCHOOLS WORKSHOPS

15+ year-olds

Golden Bay High School | Wed 22 Oct | 2pm (60 mins)

Koha \$150-\$200 per school | Bookings managed by school

Motueka High School | Thurs 23 Oct | 2pm (60 mins)

Koha \$150-\$200 per school | Bookings managed by school

Nelson NCMA | Fri 24 Oct | 10am (60 mins)

\$5 per student (NAF to invoice school)

BOOKINGS: education@nelsonartsfestival.nz

NOTE: a limit of 20 students per school will initially apply to ensure students from every school can participate.

BOOK HERE: [SCHOOL BOOKING FORM 2025](#)
QUESTIONS: [EDUCATION@NELSONARTSFESTIVAL.NZ](mailto:education@nelsonartsfestival.nz)

YES YES YES

PERFORMANCE, Q&A, WORKSHOP - FREE



Jamie and Ari like each other. Karin and Tom do too. 😊

They might be at two separate parties, but their stories are identical.

Until they really aren't.

Part confession, part documentary, part open conversation, YES YES YES is a theatre show created for young people that explores the knotty and necessary topics of healthy relationships, desire and consent.

The result is a funny, generous and innovative piece of contemporary theatre that speaks directly to one of the most pressing issues young people face today, and holds its audience at its heart.

Nelson Arts Festival and Hikitia! RISE, present YES YES YES. This work has toured all over the world and is a vital, interactive piece of theatre that enables dialogue with young people about sexual consent.

Public performance

YES YES YES

Suter Theatre

Thurs 23 Oct

6.30pm / 60min + 30min q&a

\$15-\$35



PERFORMANCE AND WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS

14+ year olds

YES YES YES

PERFORMANCE VENUE: Suter Theatre

DATE: Thur 23 Oct | 10.00am – 11.00am | Q&A til 11.30am

Hikitia! School Workshop – YES YES YES

LUNCH: 11.30-12.30 kai provided WORKSHOP TIME: 12.30-2pm

TICKETS: FREE | Booking essential

Hikitia!, RISE's primary prevention team, will lead a post-performance workshop for all students, following the acclaimed theatre work YES YES YES.

Working in the sexual and domestic violence prevention space, the Hikitia! team will draw on themes of the show to spark kōrero, provide support, and opportunities for reflection, as well as inspire learning and leadership around consent, respectful relationships.

This interactive session is designed for all rangatahi / young people (yr10 and above) and will include particular opportunities for those with an interest in the helping professions, leadership, social advocacy, justice, and performing arts. It's a valuable opportunity for students to build knowledge and confidence, develop healthy communication tools, and explore how to navigate complex situations in safe and supportive ways.

We encourage schools to make bookings for students who would benefit most from this inspiring and impactful performance, and post-performance workshop.

Please note schools (or organisers) are responsible for obtaining parental/guardian consent for rangatahi to attend.

Book Here: [SCHOOL BOOKING FORM 2025](#)

Questions: education@nelsonartsfestival.nz

THE NEW ZEALAND DANCE COMPANY

HOLDING GROUND STUDENT WORKSHOP



Join renowned artistic director, Moss Te Ururangi Patterson, in a contemporary dance-based workshop, exploring the choreographer's vision and themes from TŌKA – a brand new duet created and inspired by Tōka Tu Moana, the rock that stands in the middle of the ocean.

This workshop is open to participants of all dance abilities and is best suited to rangatahi and adult participants from ages 12 and up.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

12yr olds to Adults

Student Contemporary Dance Workshop

Venue: WAA! Club, 183 Bridge St, Nelson

Date: Wed 29 Oct | 10.30am – 11.30am |

Cost: \$10 per student | Booking essential

Book Here: [SCHOOL BOOKING FORM 2025](#)

Questions: education@nelsonartsfestival.nz

PUBLIC VIEWING:

NZ DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS

Holding Ground

VENUE: Theatre Royal

DATE: THURS 30 Oct 7.30

Holding Ground pairs two dynamic dance works exploring the body's response to pressure, imbalance, and change.



NEW ZEALAND STRING QUARTET

WHIRINAKI



Chamber music is a genre of classical music characterised by its intimate setting and smaller groups of performers. The most common chamber music group is a string quartet, made up of two violins, one viola and one cello. Unlike a large orchestra, chamber music and string quartets allow for a deep connection between the performers and audiences.

NZSQ's Whirinaki programme takes curious audiences through the basic principles of the artform in a relaxed and whānau-friendly performance.

How to Book:

Schools will be invited to book on behalf of their students.

This event is also open to all community, free of charge, pre-bookings are essential.

Book Here: [SCHOOL BOOKING FORM 2025](#)

Questions: education@nelsonartsfestival.nz

FREE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE

Recommended for audiences 5+ - open to the whole community.

Te Noninga Kumu Motueka Public Library

Date: Tue 28 October, 2025

Time: 10.30am – 11.30am

Cost: Tickets are free, Bookings essential



MASK CARNIVALE



Come celebrate the beginning of summer with our most iconic event – this year's theme for the parade:

Transformation.

We can't wait to see you there, Whakatū!

Celebrating mask culture and creating your own mask are a huge part of cultural celebrations all around the world and have been a wonderful part of the Nelson Arts Festival since its very beginnings. A forever Festival favourite, really.

Our much-loved community event – Mask Carnivale, presented by our Moa Partners [Nelson Mail](#) – will transform our inner-city streets into a colourful explosion of joy, community and creativity on Friday 31 October!

This year's theme for the parade is: **TRANSFORMATION**

Chosen by the tamariki from Nelson Central School, aka the winners of the 2024 Kim Merry Supreme Award, this theme has been inspired by their learning about the life cycle of butterflies and metamorphosis.

Parade registrations are now open – sign up [HERE](#).

Parade entries close Friday 17 October.

MASK CARNIVALE

All Ages

WHAKATŪ NELSON CBD

Fri 31 Oct | 5 – 9.00pm

Theme: Transformation

Mask Parade starts at 5.15pm

Carnivale from 5.45pm

FREE



TUNE UP



Kick off Nelson Arts Festival with a boogie, we're celebrating the future of Aotearoa music right here in Whakatū!

TUNE UP transforms Kirby Lane into an outdoor music hub with an amazing line up of rangatahi musicians - all programmed by our young folx, with tautoko from Rockquest. Come celebrate the future of Aotearoa music right here in Whakatū!

This all ages family friendly event will be a great night out. You can grab a bite to eat from the onsite food trucks and dance the night away. Performers to be announced prior to the event on Nelson Arts Festival socials. We're excited!

TUNE UP

**KIRBY LANE,
Whakatū Nelson
(central city)**

Thurs 23 Oct | 5.30– 8.30pm

FREE

All Ages



OTHER YOUTH & WHĀNAU FRIENDLY EVENTS



WHO WHAT WHERE NOW BINGE CULTURE

THEATRE ROYAL | SUN 26 OCT
SESSIONS BETWEEN 10AM – 1PM
45 MIN | \$10 – \$15



Nelson Arts Festival Exclusive

What are those rumblings and grumbings underneath the theatre? Where is that mysterious 'ribbiting' coming from? And is that monkey wearing a tie? Uncover the trail of magic and mystery on a quest to find a precious taonga. **Who What Where Now** is an adventure experience combining puzzle and play, guided by mobile app. Perfect for ages 4-10 with adult supervision, most fun in groups of 2-6 people.

Made with support from CNZ

Supported By:



ALL THE THINGS I WISH I COULD BE TOM KNOWLES AND JEFF PARSNIPS

SUTER THEATRE | MON 27 OCT
11AM | 50 MIN | \$15 – \$25



Blast off with **Jeff** and **Tom** in this wild musical adventure about two lovable dads who dream of becoming everything from All Blacks to ballerinas, from mad monkeys to silly monsters. Bursting with original songs performed live, this 'very Kiwi' comedy is packed with heart, hilarity, and high-energy fun for the whole whānau. A joyful celebration of imagination, friendship, and the endless possibilities of who we can be.

Supported By: **cooper∞savage**
chartered accountants

*"..provoking the audience
into fits of laughter"*
Theatreview



OTHER YOUTH & WHĀNAU FRIENDLY EVENTS

VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION



SEASONAL AGREEMENT

JOHN VEA

REFINERY ARTSPACE | 23 OCT – 15 NOV GALLERY OPENING HOURS
OPENING EVENT THURS 23 OCT 5PM | ARTIST TALK SAT 25 OCT 12PM | FREE



Every year, Te Taihū South Island becomes a temporary home to migrant workers from across Moana Oceania. Seasonal workers are part of our everyday landscapes but remain mostly hidden or unrecognised. Christchurch-based artist **John Vea** (Tonga, Aotearoa) uses his characteristic sense of humour to point to the bureaucratic challenges and barriers migrants must navigate to make a living, and a home, in Aotearoa.

Supported By:  NELSON AIRPORT



SEASONAL AGREEMENT

KIRBY LANE, Whakatū Nelson (central city)

Thurs 23 Oct | 5.30– 8.30pm

FREE attendance to this workshop.

Special Events:

- Public Opening - Thursday 23 October, 5pm - FREE
- Artist Talk - Saturday 25 October, 12pm - FREE



CONTACT

Limited bookings available for our special Tamariki & Rangatahi events, workshops and performances - don't miss out!

For more details or to confirm your place, please contact:

Maria Anderson | education@nelsonartsfestival.nz | 0272 555 805

Any bookings with a fee will be invoiced to your school or directly with participant (if not attached to school group). All details including the number of students should be locked in by 17 October 2025

We can't wait to share it all with you!

Ngā mihi nui,
The Nelson Arts Festival team

Link to booking form:

