

Ngaio author relishes next opportunity

By Jacob Page

Ngaio author Andy Southall is feeling a mix of excitement and relief at getting his first novel formally published later this month.

The former IT specialist had his first novel called *Both Feet In Paradise* formally published earlier this week with a launch scheduled for the end of May.

"This is a big step and from the journey as a writer it's a big thing for me and I'm excited about it.

The suspense novel is set in Samoa and takes inspiration from Andy's time living in the country.

"I researched various places for the setting for the story in 2017 when (wife) Kate and I temporarily lived in Apia for three months.

Andy completed a creative writing course at Whitireia Community Polytechnic in 2015 with Mandy Hager which set his journey afloat.

"Another Ngaio resident in the same class, Anne Harre, who used to car share with me to classes, is also having her first novel, a crime thriller set in Wellington, published with Cuba Press in July."

"I won a New Zealand Society of Authors mentorship to help write the novel in 2018



Ngaio author, Andy Southall will launch his first book, *Both Feet In Paradise*, near the end of May.

with mentor Pip Adam."

Andy says Pip's advice and guidance has been invaluable.

"She would read a chapter and give me feedback.

"She would question me on certain things and ask if I'd looked at certain scenes in a different way.

"She gave me a different perspective which I appreciated and I think her advice has made the book better."

Music therapy classes begin in Johnsonville

The Swan Nest has started music therapy classes at Johnsonville's Collective Community Hub after securing enough funding for seven children to attend the weekly classes this term.

Music therapist Fiona Hearn took the classes with the hope they will become a regular

fixture beyond this term.

The Swan Nest endeavours to facilitate a compassionate environment for children and families on their journey with their child living with a complex health condition or terminal illness.



Swan Nest music therapist Fiona Hearn, Marcus Swan and Swan Nest founder Nicola Swan at the music therapy class launch at Johnsonville's Community Collective Hub last week.

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