



Damaged houses on Old Waipu Rd after a tornado swept through Mangawhai.

Photo / Hayden Woodward



A cowboy competes in the rope and tie at the Waikato Rodeo held at the Kihikihi Domain.

Photo / Mike Scott

# Every photo tells a story of Aotearoa

A pilot whale stranding, the scene of a homicide investigation, and Taylor Swift fans mobbing an Auckland record store are among the striking images by *New Zealand Herald* and NZME visual journalists on show at the Auckland Festival of Photography this month.

The 24 photographs – shot across the motu from Northland to Canterbury – will be displayed along the Queens Wharf fence from May 22 to June 13.

Published in the *Herald*, the *Northern Advocate*, *Hawkes Bay Today*, the *Bay of Plenty Times* and the *Whanganui Chronicle*, work featured in the collection also includes the aftermath of the tornado that swept through Mangawhai in February and a 3-day-old baby rhino at Auckland Zoo.

The theme for this year's festival is Sustain [tautinei], showcased in a region-wide programme of free

exhibitions and events.

Italian photographer Maurizio Di Pietro's Zero Hunger series documents the experimental use of insect-based foods as a response to growing food insecurity aggravated by climate change.

Melt: A Strangely Beautiful Interior by Wairarapa-based photographer Wendy Brandon captures the extraordinary landscape of Antarctica.

A special screening of shortlisted entries in the 2024 Aotearoa Music Photography Award will also be held at the Ellen Melville Centre, as part of New Zealand Music Month.

**i To see more, check out Canvas magazine for Auckland photographer Deborah Kelland's pilgrimage to Mexico, following the annual migration of the endangered monarch butterfly.**



Fans gather for the Taylor Swift, The Tortured Poets Department album release at Real Groovy records in Auckland City.

Photo / Alex Burton



A beached whale on Birdlings Flat Beach in Canterbury.

Photo / George Heard



Police at the scene of a homicide investigation following a man's death on Ponsonby Rd.

Photo / Jason Oxenham



Three-day-old male Rhino calf with his mum Jamila at Auckland Zoo.

Photo / Alyse Wright

## Shopkeeper had only just moved in when Winz fire destroyed shop

Raphael Franks

An Auckland shopkeeper was excited to be moving into a new store, but is now heartbroken after a fire at the Work and Income office next door turned it into "a scene of utter devastation".

Wendy Li spent the weekend moving stock into the newly refurbished location in Glen Innes' Mayfair Pl. She lives locally and had run an emporium shop in the same shopping centre before.

"She was so happy to be moving in and starting the store again . . . then this happens," her lawyer, Frank Chan, told the *Herald*.

Acrid black and grey smoke, smelling of burnt plastic, billowed from the area as flames engulfed the multiple-tenant building on Thursday morning.

Fifteen firefighting crews from stations around the city descended on the East Auckland suburb and contained the fire by about 10.30am, leaving cordons around the surrounding streets.

Yesterday morning, the building was boarded up and security guards were on-site.

"The shop is now a scene of utter destruction, with large holes in the roof, twisted metal, blackened walls, and debris and water everywhere," Chan said.

"To say that [Li] is devastated would be an understatement."

Li's disappointment was boosted by the fact her shop opening was coming after roadworks plaguing the shopping centre had ended and there was an expectation foot traffic would increase.



Firefighters and investigators at the burnt-out Work and Income office in Glen Innes.

Photo / Sylvie Whinray

"The centre has faced disruption from the major roadworks and there have been few new stores except for two vape stores. She was excited to . . . continue to serve her loyal customers," Chan said.

Li did not yet have her stock insured. Her new landlord had just painted the shop, had new carpet and linoleum laid, and plumbing and lighting fitted. Li had also invested in new shelves and fittings.

"She is faced with replacing everything and finding a new location, as the building is likely to be demolished," Chan said.

"The community will rally around her and she has to allow people to help her. Wendy is a very proud business person."

He has set up a Givemylittle page to fundraise for her.

Fire and Emergency revealed to the *Herald* yesterday morning that its

investigation had found the case was accidental, not suspicious.

Chan, under suspicion from conversations with Li's landlord that the fire was caused by an electrical issue with the air conditioning inside the Work and Income (Winz) office.

The Ministry of Social Development, responsible for Winz, has been approached for comment on updates to its office. Questions about the fire were deferred to Fire and Emergency.

## Man hurts family dog in drunk attack

Melissa Nightingale

A Lower Hutt man who drunkenly beat the family dog so badly that he permanently disfigured it told police the dog was like one of his children and "that's how they do it in the West Coast".

Ronan Apiti, 24, appeared in the Hutt Valley District Court yesterday, having earlier pleaded guilty to a charge of animal cruelty and another of breaching a police safety order.

Judge Russell Collins said he accepted Apiti was "guttured" and "distraught" by what he had done to the dog, Buck.

"You inflicted a very nasty piece of cruelty on your dog," he said.

"I'm not here making judgment on you as a person. You can make that judgment when you look at yourself in the mirror in the morning and decide that you don't want to be a guy that inflicts pain like that on a helpless animal."

According to the summary of facts, Apiti was at home on January 30 when he "consumed a large amount of alcohol and became irate".

"Using his fists and various household objects, the defendant beat Buck around the head and body," it said.

"The defendant did this with enough force that Buck's jaw was broken, causing permanent disfigurement. He continued to beat Buck, resulting in several lacerations to his legs and body."

"The defendant's family became frightened of his actions and contacted police, who arrived a short time later."

Police advised Apiti that he was being detained for the purposes of a police safety order, but he retreated into the house, slamming doors. He hid in the bathroom until police found and detained him.

"In explanation, the defendant stated that Buck is like one of his children and 'that's how they do it in the West Coast'," the summary said.

Judge Collins started yesterday's sentencing by telling defence lawyer John Dean that he would not be sending Apiti to prison, noting his "extremely limited [criminal] history". Apiti has just one previous conviction for drink-driving.

"He needs help, and some community work can be his contribution back to the harm he's caused," the judge said.

Dean said he hoped the probation department could direct Apiti to serve some community work with the SPCA.

"A dog should be a man's best friend. If you order him to not have any association with animals for the rest of his life, that would be too harsh," Dean said.

Speaking to judge, Judge Collins said: "You drink far too much, quite frankly."

"You tell the probation officer what you drink and you don't see it as a problem. Well, it is a problem on any view of the matter, Mr Apiti."

He said Apiti needed to "greatly reduce" his drinking.

"You will hopefully get the help to find a better way to spend your days."

He sentenced Apiti to 12 months of supervision, during which he must undergo a drug and alcohol assessment, a non-violence course and counselling.

He ordered him to do 60 hours of community work and banned him from owning or caring for a dog for five years.

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