MILFORD ASSET MANAGEMENT PRESENTS

ASPIRING CONVERSATIONS

ideas festival

3-5 APRIL 2020

PRESENTED BY
FESTIVAL OF COLOUR
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Dame Adrienne Stewart
New Kids on the Block

Marilyn Waring and Chlöe Swarbrick are the two youngest MPs in the last 100 years – women who’ve joined the political battles of the day with intelligence and a powerful sense of their own integrity. They discuss their experiences and what has changed in the time between their terms in Parliament – between the boomer and millennial generations of politicians - and what remains firmly entrenched.

Marilyn Waring entered Parliament in 1975 at the age of 23, and after the 1978 election was the only female National MP. She crossed the floor on nuclear-free legislation, which provoked Rob Muldoon to call the ill-fated 1984 snap election. Marilyn went on to crusade internationally for the economic empowerment of women, and is now a Professor of Public Policy at AUT.

Chlöe Swarbrick won national profile when she ran for Mayor of Auckland at the age of 22; the next year (2017) she was elected to Parliament for the Green Party. There she has made her mark with changes to drug laws, advocacy of mental health issues and a strong call to action on climate change.
He wā whakaaro / Time for thinking

Bring your friends and join us for our weekend-long festival of ideas.

Aspiring Conversations is a chance for us to gather to listen and discuss, to question and reflect, on issues that affect us all.

As a festival-goer you will find many threads and connections as the session on mortality segues into singing the blues, or the climate crisis discussion sits up against loving where we live.

Many thanks to our supporters, our sponsors, funders, benefactors, patrons and volunteers - you make it all possible!

Welcome to Aspiring Conversations 2020. We are delighted to welcome Wanaka’s unique festival of ideas back to our region, again delivering a world class programme of speakers, thinkers and performers from New Zealand and abroad.

It’s time for thinking!

Jim Boult
Mayor of the Queenstown Lakes District Council

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THE FESTIVAL TRUST
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A Careful Revolution

“We have not come here to beg world leaders to care. We have come here to let you know that change is coming whether you like it or not.”

Greta Thunberg at COP24 – the UN Climate Change Conference in 2018

The climate crisis is upon us. Our main political parties have all committed to the Zero Carbon Bill and the Climate Commission is setting targets for lowering emissions and reducing our carbon footprint. But when impacts don’t fall equally, how do we have a careful climate revolution? And can individual lifestyle changes make any difference without bigger picture systemic change?

Scientist Shaun Hendy believed it was important to walk the talk, so he spent a year without flying and using an electric car on the roads. He cut his carbon emissions from travel by 95% - and wrote about it in his book #NoFly. Shaun teaches at the University of Auckland. In 2012 he was awarded the Callaghan Medal by the Royal Society and the Prime Minister’s Science Media Communication Prize.

Tamatha Paul was the president of Victoria University’s Student Association in 2019 and the same year was elected on to the Wellington City Council where she is the portfolio leader for climate change.

David Hall is a researcher with the Policy Observatory at Auckland University of Technology. He is the conceptual designer of Trees That Count, co-director of Mōhio’s Climate Innovation Lab, and recently edited a book on transitioning to a low-emissions world, A Careful Revolution.

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**Sustainability - Hold This Spot**

We always hold one time slot for speakers who we confirm closer to the time.

We’ll be announcing the 2020 special speakers on the topic of sustainability in March – so hold this spot in your schedule.

**Streetside Soapbox**

**Big Issues, Short Talks**

Step right up! Join us for a lineup of quickfire soapbox talks out on the pavement. Come and listen on Saturday lunchtime outside Kai Whakapai – five-minute bursts from an inspiring selection of speakers talking about the big issues.

Chlöe Swarbrick kicks the Soapbox off at 12.30 and our slam poets will close it at 1.15.

Email laura@festivalofcolour.co.nz if you’d like to speak. Tell us about yourself and your topic. Limited slots!
Fake News

What’s fake and what is true? Leaders like Trump like to call out any critical journalism as “fake news”, but the bigger issue is the way fake stories spread, often through social media, and so often feed into popular myths. Meanwhile, the New Zealand and global media are in upheaval and journalistic standards under fire. Who can we turn to give us the facts, and to dispel lies?

Former ODT columnist Mel Bunce now researches and teaches at the Department of Journalism at City, University of London. She has recently published The Broken Estate: Journalism and Democracy in a Post-Truth World.

Paddy Gower has been a journalist for 20 years. He began his career at the NZ Herald in Auckland before moving to the Parliamentary Press Gallery and Three News. He is now Newshub’s National Correspondent, covering and breaking stories of national significance.
Loving Where We Live

We know that where we live has a huge impact on how we feel about ourselves. But does it work for everyone? How can we measure this? Also what happens when our sense of place is fractured by something like an earthquake?

Philip Morrison has researched the geography of wellbeing, how it can be measured and how it can vary. Fiona Farrell and Chessie Henry have both written about places they love and how their lives were disrupted, first of all by the Christchurch earthquake and subsequently, for Chessie, by the Kaikoura quake.

The earthquake cracked into Fiona’s The Broken Book, and into her non-fiction and fiction twin works: The Villa at the Edge of the Empire, and Decline and Fall on Savage Street. Chessie’s book We Can Make a Life deals to her family life in Christchurch and Kaikoura, as well as a year in Tokelau.

Fiona received the Prime Minister’s Award for fiction in 2007 and has been a guest at writers’ festivals around the world. Chessie is a recent graduate of the Institute of Modern Letters and her book We Can Make a Life won the non-fiction prize at the 2019 Ockham Book Awards.

Philip S. Morrison is an urban geographer and Professor Emeritus at Victoria University and was the NZ Geographical Society Distinguished Geographer in 2013. He is publishing People and Place: Why Where We Live Matters.

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Singing the Blues

The blues began deep in the American South with legends like Lead Belly, Bessie Smith, Muddy Waters and B.B. King, and provided the foundations for a generation of rock acts, from Janis Joplin to the Rolling Stones. Echoes of the blues continue into the 21st century.

Our four musicians all draw from the deep well of the blues. Musician and music writer Nick Bollinger talks to them about how the blues has inspired them, and each will perform songs that capture something of its spirit and power.

Zoë Moon is daughter of the legendary Taj Mahal. She sang on the Grammy Award-winning TajMo tour and alongside sister Deva Mahal on her Run Deep Tour (including Byron Bay Bluesfest). The Zoë Moon band makes regular appearances on the Wellington music scene.

You may have seen and heard Coco Davis in the musical *Daffodils* a few festivals back, or heard her gothic album of revenge blues, *Old Haunts*, produced by partner Tom Rodwell. His guitar playing and vocals are based in the blues, but also influenced by spirituals, calypso and improvisation. “Beautiful tunes, beautiful groove.” His new album *Housewrecking* will be available this year.

Darren Watson has spent most of his musical life immersed in the blues: in the 80s, he was the principal songwriter and frontman for rhythm & blues outfit Chicago Smoke Shop. He then went on to produce six blues-based albums of his own. His latest drew the comment, “Anyone who thinks only Americans can authentically sing the blues should listen to this album… the finest acoustic blues CD this reviewer has heard in quite some time.”

**WHEN**
7.30pm Saturday 4 April

**WHERE**
Lake Wanaka Centre

**TICKETS**
$30

**DURATION**
75 minutes
Death Becomes Us

We talk easily about birth, but we struggle to come to deal openly with death even though it’s inevitable. Our experience of the deaths of friends and relatives all feed into our own thoughts and feelings about the end of life, but answers can be elusive. Will we go gently into that good night, or will we rage against the dying light?

Australian oncologist, broadcaster, writer and Fulbright scholar Dr Ranjana Srivastava says that in order to die well, we must be prepared to contemplate our own mortality and broach it with our loved ones. Her latest book, A Better Death, is a powerful and passionate exploration of the art of living and dying well.

New Zealander Glenn Colquhoun deals with the deaths of friends and patients as both a poet and a doctor. His books include Jumping ship and Late Love: Sometimes Doctors Need Saving as Much as Their Patients. He works with young people at the Horowhenua Youth Health Service and is a popular visitor to schools. He was awarded the Prize in Modern Letters and was also a Fulbright Scholar.
“So we go back to the land, the whenua, and we put the names in place because that’s where the history is.”

Trevor Howse

Lakes Wānaka and Hāwea are part of an ancestral landscape of immense cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu; stories of people and events, place names, trails, and mahinga kai (food gathering places) are embedded throughout the area.

Many of the region’s original place names, stories and historical associations were rendered invisible by the colonial encounter. However in recent years, the Ngāi Tahu Archive team has been working with Ngāi Tahu communities to breathe life back into the landscapes of Te Waipounamu / the South Island, by restoring original place names, sharing stories of people and place, and making archival information available to iwi members and the wider community for the first time.

In this session, Takerei Norton, Helen Brown and Sir Tipene O’Regan from the Ngāi Tahu Archive team showcase their digital atlas, Ka Huru Manu, and other history and memory projects, to discuss the Ngāi Tahu people, places, and stories of Wānaka and Hāwea.
Tax is Love

Is tax theft or is it love? A nanny-state or democratic government in action?

Many of us want to pay as little as possible yet our panel argues that taxes are vital to our society – pooling our resources to give us schools and hospitals and all the myriad services and infrastructure that make this country work.

Lisa Marriott is Professor of Taxation at Victoria University. Her research interests include social justice and inequality, and the behavioural aspects of taxation. Max Rashbrooke is a journalist, author and academic based in Wellington. His books, led by the best-selling *Inequality: A New Zealand Crisis*, have helped transform our understanding of income and wealth inequality.

Shamubeel Eaqub is a consultant at Sense Partners. His focus is on analytical frameworks to aid economic forecasting, on commentary and incisive research into topical areas of economics. He has a knack for coining memorable terms: zombie towns, generation rent and of course, tax is love.
Musician Muslim Kiwi

Jon Toogood has long been the frontman for the Kiwi band Shihad. When the rock musician met the diplomat’s daughter in Melbourne, he wasn’t quite prepared for the journey that followed. He converted to Islam, had a traditional Sudanese wedding and now they bring up their kids as Muslims.

Toogood has a powerful social conscience, speaking of “that hole you are left with from being inside the materialistic modern culture, where there is no spirituality.”

When the Christchurch terror attacks came, they shook him as a Muslim and as a Kiwi. “Who wants to live in a world where that happens?” he asked and now speaks about the importance of political correctness, a technique to deal with large groups of diverse people living in the same place trying to respect each other.

Jon Toogood
INFORMATION

Venue
The Lake Wanaka Centre, 89 Ardmore Street, Wanaka

Booking information
Book online at www.aspiringconversations.co.nz

Priority Booking: Benefactors, Patrons and Sponsors can book online from 7pm Monday 3 February.

General ticket sales start 8.30am Friday 14 February.
All sessions are general admission. Ticket prices include GST. 3% credit card processing fee applies. Your tickets will be emailed for you to download to your mobile device, unless you choose to collect your tickets in person. Student tickets require a valid Student Identification Card on entry to the session.

The Festival Box Office in the Lake Wanaka Centre will be open on Friday 14 February from 8.30am to 2pm and Saturday 15 February 10am to 2pm, for cash and eftpos sales. Then from 9am on Friday 3 April for any remaining sales and ticket collection.

The Aspiring Pass gives you access to all nine speaker and panel sessions, excluding Singing the Blues, without having to book and pay for separate tickets. The pass is $170 and can be booked online or by phone. There are a limited number available. The pass is non-transferable and needs to be shown at the door for all events. To guarantee a seat, Aspiring Pass holders must arrive at least 10 minutes before the session starts. Passes available for collection from Festival Box Office from 9am on Friday 3 April.

For all ticketing queries please email ticketing@aspiringconversations.co.nz or phone 022 4 TIX NOW (022 4 849 669).

For disabled access please contact the Festival office on 03 443 4172. View full booking conditions online.

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All sessions take place at the Lake Wanaka Centre, 89 Ardmore Street, Wanaka.

More information about each session can be found on the page in the programme or on the website www.aspiringconversations.co.nz

Aspiring Conversations is organised by the Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust that also runs the biennial celebration of the arts – the Festival of Colour. The next festival takes place 12 - 18 April 2021.

If you like what you see here and would like to know more about supporting Aspiring Conversations or the Festival of Colour either as a volunteer, performer, sponsor or to make a donation then please get in touch today – info@festivalofcolour.co.nz. We’d be delighted to hear from you.

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<th>Participants</th>
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<th>Duration</th>
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<td>New Kids on the Block</td>
<td>Marilyn Waring</td>
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<td>Chlöe Swarbrick</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday 4 April</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>Speakers yet to be announced</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>75 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Careful Revolution</td>
<td>Shaun Hendy</td>
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<td>11am</td>
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<td>Tamatha Paul</td>
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<td>David Hall</td>
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<td>Streetside Soapbox</td>
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<td>12.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Loving Where We Live</td>
<td>Philip Morrison</td>
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<td>Fiona Farrell</td>
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<td>Chessie Henry</td>
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<td>Singing the Blues</td>
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<td>Death Becomes Us</td>
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FESTIVAL OF COLOUR  12-18 April 2021