

MILFORD ASSET MANAGEMENT PRESENTS

Aspiring Conversations

time for
thinking



6-8
APRIL 2018

PRESENTED BY

Festival of Colour

a celebration of the arts • wanaka and the southern lakes

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Jacinda
Ardern



Mary
Robinson

Working for change

These two leaders will discuss working for change at the local, national and international level. Some changes come easily and quickly, and an act of Parliament can formalise a major shift in people's thinking (think marriage equality, or medicinal cannabis). Other changes can be glacially slow, for instance achieving peace in Ireland or reaching a global solution on climate change.

Mary Robinson – first woman President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is a passionate advocate for gender equality, for women's participation in peace-building and human dignity. As a barrister, she has sought to use the law as an instrument for social change, arguing landmark cases before the European Court of Human Rights. She also knows the value of using informal channels – she is one of the Elders, an international group of senior statespeople who work behind the scenes. The heart of her work now is her foundation for climate justice.

Prime Minister **Jacinda Ardern** is also the Leader of the Labour Party, Member of Parliament for Mt Albert, and the Minister for National Security and Intelligence; Arts, Culture and Heritage; and Child Poverty Reduction, an issue particularly close to her heart. She heads a Government that has pledged major change on issues ranging from child poverty to climate change, education to regional development, workers' rights to fixing the housing crisis. They have made a number of steps in their first hundred days and plan to build on these in the course of 2018.

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WHEN 6.00pm Friday 6 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$30 (limited to 2 per person)
DURATION 75 minutes

WELCOME!

We live in a post-truth world where social media often hold sway. Aspiring Conversations turns that around. Join us for a weekend where we gather as real people in real time to hear speakers who have real expertise in their fields – from history to human rights, from science to song. It's a time for reflection, for discussion and for debate amongst festival-goers and with your friends.

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

Alistair King (Chair)

Philip Tremewan (Director)

Laura Williamson (General Manager)



Photo: Wanaka App



Jim Boulton -

Mayor Queenstown Lakes District Council

"Welcome to Aspiring Conversations. We are delighted to see this unique festival of ideas return to Wanaka with a programme of high-calibre speakers from New Zealand and abroad. It's time for thinking - enjoy!"

The Festival Team

Philip Tremewan – Festival Director

Laura Williamson – General Manager

Abbey Lewis – Venue Manager Wanaka

Sally Woodfield – Publicity and PR

Katy Macpherson – Ticketing

Dennis Schwarz – Lighting

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Nick Steur



Photo: Alistair Bett

Absolutely and compellingly beautiful ****

The Scotsman

FREEZE!

Concept, text, scenography and performed by Nick Steur

Produced by Richard Jordan Productions and Theater-aan-Zee in association with Theatre Royal Plymouth, Big in Belgium and Summerhall

Edinburgh Fringe First Winner

Just occasionally a show appears in the frenzy of the Edinburgh Fringe that has a poise and inner strength so profound that it pauses the audience, slows the heartbeats and changes the way people breathe and see. **Nick Steur's FREEZE!** is one of those shows.

Growing up at the riverside, Steur often used to play with pebbles. During his professional career as a performance and visual artist, he suddenly felt the urge and started to balance rocks on top of each other. Not stacks of flat stones but often large and usually awkwardly shaped rocks that form mind-boggling vertical sculptures that appear to defy the laws of physics. No glue, magnets or tricks, his intense focus "finds the balance between your own force of will and that of the stone".

All the balanced sculptures are improvised so each performance is unique and can last between 40 and 70 minutes. We promise you will be transfixed, hardly daring to breathe. Become aware of the present moment and your own presence in it.

You can bring your own stone (bigger than your fist) and see if Nick chooses it for balancing.

Children aged 8+ are welcome but because the performance requires intense concentration, it's vital they do not cause distraction.

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WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
outdoor stage
WHEN Friday 6 April at 12.30pm
Saturday 7 April at
12.30pm and 4.30pm
Sunday 8 April at
12.30pm and 4.30pm
TICKETS \$25 adult
\$10 student

Mary Robinson



Striving for Justice

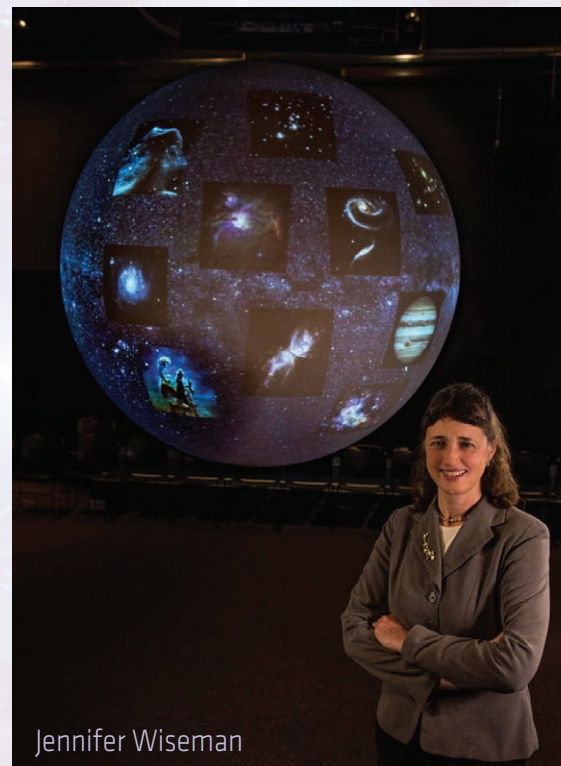
Former President of Ireland **Mary Robinson** says that growing up with four brothers in County Mayo is when she first had to fight for human rights. She remains a passionate advocate for gender equality, for human dignity and justice. She has served as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as UN Envoy on Climate Change. She was the first Irish head of state to make official visits to Britain, as well as regularly visiting Northern Ireland. She carries on this trust in dialogue and reconciliation as a member of the Elders (founded by Nelson Mandela and chaired by Kofi Annan).

Her own foundation is focussed on climate justice – on the disproportionate impact of climate change on the poor and the marginalised, who are already having their lives upended. The struggle to build solidarity and secure global justice sometimes seems harder than ever in today's divisive world.

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WHEN 11am Saturday 7 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$30 (limited to 2 per person)
DURATION 75 minutes



Jennifer Wiseman

Stars and planets - life, the universe and everything

Astrophysicist **Dr. Jennifer Wiseman** is the senior project scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Previously, she headed Goddard's Laboratory for Exoplanets and Stellar Astrophysics.

Her scientific expertise is centered on the study of star-forming regions in our galaxy - the gas clouds forming the cosmic nurseries where stars and their planetary systems are born. She also looks at what's special about Earth and whether there are other Earth-like planets.

The Hubble Telescope looks across the universe and across time - a long way from the small farm in the Ozark Mountains of rural Arkansas where she grew up. But already as an undergraduate, she discovered the comet 114P/Wiseman-Skiff. She has now widened her search!

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WHEN 1.30pm Saturday 7 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$16
DURATION 60 minutes

Christos Tsiolkas



Rupturing the social faultlines

Christos Tsiolkas's writing explores the faultlines in Australian society – he deals with anger and shame, with sex and violence. In his best-seller *THE SLAP* a single gesture triggers the meltdown of an entire suburban universe. It's no accident that this novel and his subsequent *BARRACUDA* have both become successful television series.

In person, he's softly spoken – "he talks quietly and writes loud". In this session, Christos discusses how he and other writers are responding to our angry era of Trump and Brexit, and explores the role of the writer in society. Where is the goodness and the hope?

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WHEN 3pm Saturday 7 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$16
DURATION 60 minutes

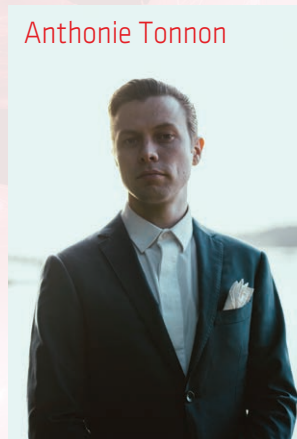
Warren Maxwell



Reb Fountain



Anthonie Tonnon



Memories in Song

Some people write books about their lives but singers transform their experiences and memories into song. You'll hear three New Zealand singer-songwriters talk to music journalist and memoirist **Nick Bollinger** about their lives, and each of them will sing us songs that dip into their memories.

You may have heard celebrated musician **Warren Maxwell** in the riveting festival performance of *Pass the Gat*. Warren is a founding member of Trinity Roots, leader of psychedelic blues group Little Bushman and ex saxophonist for Fat Freddy's Drop, a soloist and a partner in many musical projects. He is renowned for pouring his heart and soul back into his community.

Reb Fountain performs occasionally with The Eastern but mostly solo. Adam McGrath says, "If they melted guts and mettle and turned it to steel and then shaped it into medals Reb'd need two chests. That voice... born of fire and river run, mountain strong and feather soft". She's just been touring her latest album, the dark yet danceable *LITTLE ARROWS*.

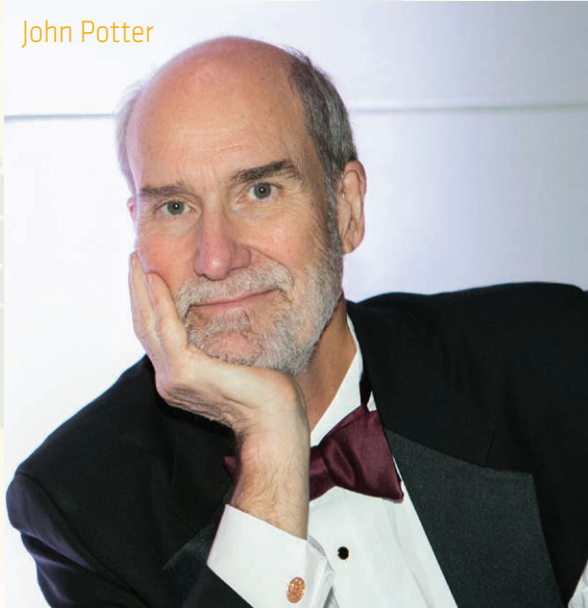
Anthonie Tonnon's album *SUCCESSOR* picked up nominations for the Taite Prize and the APRA Silver Scroll; he supported The Veils and Nadia Reid in North America and Europe, and The Chills on a NZ tour, as well as his own headline tours in the US and Australasia. "He is developing a reputation as one of the most impressive performance artists in the country. With his eccentric interactive live show and melancholy folk-pop songs, Tonnon has quickly become a must-see act," says Sam Smith on The 13th Floor.

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WHEN 7.30pm Saturday 7 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$27/\$25/\$23
Allocated seating
DURATION 75 minutes

John Potter



Does what we eat really matter?

John D. Potter, Chief Science Advisor to the Ministry of Health and Professor at Massey University's Centre for Public Health Research is an internationally renowned biomedical scientist.

We will be launching his new book, which examines what we know about chronic disease and our eating and drinking habits.

Given that humans have always had to eat, what does diet have to do with causing illness? How different are our eating habits now from those of the gatherers and hunters of old? Why does that matter anyway? And what are we doing to the planet with the way we now raise food? Potter is himself a vegetarian and does not drink alcohol.

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WHEN 9am Sunday 8 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$16
DURATION 75 minutes

Holly Walker



Brent Williams



Living with depression and anxiety

Holly Walker is a former Rhodes Scholar and Green MP from 2011 to 2014.

Brent Williams is a community lawyer developing resources to help vulnerable people.

Two very different people but for both, their world closed in on them. Both have travelled through dark times and have written and spoken about their journey. They contribute to a growing conversation about mental health in New Zealand, a conversation that is bringing the mental health epidemic out of the shadows.

Ultimately a journey of redemption, growth and hope, that could provide an invaluable lifeline to those experiencing depression, and those at a loss to understand what their loved ones are going through. Dr Ben Beaglehole on Brent Williams' OUT OF THE WOODS.

WHEN 11am Sunday 8 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$16
DURATION 75 minutes

Mike
Stevens



James
Belich

Are we humans programmed to devour resources regardless of the consequences?

Two historians look at this issue from different angles and on different scales.

Dr. Michael Stevens (nō Kai Tahu ki Awarua) is a freelance historian. He is currently writing the 'world history' of Bluff, which sheds light on how the likes of sealing, whaling, muttonbirding and oystering connects Foveaux Strait to the wider world. Six successive generations of his family have lived and worked in the port where he was raised and continues to spend a lot of his time.

James Belich has written extensively about the colonial settlement of New Zealand and the New Zealand Wars. He is now Beit Professor of Imperial and Commonwealth History at Oxford University and he takes us back over the centuries of European expansionism and the large-scale exploitation of food resources.

Why did so many Vikings choose Iceland and Greenland over the delights of ninth century Paris? James talks of the "flesh mines" – the seals and walrus that provided food and oil, clothing and ivory. He writes of depletion-driven expansion and of the "crew culture" – which provided the manpower for it.

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WHEN 1.30pm Sunday 8 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$16
DURATION 60 minutes



Sefton Darby



Jeanette Fitzsimons

Our Dark Materials–

navigating our way through the oil and mining debate

Sefton Darby has worked for governments, mining companies, NGOs, iwi, and international aid and development organisations. He thinks the debate between mining and environmentalists has gotten too polarised with little positive movement on any side.

Business is seen as wanting to make quick bucks and then leaving the rest of us to clean up afterwards. Environmentalists are seen as wanting to lock away resources and block off jobs. Governments swing between positions of cheerleading for extraction or banning it. Consumers keep on consuming at ever increasing rates.

Jeanette Fitzsimons was co-leader of the Green Party and is an advocate for serious action on climate change by government, businesses and communities. She was also a local leader in Coromandel, fighting for protection of the land from mining interests.

They discuss not just the past stand-offs but also what will the mining industry look like as the new government starts taking action on climate change. What are the differences between mining for coal and mining for the rare earths we need for our mobile phones? And what are the wider impacts for all of us? What are the limits to growth?

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WHEN 3pm Sunday 8 April
WHERE Lake Wanaka Centre
TICKETS \$16
DURATION 60 minutes

INFORMATION

Venue

The Lake Wanaka Centre, 89 Ardmore Street, Wanaka.

Booking information

Book online at www.aspiringconversations.co.nz

Priority Booking - Benefactor Plus, Patron Plus and Sponsors of Aspiring Conversations can book online from 7pm Monday 12 February; Benefactors and Patrons of the Festival of Colour can book online from 9am Monday 19 February. General ticket sales start 8.30am Friday 23 February.

All sessions are general admission, except for *Memories in Song* (p9) which is allocated seating. Ticket prices include GST. 3% credit card processing fee applies. Your tickets will be emailed to you to print at home, or better still, bring on your mobile phone to be scanned. Alternatively printed tickets can be collected from the Festival Box Office from 6th April. Student tickets require a valid Student Identification Card on entry to the session.

The box office in the Lake Wanaka Centre will be open on Friday 23 and Saturday 24 February from 8.30am to 2pm for cash and eftpos sales. It will be open from 9am on Friday 6 April for any remaining sales and ticket collection.

The **Aspiring Pass** gives you access to all nine Wanaka speaker and panel sessions (excluding *Memories in Song* and *FREEZE*) without having to book and pay for separate tickets. The pass is \$165 and can be booked online or by phone. There are a limited number available. The pass is non-transferrable 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 6th April from 9am.

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.

Food and drink

The Last Chapter Café and Bookstore is our very own pop-up café/bar in the Lake Wanaka Centre run by Beanie Café. Come and enjoy morning coffee, afternoon tea or a glass of Mt Difficulty wine or Quartz Reef bubbly with a selection of delicious hot and cold food. You can catch up with friends and continue the discussion on topics raised. Open from 5pm on Friday 6 April and all day Saturday and Sunday.

Paper Plus Wanaka will also be selling books and donating a percentage of their takings to the Festival. There will be opportunities to have them signed by the authors.

Thanks to Anna Mackay at Barefoot Styling for theming the pop-up café and foyer.

This year, Aspiring Conversations starts with the **Autumn Harvest Long Lunch** on April 6, a long lunch fundraiser held in the spectacular setting of Corbridge Woolshed. Embrace the flavours and colours of autumn and enjoy a range of local food prepared by some of our best chefs, matched with Mt Difficulty wines, the official wine of the Festival of Colour and Aspiring Conversations. More information to come.



SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

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

Session	Participants	Page	Time	Duration	Cost
Friday 6 April					
Working for Change	Mary Robinson and Jacinda Ardern	3	6pm	75 mins	\$30
Saturday 7 April					
The Future of Work	Speakers yet to be announced		9.00am	75 mins	\$16
Striving for Justice	Mary Robinson	6	11.00am	75 mins	\$30
Stars and planets	Dr. Jennifer Wiseman	7	1.30pm	60 mins	\$16
Rupturing the social faultlines	Christos Tsiolkas	8	3pm	60 mins	\$16
Memories in Song	Warren Maxwell, Reb Fountain and Anthonie Tonnon	9	7.30pm	75 mins	\$27 \$25 \$23
Sunday 8 April					
Does what we eat really matter?	John D. Potter	10	9.00am	75 mins	\$16
Living with depression and anxiety	Holly Walker and Brent Williams	11	11.00am	75 mins	\$16
Are we humans programmed to devour resources regardless of the consequences?	Dr. Michael Stevens and James Belich	12	1.30pm	60 mins	\$16
Our Dark Materials	Sefton Darby and Jeanette Fitzsimons	13	3pm	60 mins	\$16

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 2-7 April 2019.

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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And there will be more Aspiring Conversations at the Southern Lakes Festival of Colour
2 – 7 April 2019 • www.festivalofcolour.co.nz

Presented by Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust

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