



Gareth Watkins & Dr Roger Smith, Walk Tours NZ

Today's presentation (10-min segments)

- Background
- Brainstorming the walk tour
- Identifying stops
- Creating the narrative

A short break...



Today's presentation continued

- Enhancing the experience
- Finding the audience
- Day of the tour
- New pathways



Before we go any further

Let's do some quick introductions...

- Your first name
- Where are you from
- What brought you here today





History of Walk Tours NZ



Image courtesy of Gavin Young

<https://walktours.nz>

So why walk tours?

- Brings historic people, places and events to life
- Builds community and connects people
- Creates a shared experience



Creating inclusive tours

- Safe, welcoming and accessible
- Respectful storytelling
- Signpost sensitive or challenging content
- Have a strategy for handling disagreements
- Be adaptable





BRAINSTORMING THE WALK

Key ingredients

- Interesting stops
- Compelling narratives
- Engaged hosts
- Respectful storytelling

= an engaged friendly group



Takeaways

What will people remember from the tour?



Takeaways

- Information
- Passion
- Emotion
- Connection
- Inspiration

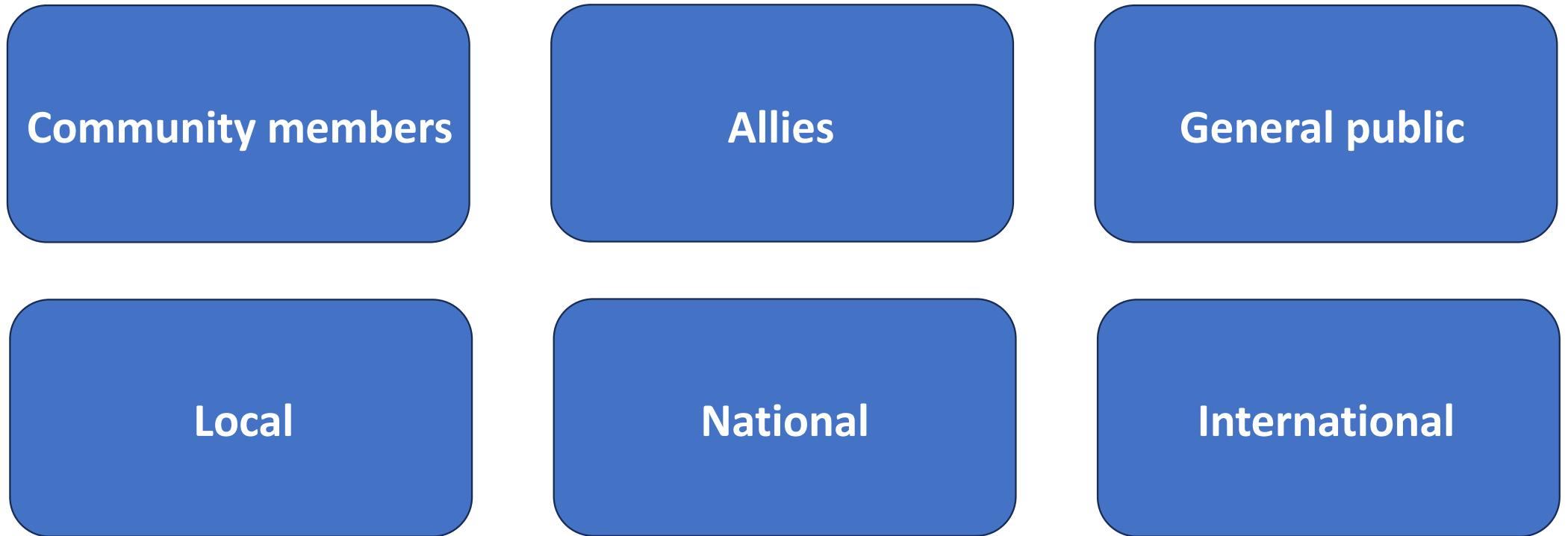


Types of tour

- Anniversaries
- Geographic locations
- Individuals
- Themed
- General



Audience mix



1  **50**
Size of Group

Free, Koha or Charge?

Do walker expectations change when you charge?



Considerations

- Council licence/concession for commercial tours
- Council permits for some public locations (even for non-profits)
- Public liability insurance
- Method for accepting (and possibly) refunding payments



Health & Safety

- Mitigate risks when planning the tour
- Talk about health & safety on the day
- Always be on the lookout for hazards
- Cross roads safely
- Stick together



Working out duration & distance

- Number of stops
- Time spent at each stop
- Distance walked between each stop

90 minute walk tour = 8 x 5 min stops (40 mins talk) + 40 mins walk

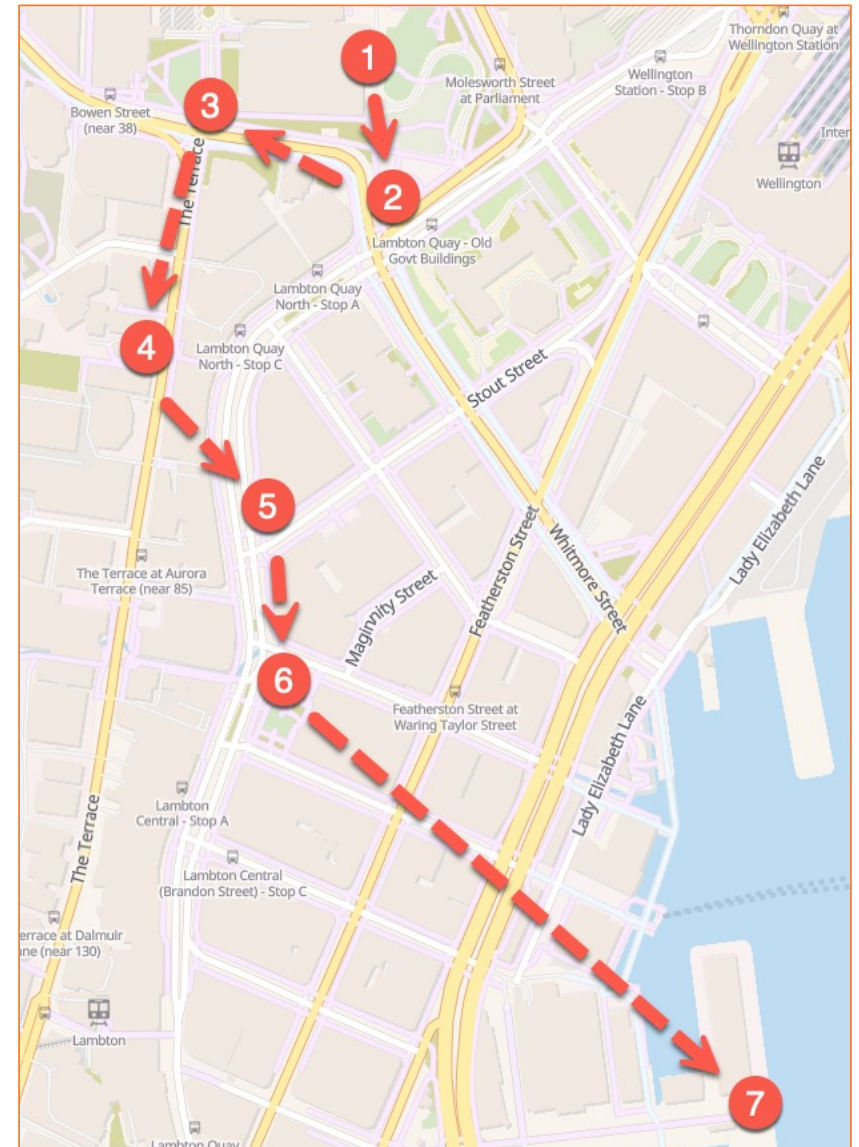


Distance between stops

Violet walk tour example:

- Begins on the steps of Parliament
- 7 stops
- Ends on Queens Wharf

= 90 minutes



So what comes first?

Identifying stops

or

Creating the narrative





Considerations

- First & last stops should be easy to find
- Stick to public spaces
- Think about the surface that people will be stopping on
- Is the stop exposed to the weather?
- Is there a lot of surrounding noise?



Types of stops

- Physical structure still exists
- Space still exists, but not the structure
- Springboard location



Example: physical structure still exists



Former Wellington Central Library building (now City Gallery Wellington)

Example: space still exists, but not the structure



Former location of Carmen's *The Balcony*, corner Victoria & Harris Street

Example: springboard location



Talking generally about the police, outside the former Central Police Station

Connecting the location to the tour narrative

- What people or groups been located here in the past?
- What notable events have occurred here?
- Use the location to springboard to a wider story



Finding out about each stop

What are some websites that could help with research?



Researching online

- **Newspaper archives:** Papers Past, City Voice, Salient, Broadsheet
- **Biographical sites:** Te Ara, Wikipedia
- **Local archives:** WCC Archives, Wellington Recollect
- **Specialist collections:** PrideNZ.com, Kawe Mahara





CREATING THE NARRATIVE

Key ingredients

- Why are we stopping here?
- Add wider context
- Combine with 5 key points

= an engaging 5 minute stop



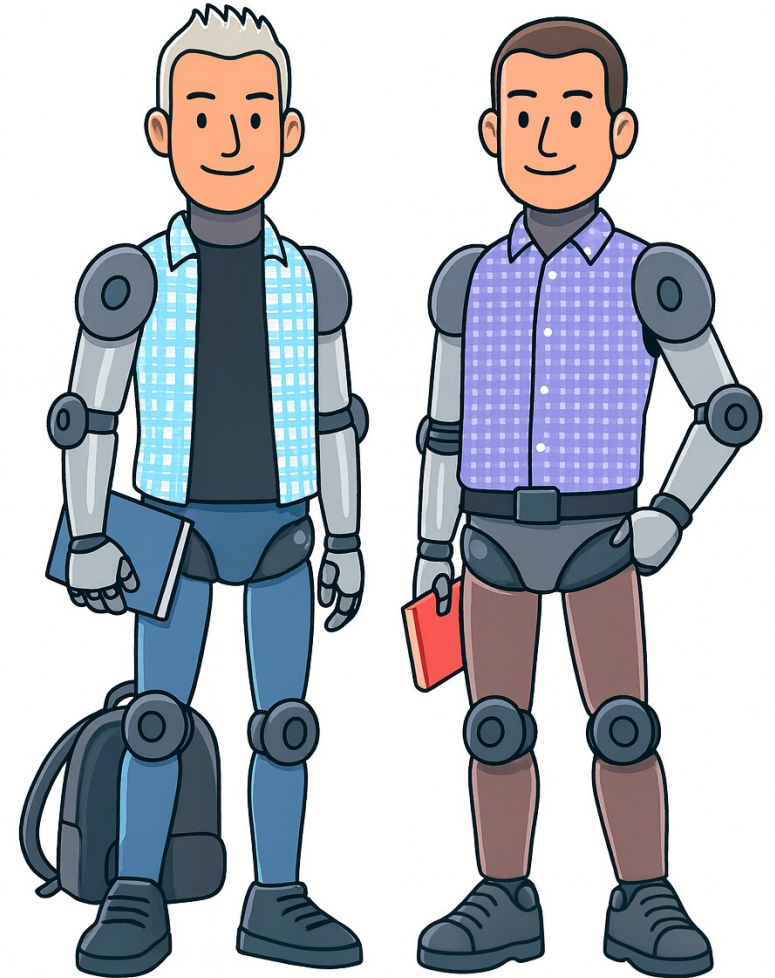
Can AI help?

- AI can analyse large amounts of information
 - It can undertake unsupervised research
 - Gen AI can create bullet point scripts
 - But always verify the output...
- ...and research can be fun – don't let AI limit you



Generative AI apps

- Notebook LM (analysis, mind maps)
- ChatGPT (summaries, scripting)
- Gemini



Research example

Go up a page

Georgina Beyer

In this podcast Georgina remembers some of the clubs, venues and personalities in Wellington from the mid-1970s and her time in Auckland in the 1980s. Georgina has also recorded a [life history](#) and interviews about [significant legislation](#) (prostitution reform, civil unions and foreshore and seabed) and [memorable moments](#).

▶ 0:00 / 1:20:16

Audio and Text

Transcript

Download mp3

Download HQ mp3

Plain Text (for Gen AI)

Following sections: DESCRIPTION, SPEAKERS, SUMMARY, KEY CONTENT TIMESTAMPS, ED CONTENT AND FOOTNOTE.

Beyer remembers some of the clubs, venues and personalities in Wellington from in the 27th January 2013. The duration of the recording is 1 hour and 20

minutes. The content in the recording covers the decades 1970s through to the 1990s.

END DESCRIPTION

START SPEAKERS
Georgina Beyer is being interviewed by Gareth Watkins. The names are spelt correctly but may appear incorrectly spelt later in the document.

END SPEAKERS

START SUMMARY
In this interview conducted by Gareth Watkins, Georgina Beyer shares her memories on the nightlife of Wellington, New Zealand in the 1970s through to the 1980s. Drawing upon personal experiences, Beyer recounts the vibrant and colorful world of Wellington's LGBTQ+ scene, particularly in the area known as Vivian Street. Beyer first entered this world in 1976, working part-time at the Royal Oak Hotel – a significant venue within Wellington's nightlife. The hotel featured bars with eclectic patrons including drag queens, transgender individuals, and sex workers. The Royal Oak also housed a smaller gay bar, the Tavern Bar. Law enforcement during this period often turned a blind eye to the gay bars, despite homosexuality being illegal at the time. However, those within the transgender and drag queen communities were not entirely free from police abuse, especially when they were arrested for typically minor offenses. The interview touches on key figures in the transgender scene, such as Chrissy Witoko, who owned the Sunset Strip club. Chrissy provided a safe haven for people to be themselves without fear. Another cornerstone was Carmen Rupe, who established the iconic Carmen's International Coffee Lounge and later spearheaded the Balcony nightclub, both known for their captivating performances and inclusive atmospheres. Georgina Beyer notes the venues they frequented and where they worked, including The Purple Onion and Club Exotic, where they performed as a stripper and comedian. Beyer also shares insights into the gay rights movement and the significance of media and businesses owned by Brett Sheppard and Tony Katavich, who played a major part in the development of New Zealand's gay community. The interview illustrates the complexities of the gay and transgender nightlife in a time of legal and social discrimination, highlighting the creativity, resilience, and camaraderie of those who were part of this vibrant underground scene. Despite the challenges, the venues and figures discussed were essential in creating spaces of acceptance and celebration within the LGBTQ+ community in Wellington.

END SUMMARY

START KEY CONTENT TIMESTAMPS [HH:MM:SS]
none
END KEY CONTENT TIMESTAMPS [HH:MM:SS]

START TRANSCRIPT WITH TIMESTAMPS [HH:MM:SS]
Well, I, um, came onto the scene, so to speak. And I'm talking about the twilight world of the Vivian Street scene. I guess in 1976 I had had a part time job at, um, the Royal Oak Hotel, which was a major hostility. Um, on the day in Wellington, which had, um, a couple of fascinating bars to it. One was famously known as the bistro bar, which [00:00:30] was, um, populated by, um, an eclectic mix of, um, of life. Um, everything from drag queens to trannies to prostitutes, male and female. Um, sailors. Um it was quite a sort of rough bar,



Sources

+ Add

NotebookLM



Add sources

Discover sources

Sources let NotebookLM base its responses on the information that matters most to you.
(Examples: marketing plans, course reading, research notes, meeting transcripts, sales documents, etc.)



Upload sources

Drag and drop or [choose file](#) to upload

Supported file types: PDF, .txt, Markdown, Audio (e.g. mp3)

Google Drive

Google Docs

Google Slides

Link

Website

YouTube

Paste text

Copied text

Saved sources will
Click Add source above to
text, videos or audio files. Or
from Google

new in more languages! [Learn](#)

Conversation

Generate

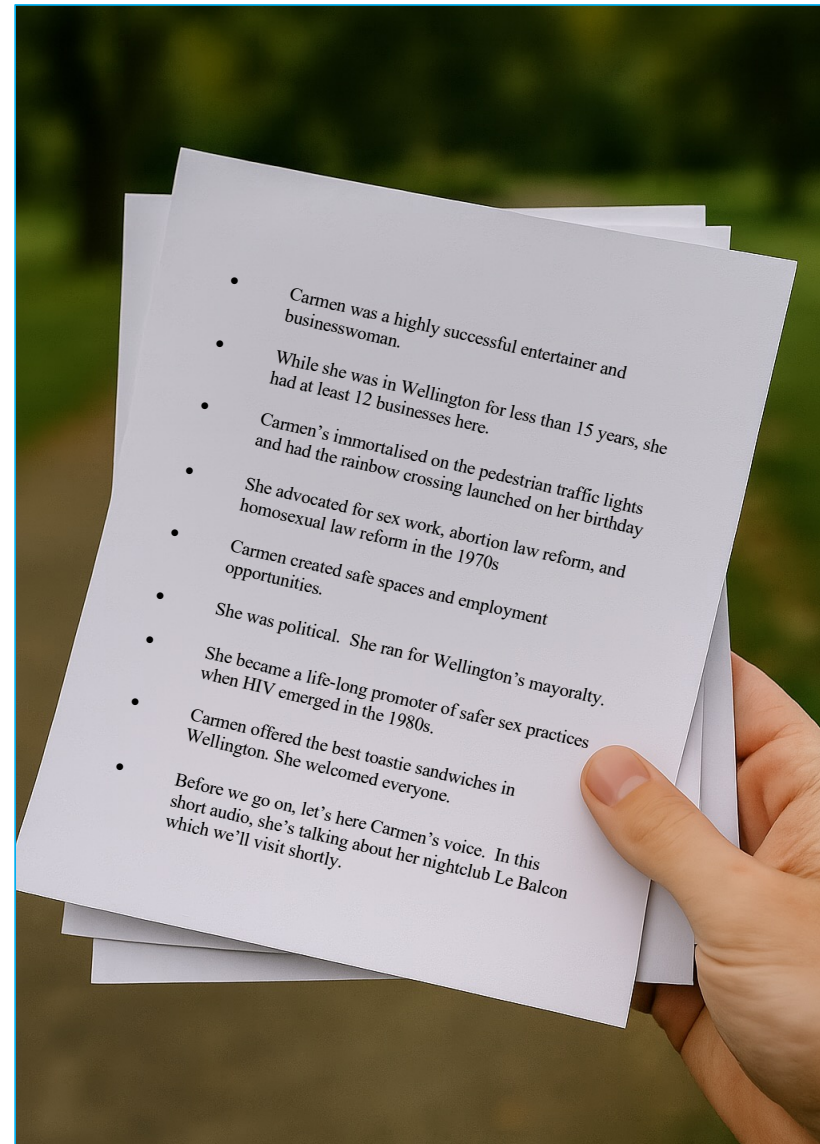
Add note

Briefing doc

Timeline

will appear here
to create a new note or click
note above.

Scripting example





ChatGPT 4o ▾



What are you working on?

Ask anything



Tools



Writing tips

- Create a bullet point script (memory jogger)
- Focus on a few key names and relationships
- Limit to 5 key points per stop
- Avoid too many dates and statistics



More writing tips

- Incorporate short quotes (from biographies, interviews, newspapers)
- Give an adequate amount of context
- Adjust your language and content for public spaces
- Keep within the theme of your tour



Creating the narrative

What else do we need to consider when writing?



Other considerations

- Acknowledge bias – what / who you are choosing to highlight (or not)
- Consider the emotional impact of the stories you are telling

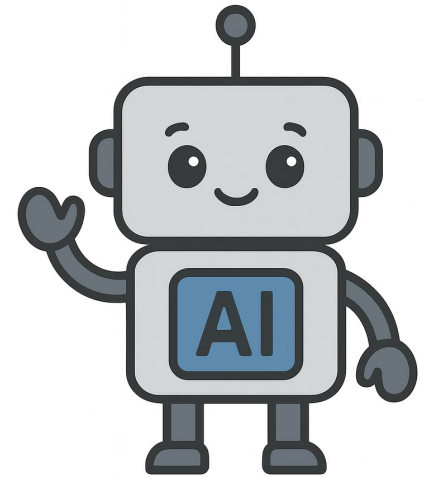
Aim for a safe, welcoming, and accessible experience

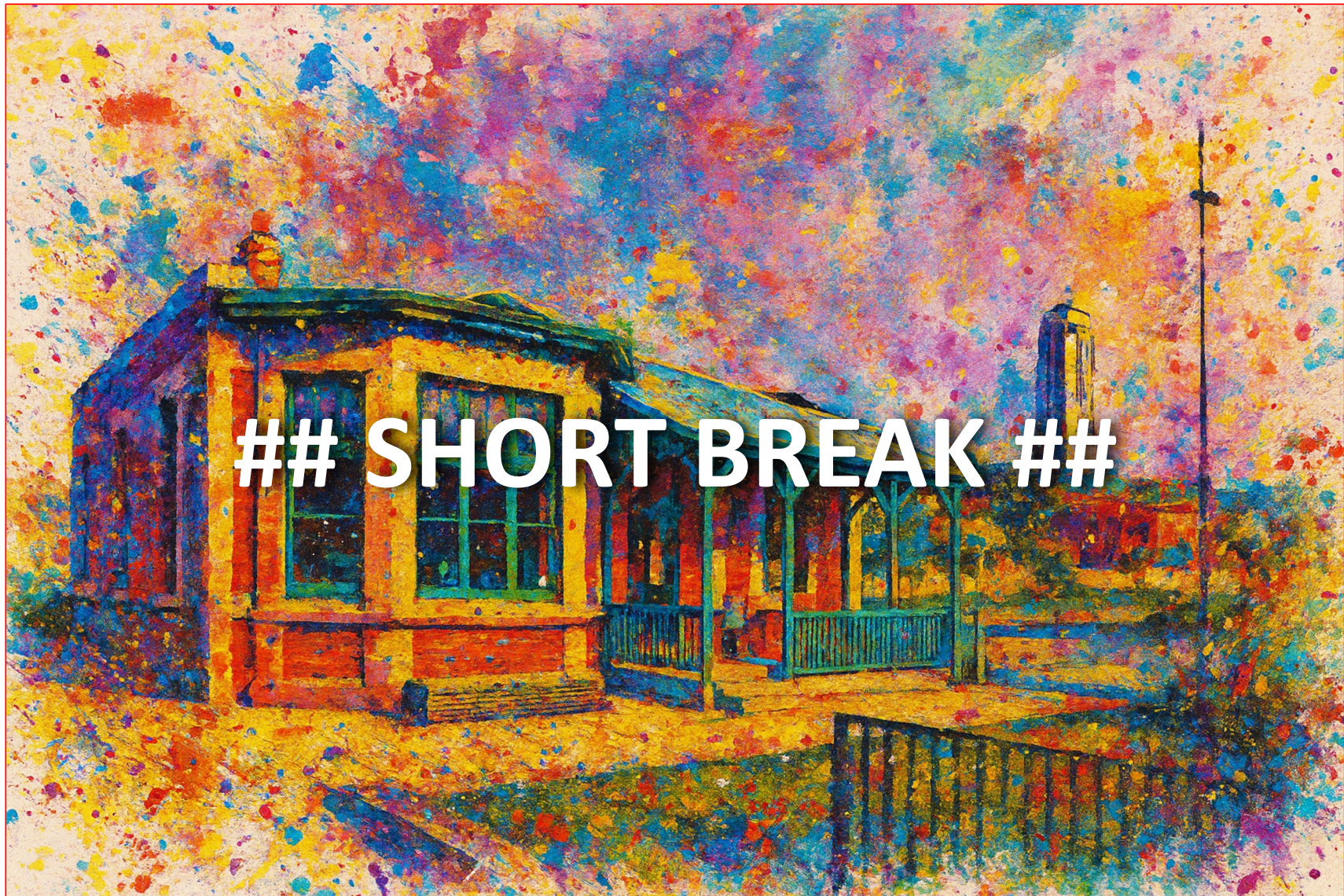


What does AI say about...

Balance of stories: *“Every path needs both weight and light — a story to stir the heart, and a smile to ease the way.”*

Self identification: *“Honour the names they chose for themselves — memory rings truest in their own voice.”*





SHORT BREAK



ENHANCING THE EXPERIENCE

Image flipbooks

- Images of vanished locations
- Images of people
- Images to give context - newspaper headlines, simple graphics...



Example of a straight-forward image



Example of a detailed image

Policeman Warns Of Dangers Of

Homosexuality

CHRISTCHURCH, Today (PA). — "Do we want our cities over-run with pimps, ponces, pansies, pussyfoots and perverts?" Detective-Superintendent F A Gordon asked people at a Lions Club luncheon in Christchurch today.

"Make homosexuality legal and the male prostitute would be in his element—open and unashamed."

Mr Gordon was expressing his personal views in a speech headed, "Homosexuality and its Dangers."

He was commenting on reports published on April 18 which gave accounts of a meeting held in Wellington.

The meeting advocated legal homosexuality between consenting males, Mr Gordon said: "No person in possession of proper knowledge of the dangers and potentiality of homosexuality would support any relaxation in the laws that

outlaw the sexual deviate, none more than the self-respecting parents of children.

Disastrous

"A nation of queers? No man of character, no parent would wish for the pollution of youth because if homosexuality were allowed, or made legal, condoned or encouraged, the danger would be as disastrous as a hydrogen bomb."

"Surely our moral image deserves protection from the pervert whose depravities revolt all normal standards of common decency," said Mr Gordon.

"To suggest that the perversions would remain exclusive to consenting males in private is utter nonsense."

"Today, with the law sufficient to keep their activities more or less in check, it does not prevent the pervert from occasionally operating in public and offending the innocent."

"So what must we expect if he obtains a licence to practise his wares openly?"

Less Evil

"I venture to say that there would be less evil in the common prostitute than in the condoning of male prostitution that legalised homosexuality would bring."

Mr Gordon said that homosexuality could lead to other forms of criminal activity.

"The pervert, by the very nature of his degrading mind, is prone to mix with anti-social people and this forms the nucleus of the criminal element."

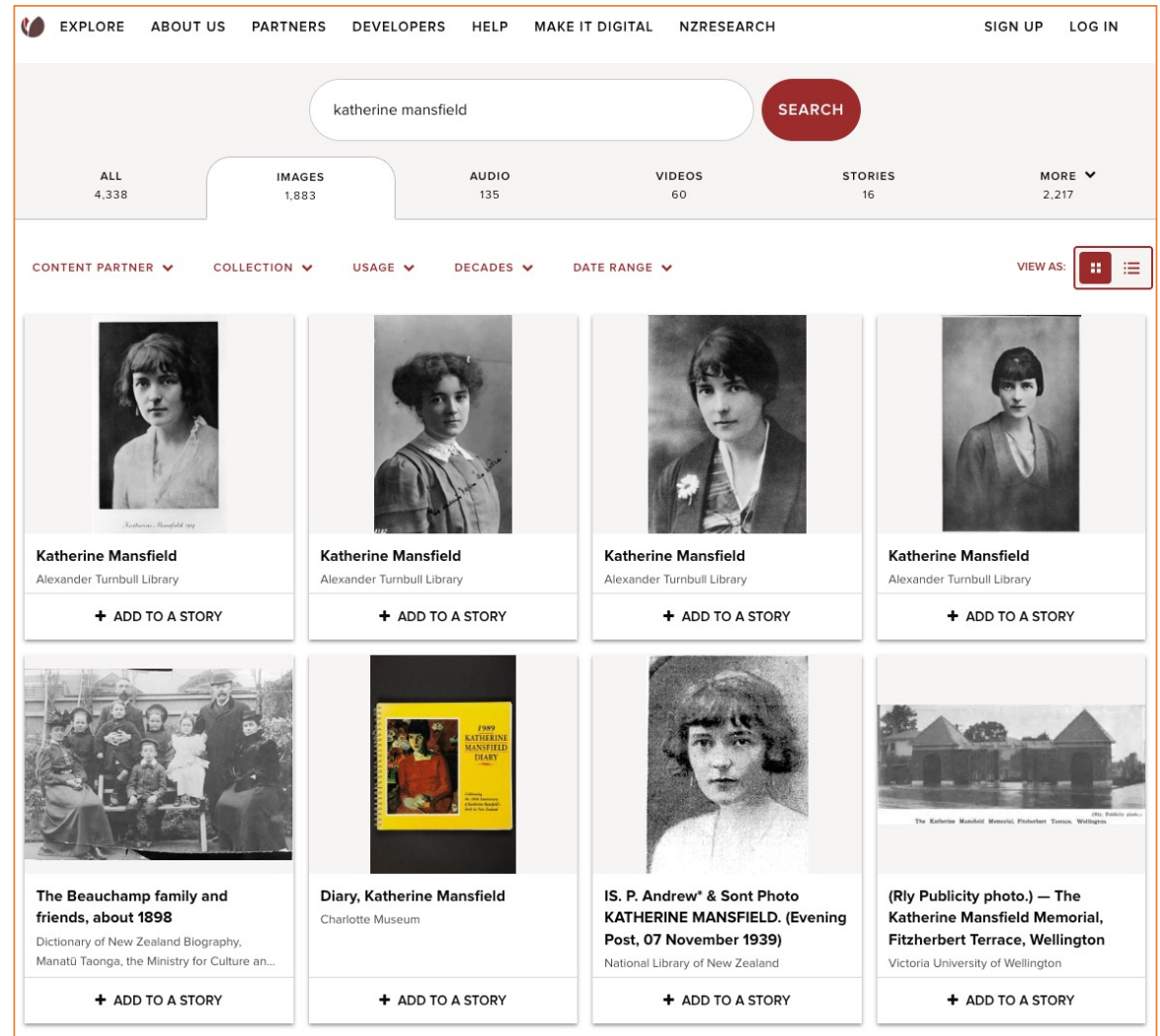
"Drugs and homosexuality are common companions," said Mr Gordon.

Medical treatment could be obtained for people tending towards homosexuality.

Mr Gordon ended his speech by saying that if other crimes such as rape, robberies and sexual relations with girls under 16 were legalised the situation would be just as ridiculous as legalising homosexuality.

Finding images online

- DigitalNZ.org
- Wellington City Recollect
- Facebook groups
- National Library, Te Papa



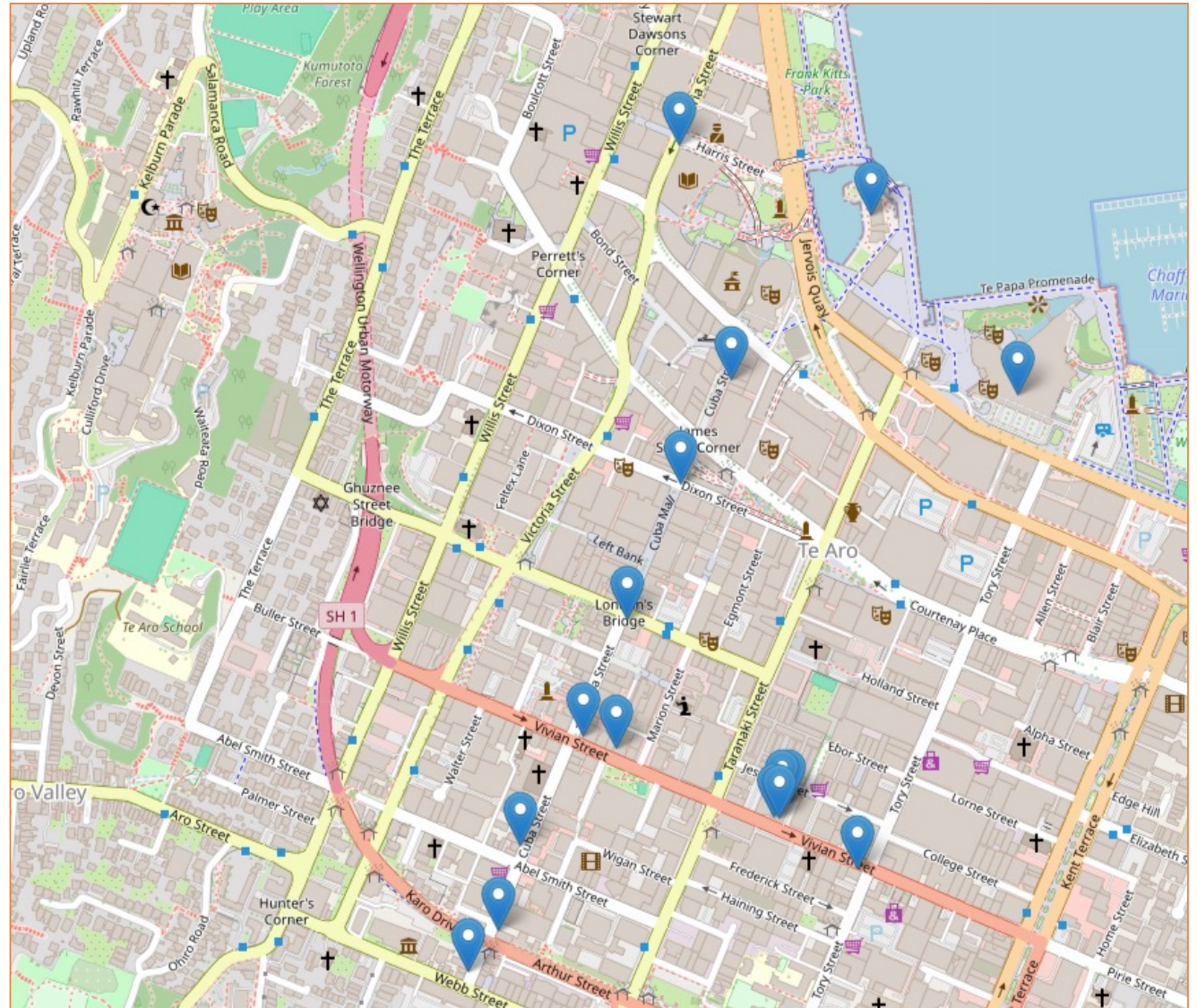
Enhancing the walk tour

What are some other ways to enhance the tour?



Handouts

- Timelines
- Links to online maps
- Business cards



Audio clips & AI

- Smartphone audio + Bluetooth + portable speaker
- Short 1-minute audio clips
- Introduce compelling first-hand accounts
... or AI generated content



Leaves Amore by Katherine Mansfield read by an AI generated voice

Fragrance



WHITE
DIAMONDS



FINDING THE AUDIENCE

Wordpress.com

- Walktours.NZ
- No coding required
- \$5 NZD p/month approx.

WALK TOURS NZ

Free community LGBTI rainbow themed walk tours in Wellington, New Zealand

Book

Book a free walk tour or event by filling in this form. We will reply within 48-hours with an email confirming the booking, and the exact starting point of the walk tour.

To read more about each tour or event [click here](#)

First name (required)

Email (required)

** We require an email address so that, in the unlikely event that we have to postpone or cancel the tour, we can contact you*

Walk tour / Event (required)

Number of guests (required)

BOOK

Promotion

- Create an engaging name for your tour, e.g.

The fabulous Carmen walk tour: tea, toasties and trade

- Direct marketing to past walkers
- Social media & event listings (free)
- Press releases (free)
- Paid Advertising



Promotion

Any other ways of promoting the walk tour?



Festivals

- Wellington Pride Festival (March)
- Queer History Month (July)
- Aotearoa Festival of Architecture (September)
- Wellington Heritage Festival (October/November)



Tour frequency

- Best days & times for tours
- Best tour duration
- Let the seasons influence your schedule
- Promote tours well in advance





On the day of the tour

- Warm-up, practice the script beforehand
- Check you've got
 - Flipbook & script
 - Water & throat lozenges
- If you can, preview the physical stops looking for any hazards



Starting the walk

- Arrive early & welcome everyone with a smile
- Run through health & safety notices
- Outline the tour and do a round of brief introductions
- Stick to the start and end times
- Let yourself enjoy the experience!



During the walk

- Keep everyone together
- Gather in a semi circle at each stop
- Don't be afraid to make changes
- From half way, mention how many stops to go



Ending the walk

- Think of how you can summarise / recap the experience
- Advertise any upcoming tours and survey
- Always show appreciation and give thanks to the walkers



Survey responses

*“It was amazing. It was well paced and very informative as well sensitive when it was needed. **A fantastic walking tour is 50% content and 50% delivery.** Gareth and Roger gave a masterclass. They were fun and had great energy.”*

*“They are brilliant tours, and I look forward to attending more. They are important, valuable, interesting and entertaining. **Next time I'll bring friends.**”*





NEW PATHWAYS

Springboard your tour content

- Incorporate New Zealand Sign Language & Te reo Māori
- Create in person seated events
- Create virtual walk tours
- Create additional online content – maps, blogs, podcasts...



We weren't expecting

- Our tours were one of the inspirations for the *Rainbow List*
- People have planned their travel around our tour dates
- People have begun creating their own tours in other locations



Final thoughts

- Walk tours are a great way to practice mindfulness
- Tours can surface, uplift and pay tribute to our tupuna
- There's a special joy in making free events
- And it's a great way to embrace life long learning!



Reflections

Any reflections, comments or questions?





Gareth Watkins & Dr Roger Smith, Walk Tours NZ