

# Nelson Mail WEEKEND

Saturday, August 27, 2011

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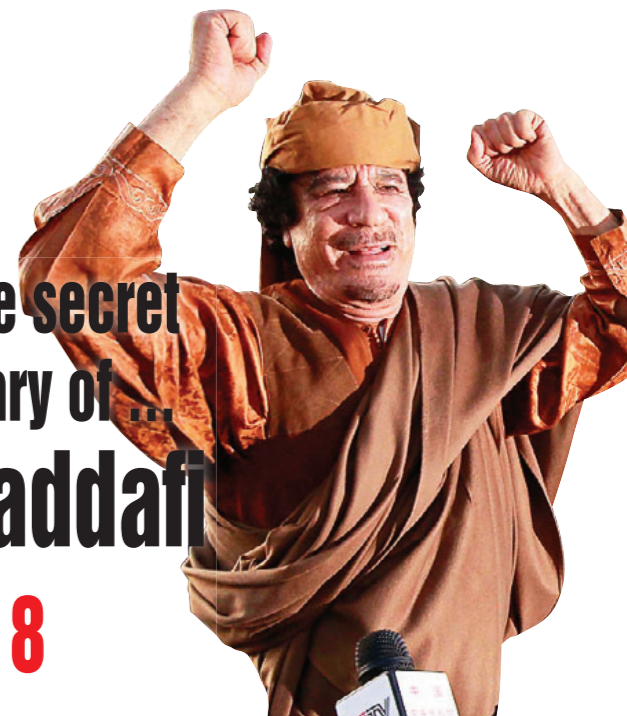
13 DAYS TO GO



## Music and life from bones

**P15 P18**

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# Cyber-bullies 'damaging lives'

**Sally Kidson** searches online for Nelson-based cyber-bullying, and makes some disturbing discoveries.

Degrading gossip and malicious comments are being posted by Nelson students on anonymous gossip sites on Facebook, with "absolutely devastating impacts" on their victims, an online safety expert says.

The *Nelson Mail* was told about the sites after talking with students about their experiences of cyber-bullying.

The students, who did not want to be identified for fear of attracting abuse, said the sites had appeared over the past two months, and were affecting the self-esteem of those being gossiped about and abused.

The sites were also leading to verbal fights, when students ac-

cusced other students, sometimes falsely, of supplying the vicious rumours.

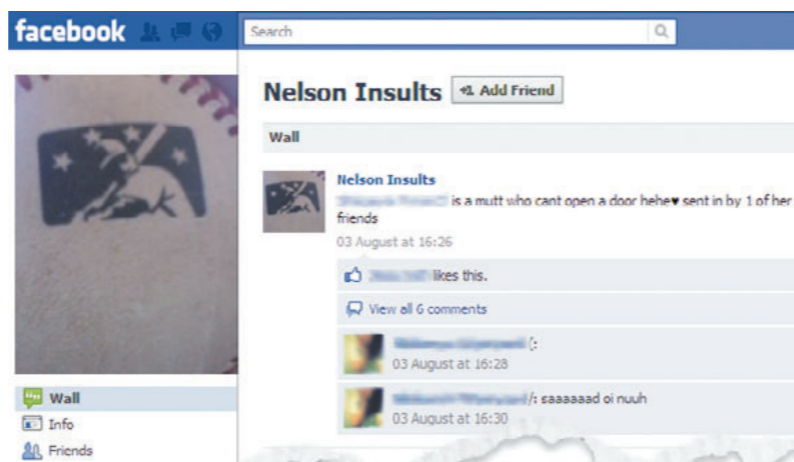
"They can say it online, but they can't say it to your face," a year 10 student said.

The *Nelson Mail* found at least nine gossip pages dedicated to Nelson "rumours" and bullying.

The pages included Nelson Confessions, Nelson Insults, Nayland Goss, Nelson Facts and Nelson Rate.

Nelson principals the *Nelson Mail* spoke with were unaware of the pages.

The sites are run by people sending comments to an anonymous administrator, who then posts the comments on the page



anonymously for everyone to see and comment on.

The tone on some of the pages was nasty and contained rumours of a graphic sexual nature.

Student XX "is a dirty slut and no-one should touch her. I heard

she has chlamydia", one posting said.

Another comment said a student was a stupid fat whore who wet the bed.

"She is a nasty maggot who should go to Jenny Craig." Real

### WHAT TO DO

#### Dealing with online abuse:

- Support the victim and his or her family.
  - Explain the damage it does to the victim and people close to them.
  - Educate: cyber-bullying also affects the offender, who might find themselves unable to get work due to comments they have made online.
  - Report abuse to the school, Facebook administrators or police.
- Source, Nelson-based online educator John Parsons. Mr Parsons works with schools in the Nelson region to educate young people and adults in how to appropriately and safely use the internet. He also works with victims and their families. For more information, visit [simulate2educate.co.nz](http://simulate2educate.co.nz).

"She started to go into depression."

He said the comments affected not only the victim, but their whole family, as siblings with the same last name were also affected by the comments. Parents were also becoming involved.

"I'm seeing mothers who are absolutely devastated."

It would be difficult enough for adults to have rumours spread publicly about their sexual health, he said. "It was so much worse for 13- or 14-year-olds, even if the information was false."

"Think about the damage it does to that person. It's huge."

"I know of children who have stopped eating, I know of children's grades that have gone down, and no-one knows what's causing it."

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# Nelson designers WOW at show

**Bill Moore**  
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The home of wearable art once again unleashed its power last night, with Nelson designers dominating one section and winning another at the Brancott Estate World of WearableArt Awards show in Wellington.

Richmond's Julie Brawley won the Man Unleashed section and a \$6000 prize with her creation *Sir Lace Alot*, with Ruth Carlile of Tahunanui third and city councillor-artist Mike Ward getting an honorable mention.

Sue Cederman won the CentrePort Illumination section - also carrying a \$6000 prize - with *I Ris(e)*, inspired by an iris growing in her garden and the work of surrealist artists.

Both winners have a long association with the show and have taken other awards, and both admitted this morning that creating garments for it is an abiding passion.

Brawley, who drilled 9000 holes with a small drill "like a dentist's buzzer" and attached 1500 fake pearls to the intricate lace of her creation with fishing nylon, said she put at least 300 hours into making it, not counting "all the times you sit down after dinner and do something". But she was surprised to win.

"My sister and I were picking all the winners and we were completely out of it - even after probably 20 years of going."

She was already getting ready to start on next year's entry and says "it's probably the strongest idea I've had". Cederman said her enthusiasm was

also undimmed. "Every time you get a high note like that you think, 'Maybe I've still got it'."

An orchardist, she said making her entries always fell at the wrong time of year, "right in the middle of our harvest", but her love for the show kept her interest going.

"Everyone talks about it being like an addiction - and it is, kind of."

Carlile's third-place entry, *Amour Amour*, was mainly made of 300 soy milk containers, while Ward said his entry, *Yes Dear... A Pas De Deux*, was "an acknowledgement of falling sperm count, making the groom an accessory, albeit a gorgeous one".

There were 16 finalists from across the region. The supreme award went to a Savile Row fashion designer with a taste for leather, with a garment based on a mythological horsewoman.

Mary Wing To, 28, a Chinese-Vietnamese designer, based in London, won more than \$20,000 in prizes for *Hylonome*, made using 200 metres of leather cord, horse hair and pony shoes.

The judges said Wing To's design won out with superb craftsmanship. Her multiple talents as a designer and award-winning saddler showed in her work, WOW founder Suzie Moncrieff said.

The two-hour show, described as transporting the garments into a world of fantasy and surrealism reminiscent of the work of the late Italian film director Federico Fellini, features the full company of the Royal New Zealand Ballet, professional dancers from Wellington's Footnote Dance and the entire first year of the New Zealand School of Dance. It runs until September 10 at the TSB Bank Arena.



**Inspired:** Sue Cederman won the CentrePort Illumination section with *I Ris(e)*. Photo: MARTIN DE RUYTER



**Dazzling:** Julie Brawley's *Sir Lace Alot* creation won the Man Unleashed section. Photo: MARTIN DE RUYTER



**Horsewoman:** The supreme award went to a fashion designer Mary Wing To for *Hylonome*. Photo: FAIRFAX



**Recycled:** Ruth Carlile's *Amour Amour* entry was mainly made of 300 soy milk containers. Photo: MARTIN DE RUYTER

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