

LISTEN UP!

A CREATIVE RESPONSE TO THE SENIORS' HOUSING CRISIS

DAVID COOK & ANNA BROWN

Designing Cities for Every Age —
Age Friendly Cities and Communities Symposium
Monday 17 November 2025

Harnessing design for positive social change through effective community engagement

www.toiaria.org

- To be community-centred
- We aim to do [some] good
- We nurture partnerships with people and communities
- Attend with an inquisitive a spirit

**TOI
ARIA**
DESIGN FOR
PUBLIC GOOD



**MASSEY
UNIVERSITY**
TE Kōwhiri o Te Manawa
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND

TOI ARIA

OUR APPROACH OUR PROJECTS OUR PEOPLE OUR STORY

Our Projects

Case studies, reports, research papers and more

We help organisations and communities bridge the gap between organisational aspirations and real-life challenges. Through partnerships we work with communities on the things that matter to them. Whether it's climate resilience, housing, wellbeing or data — we go where the need is.

Our team has many tools and approaches for facilitating conversations with affected communities. Our aim is to collaborate with organisations and communities to understand and design how best to incorporate the views, insights and experiences of those most affected by the tools, services or policies being developed.

ALL CASE STUDIES PUBLICATIONS

CASE STUDY
I feel really good when...
Strengthening youth mental health in Māhika Southland

CASE STUDY
An internet that benefits
Understanding how we might create an internet that benefits

CASE STUDY
Ku Te Rau o Hāi Tāngata / The People's Voice
Raising dialogue about the value of social housing amongst the wider Wellington community

PUBLICATION
Process Evaluation of Te Māori Mōemua: A co-designed whānau-centred app and IT platform
Bringing together the experiences of a successful co-design process between Te Tira o Huiarau and Te Aho

CASE STUDY
Thriving in Māhika — Hāngatahi engagement
Creating a bright future with Invercargill's young people

CASE STUDY
An Earthquake Early Warning system for Aotearoa New Zealand?
Earthquake-prone countries are exploring how Earthquake Early Warning systems might be developed and implemented to mitigate risk

**Toi Āria: Design for
Public Good /**
Toi Rauwhārangī
College of Creative Arts



The People's Voice / Ko Te Reo ō Ngā Tangata

Courtenay Place
Light Boxes
+
Community
Newspaper





**The People's
Voice / Ko Te Reo
ō Ngā Tangata**

Impacts



Artists Residency at
Te Matatiki Toi Ora

Te Matatiki Toi Ora



Research-led enquiry

Reflections

Kaye Saville Smith et al

Ageing Well National
Science Challenge



Independence and Housing Tenure

Understanding and addressing Aotearoa's looming crisis in affordable and accessible housing for older New Zealanders.

Aged Kiwis 'only just surviving' as they go 'flating' again to ...

9 May 2024 — More people are reaching 65 with a mortgage or renting, with spiralling interest insurance, rates and record rents causing a shortfall in ...

Renting in Retirement – a growing challenge for older people

A growing number of retirees are facing the challenge of renting as they age. Suitable affordable properties are rare, and often only offer short term ...

Housing | Retirement Commission Te Ara Ahunga Ora

The housing options available to seniors are changing, due to recent significant increases in house prices. Missing: crisis

NEW ZEALAND / HOUSING

Nearly 60 council flats for elderly residents remain vacant in Auckland

8:31 am on 19 October 2022

Share this

Amy Williams, Senior Reporter
amy.williams@mtz.co.nz



Lorraine Moon (left) and Pauline Sheddan have bought flats in Sandringham as part of Auckland Council's 'own your own home' initiative.

Elderly at risk amid looming care and housing crisis – report

Bridie Witton
October 19, 2025 · 3:57pm

Copy Link

Just In

American Magic skipper says America's Cup exit was 'difficult' and hints at return after Naples
7 mins ago

If you missed out on Lorde tickets, we have some good news
11 mins ago

Fire closes Tongariro Alpine Crossing and some other walks until at least Monday
42 mins ago



Carolyn Cooper, New Zealand's inaugural Aged Care Commissioner

An increasing number of older New Zealanders risk becoming homeless, isolated, and facing long waits for care while the costs of supporting them continue to balloon without sweeping reforms, a new report warns.

The Age-Proofing Aotearoa report, released by the Helen Clark Foundation and consultancy WSP, paints a stark picture of a country unprepared for its rapidly-aging population.

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Q senior citizens



Images ▾

Q nursing home

Q senior citizens group

Q active seniors

Q happy old person

Q old person at home

Q senior citizens having fun

Q happy senior citizens

Q group of senior citizens

Q active senior citizens

⚙ FILTERS

CREATIVE EDITORIAL VIDEO





officeforseniors.govt.nz
Office for Seniors | Te Tari Kaumātua



Wise Up NZ
Health & Wellbeing Services For Sen...



New Zealand Seniors
Discover Blog | New Zealand Seniors



NZ Herald
Lonely New Zealand: A third of elderly ...



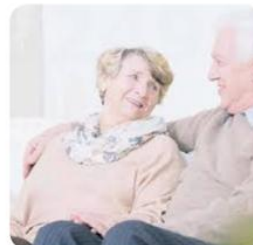
New Zealand Seniors
6 dating tips for over 60s | New ...



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seniornet.nz
SeniorNet – Learning Centers for older ...

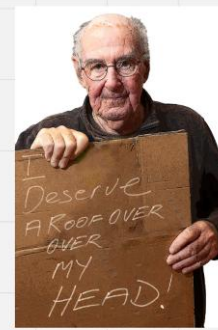
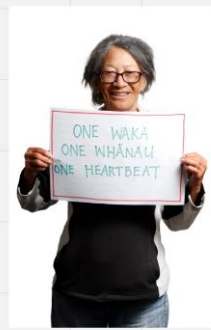






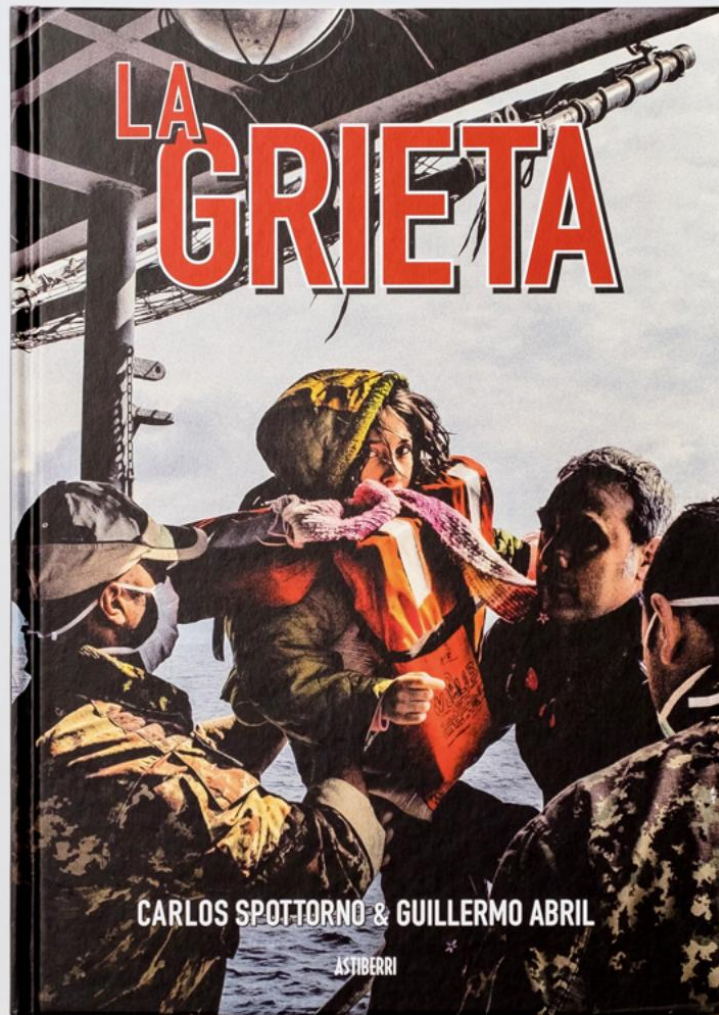


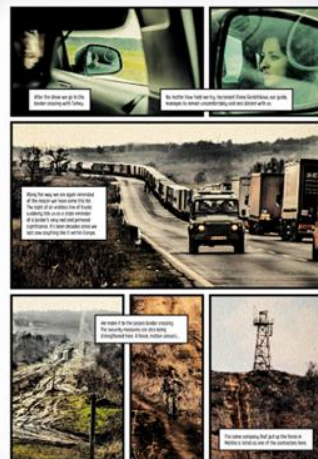
The language of protest



[illegible]

Visual precedents
La Grieta / The Crack

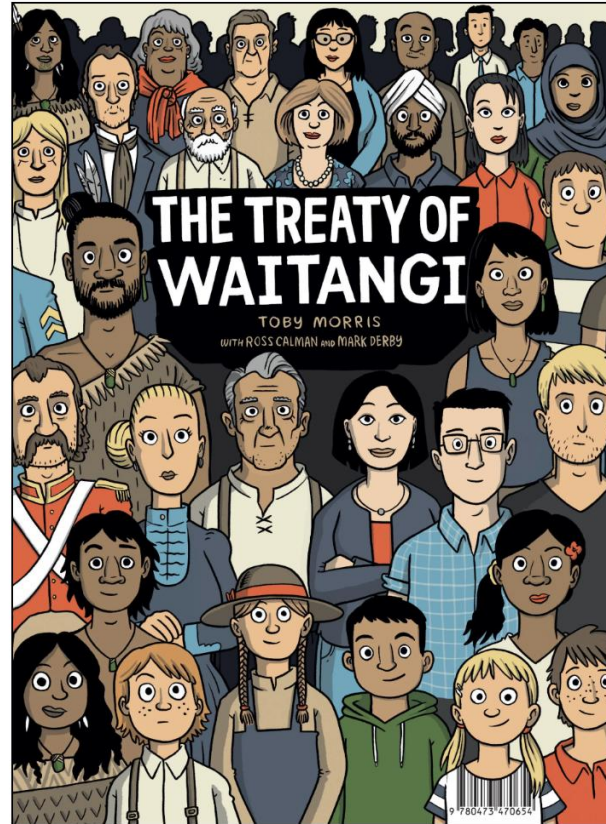




Inclusive

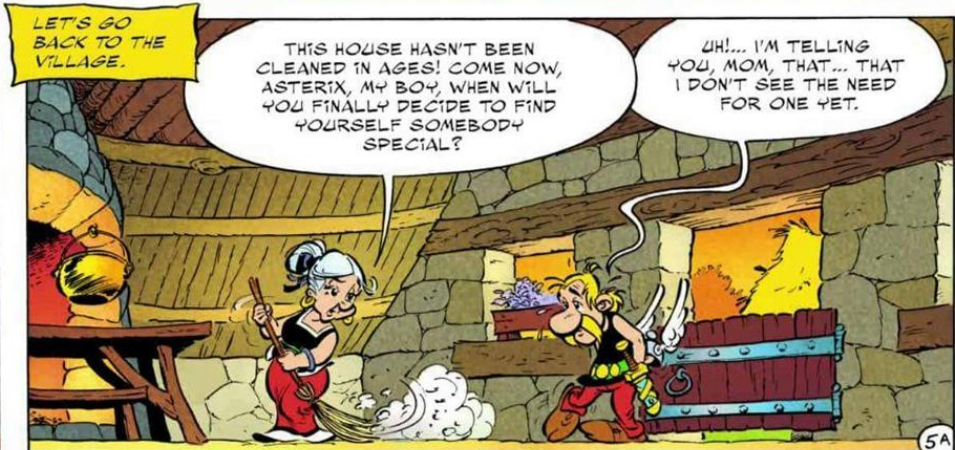
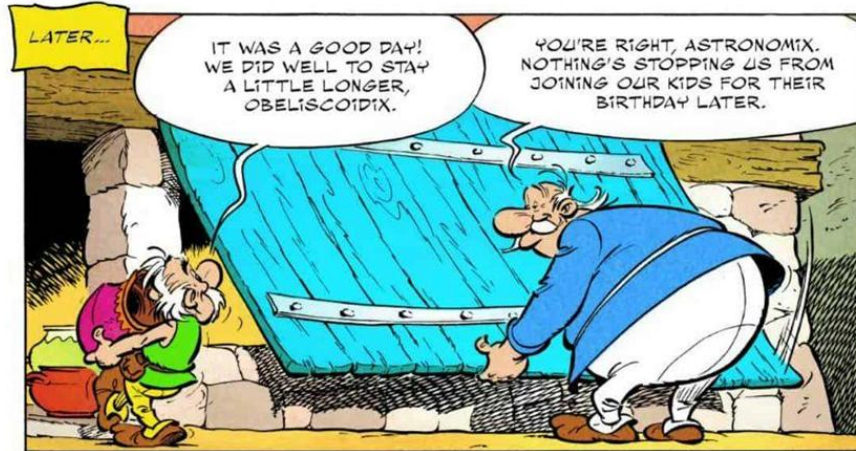
Visual language

The illustrative work
of Toby Morris



Typography

Meanwhile



Listen Up!
Whakarongo Mai!
Democratising
access to content



Content co-created by:
David Cook with twenty-four seniors and kaumātua during an artist residency at Te Matatiki Toi Ora The Arts Centre in Ōtautahi Christchurch, 2024.
Thanks to all who shared their experiences, dreams and protests.
Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.

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Christchurch City Mission /
Te Whare Mihana Ki Ōtautahi
Christchurch Methodist Mission
(Incorporating Wesley Village and
Whare Tiaki)
Gonville Centre for Urban Research
Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust
Oxford Terrace Baptist Church
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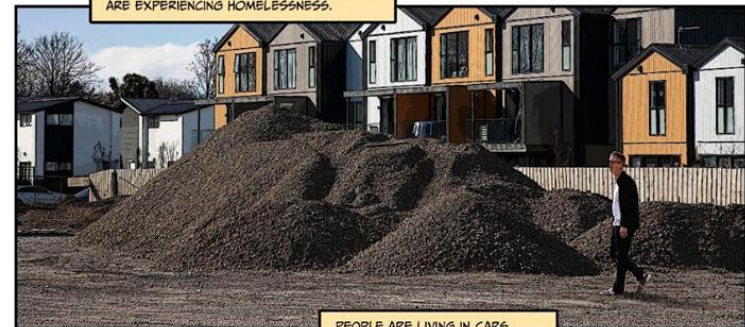
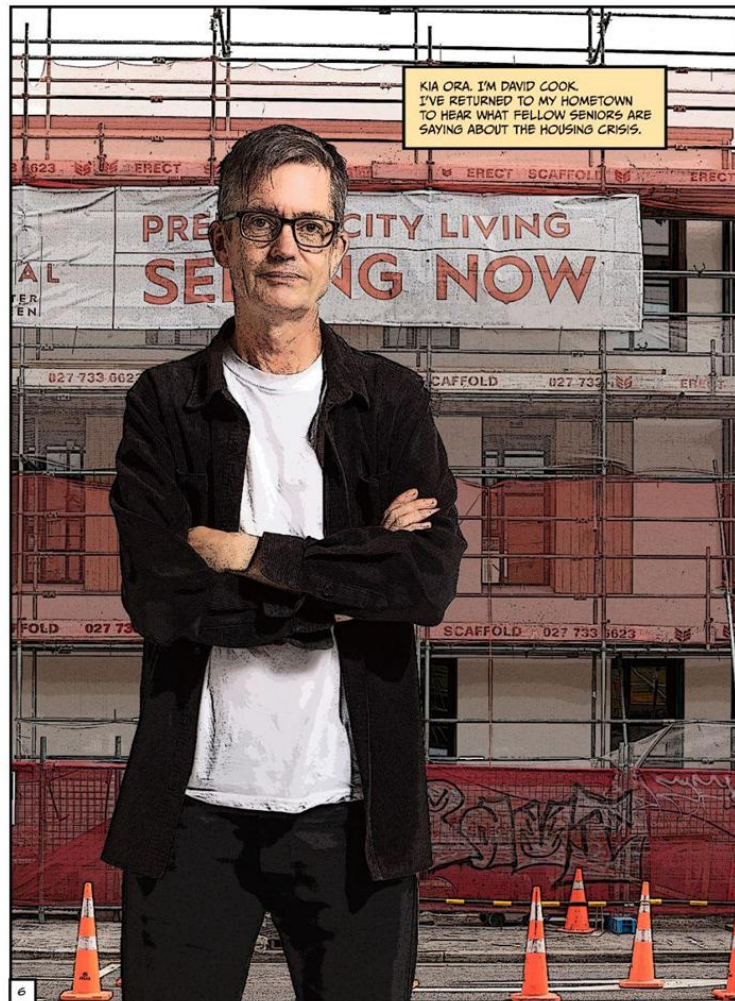
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ARTS CENTRE OF NEW ZEALAND / TE MATATIKI

**DOORS
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CHRISTCHURCH-METHODIST MISSION

Te Matatiki Toi Ora
The Arts Centre

TE KUNENGA MASSEY
KI PŪRĪHITURUA UNIVERSITY
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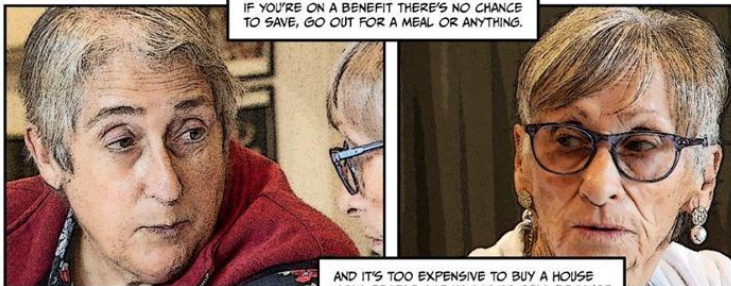




WHAT ARE SOCIAL HOUSING TENANTS SAYING ABOUT OUR HOUSING CRISIS? I MEET WITH TENANTS OF ŌTAUTAHU COMMUNITY HOUSING TRUST, THE LARGEST SOCIAL HOUSING PROVIDER IN CHRISTCHURCH.



HAVE YOU LOOKED AT PRIVATE MARKET RENTALS? THE COST IS DESPERATE! THE AVERAGE RENT IS 500 OR 600 DOLLARS! IF YOU'RE ON A BENEFIT THERE'S NO CHANCE TO SAVE, GO OUT FOR A MEAL OR ANYTHING.



AND IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE TO BUY A HOUSE NOW. PEOPLE ARE HAVING TO SELL BECAUSE YOU CAN'T AFFORD A MORTGAGE.



BUT WE ARE LUCKY. THANK YOU FOR SOCIAL HOUSING! THE OTHER OPTION IS BEING HOMELESS. WE'RE KEEPING THE STREETS CLEAR!



I KNOW PEOPLE WHO OWN EIGHT OR NINE HOUSES. DECENT HOUSING USED TO BE A HUMAN RIGHT, BUT NOW IT'S AN INVESTMENT THING. LANDLORDS ARE CREAMING IT.

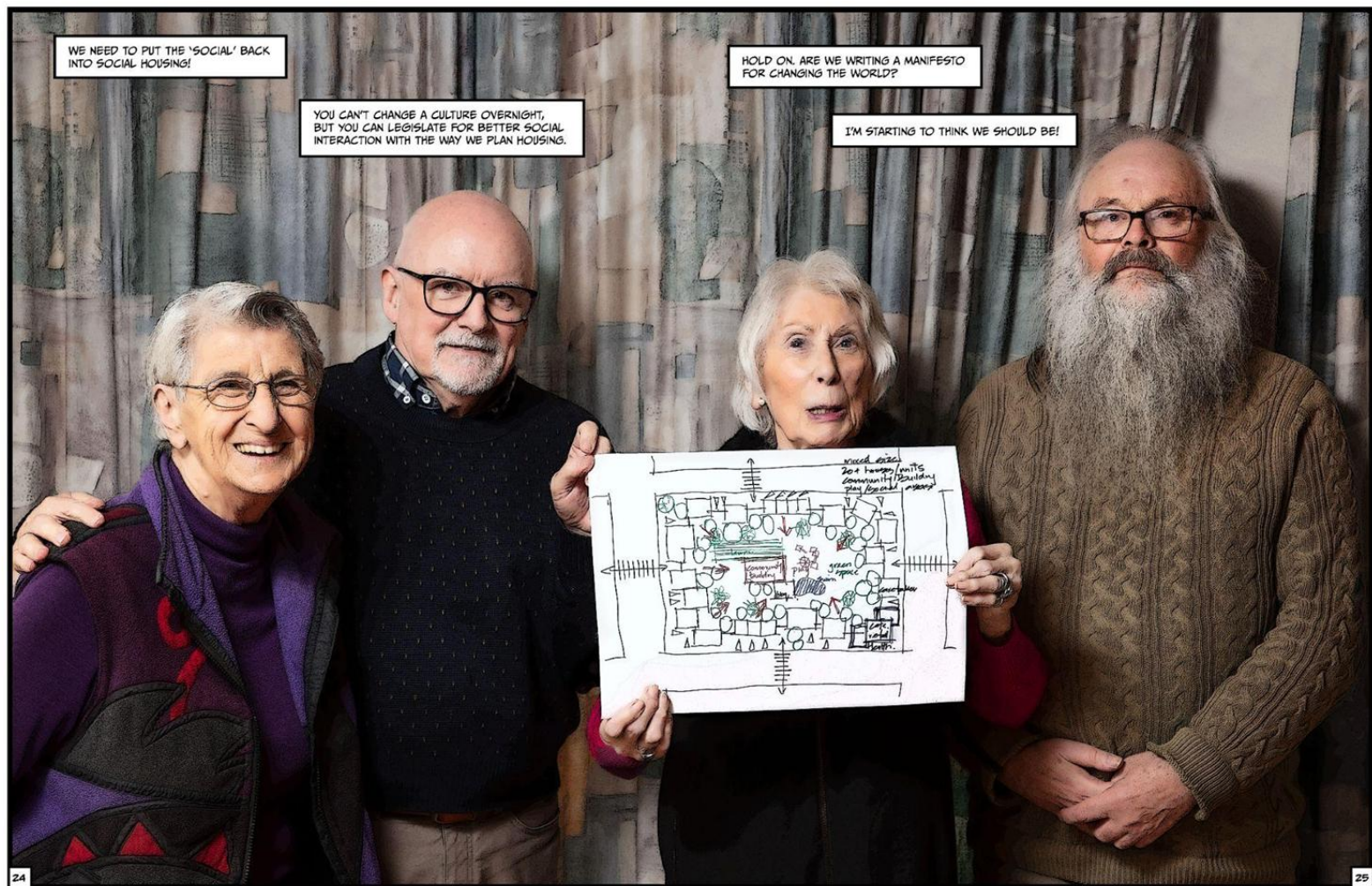
LOOK AT OUR PRIME MINISTER; HE OWNED SEVEN HOUSES. HE GOT CAUGHT OUT WITH HIS ACCOMMODATION BENEFIT! POOR GUY... HE NEEDED IT!



CHRIS LUXON AND CHRIS BISHOP, ARE YOU IN THE ROOM? HERE'S WHAT WE SAY TO YOU: "WE'VE SEEN SO MUCH SOCIAL HOUSING GETTING DEMOLISHED? AND NOT REPLACED - WE HOPE YOU DON'T DO THE SAME".

WE HOPE THE FUTURE HOUSING STOCK WILL BE THERE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION. WE ARE STRONG AND DETERMINED TO FIGHT FOR AN ALTERNATIVE. WE'RE NOT HIDING. WE'RE MAKING A STAND. WE'RE READY FOR THE PROTEST GANG.



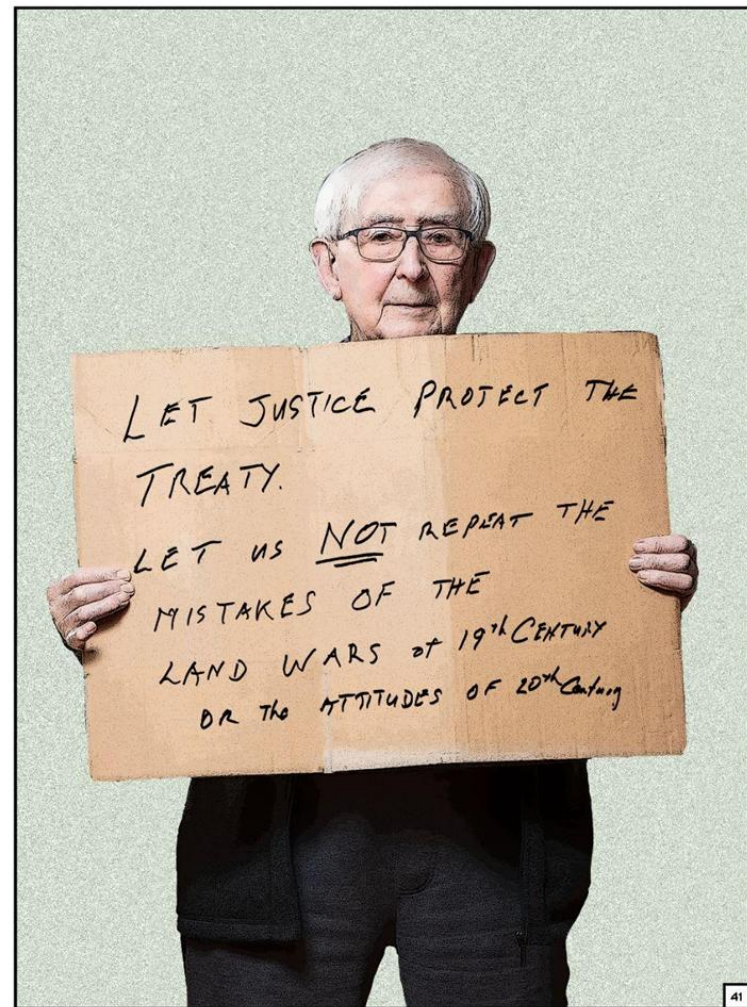


WE NEED TO PUT THE 'SOCIAL' BACK
INTO SOCIAL HOUSING!

YOU CAN'T CHANGE A CULTURE OVERNIGHT,
BUT YOU CAN LEGISLATE FOR BETTER SOCIAL
INTERACTION WITH THE WAY WE PLAN HOUSING.

HOLD ON. ARE WE WRITING A MANIFESTO
FOR CHANGING THE WORLD?

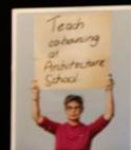
I'M STARTING TO THINK WE SHOULD BE!







PLEASE
TAKE
A COPY



What next?
/
Ngā mihi nui

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