



**AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM 9 JULY 2015**

### **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

From the canopy of aging skyscrapers to the abandoned pipelines below ground, this visual dissection of Auckland City searches for traces of Waihorotiu, an ancient waterway situated in the city centre. Through archival imagery and animation the film explores the history of Waihorotiu, and the relationship between urbanisation and waterways.

### **LONG SYNOPSIS**

A canopy of aging skyscrapers interact with an omnipresent watery landscape in the multi-media portrait of urbanism that sets the scene of this short film. *Waihorotiu* is a dissection of this landscape, from the rooftops to the abandoned pipelines lingering below ground, searching for traces of an ancient waterway situated in the heart of Auckland City.

It follows a physical journey that takes the filmmakers underground and inside some of New Zealand's earliest infrastructure to where the foreshore and the Waihorotiu stream once met. A desktop tapestry of archival imagery and traditional hand-drawn animation contextualise this hunt, depicting the parallel histories of Waihorotiu and Auckland City.

*Waihorotiu* pulls together a range of visual, historical and investigative elements in an exploration of the complex relationship between urbanisation and waterways.

### **Directors: Louis Olsen and Frances Haszard**

With respective backgrounds in film and visual arts, Louis and Frances have been working together on short, independent film for several years. As co-directors, their short films have travelled to niche audiences in festivals internationally. *Waihorotiu* marks a transition in their work from purely animated shorts and music videos to multimedia documentary and film.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A rainy city built over volcanoes and valleys is a city built over waterways, but there's little evidence of that in a place like Queen Street, Auckland. We found this disconnect really interesting, and the research that followed motivated the making of this film.

We also viewed this as a chance to play with ways of depicting the omnipresence of Waihorotiu through animation, film and archival imagery. This was a really interesting challenge.

Making *Waihorotiu* as part of the Loading Docs 2015 programme was really a valuable experience. The format made for a supportive, creative community that enhanced the quality of our film and connection with our audience.

*Waihorotiu* would not have been possible without the generosity of all our Boosted contributors, and our sponsor Trilogy.

## PRESS RELEASE

Though you would never know it now, a river runs through Auckland's Queen Street. It's called the Ligar Canal and it has long been buried under the infrastructure of our CBD. But a new 3-minute documentary by Louis Olsen and Frances Haszard is going underground to reveal the secret waterways of Auckland City.

Made as part of Loading Docs 2015, the documentary is called *Waihorotiu* in reference to the river's original name. Haszard says that in making the documentary they were able to explore Auckland City from unique vantage points that most people don't get to see, however there were many challenges as well such as having to negotiate the weather, the tides and approvals from Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and Downer.

Haszard and Olsen hope that the film will capture people's imaginations and make them more interested in being actively knowledgeable citizens and feel less disaffected by their city's history.

The Loading Docs initiative that *Waihorotiu* is a part of supports 10 filmmaking teams to experiment with the confines of a 3-minute timeframe to make innovative and creative documentaries that tell New Zealand stories, this year based around the theme of connection. You can view *Waihorotiu* online at [www.loadingdocs.net](http://www.loadingdocs.net) and **TVNZ OnDemand** from 9th July, 2015.

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