



## The Armed Man

The musical and artistic creativity of West Buckland was on full display in Exeter as we celebrated the best of West Buckland arts in June, with the opening of the Summer Art Exhibition at the Brook Gallery, followed by a spectacular performance of Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* in the magnificent surroundings of Exeter Cathedral.

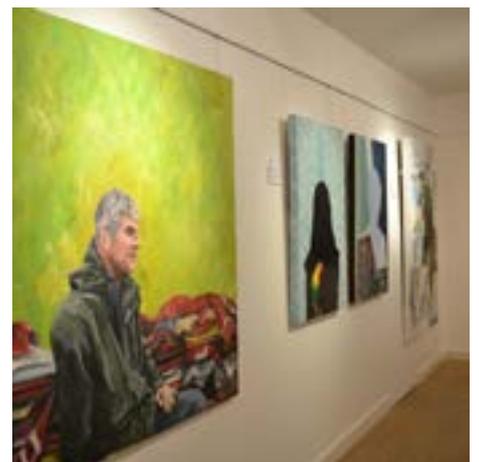
The concert featured over 140 singers from the Senior and Prep School choirs, along with the West Buckland Chorus accompanied by the North Devon Sinfonia, conducted by Emma Kent. The soprano soloist was our own Ana Fernandez-Guerra (98-11 G). The 500-strong audience was treated to a dramatic and haunting performance.



## Art Showcase

The Brook Gallery in Exeter was the showcase of some stunning Year 12 and 13 A-level artworks produced over the last year. The Summer Exhibition featured a range of exceptional pieces and opened with a private viewing for the West Buckland community on 25th June before opening to the public from 28th June to Friday 1st July.

Head of Art, Cameron Main, says, "It was a wonderful turnout for this year's exhibition. The best thing was the expressions on the students' faces as they walked into this prestigious gallery and saw their work hanging next to that of Antony Gormley, David Hockney, Grayson Perry and Bruce Maclean. They can feel extremely proud of what they have achieved."



# From the Head



Please forgive a little retrospection and nostalgia in my final contribution to In Form. In my first year here in 1998, the HMC inspectors were unimpressed by our weather ('unseasonably bracing' was their verdict in May), and there was somewhat satirical comment on the buildings ('a much loved but well used piece of family furniture'). We had a job to do! Last century's inspectors were allowed a sense of humour and given licence to demonstrate their creative skills in reports. Today's

generation is more prosaic – so who actually reads their reports? If their literary talents were unleashed, what might they write about the elegant, superbly designed and imposing new buildings where our children live and learn every day?

We are rightly proud of the physical transformation since then but we should be even more proud of other changes. In many respects, harder to achieve - and more profound - is the awakening of the cultural life of the school which has seen the nurturing of talent at all ages, enterprise and ambition, creativity in abundance, and the sharing of a vision with the whole community. To end our year with another extraordinary concert in Exeter Cathedral and a high quality art exhibition, was a further statement of how far we have come.

A great deal that inspectors admired in 1998 remains true today – notably the ever increasing levels of academic achievement, our outstanding pastoral care, the

remarkable breadth of opportunities we offer. Of greatest importance to me are our ethos and values (the 'roll your sleeves up sort of school' in 1998 endures), the character of the children ('no airs and graces') and the remarkably broad and diverse entry to the school. There is ever growing diversity in the range of nationalities and cultures who contribute so much to our community, and in the remarkably inclusive nature of our entry. This is supported by our ambitious bursary programme. I am proud that we do so much to provide opportunities for children from such a range of circumstances.

I wish everyone in this very special community well. West Buckland School will continue to prosper so that it can serve children in this wonderful part of the country and around the world.

*John Vick*

## Technology Awards

Year 13 student Alex Cammack was announced Schools Technology Award winner in the A-level category at the North Devon Manufacturers Association's annual awards evening held in May. A runner-up in the category last year, Alex claimed the top award with his prototype smart phone desk lamp. He was commended by judges for his use of computer aided design and overall presentation.



Design Technology students at West Buckland have featured strongly in these prestigious awards in recent years and in addition to Alex's success, Year 11 Rory Bardner impressed judges with his modern chair produced using reclaimed materials to claim second spot in the 13-16 age category.



# New buildings transform campus



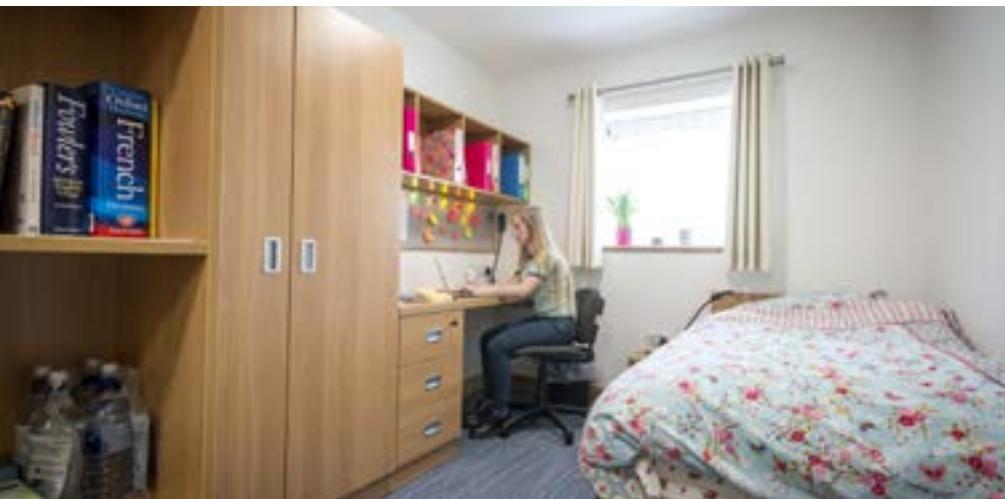
In September we opened Parker's, our stunning new sixth form boarding house and the Michael Morpurgo Library. Both buildings have evolved into busy, thriving hubs and provide some remarkable facilities to our pupils.

The library was opened as part of our Speech Day celebrations by War Horse author Michael Morpurgo, whilst the Earl of Wessex's dramatic arrival by helicopter and subsequent tour of the school, gave everyone a day to remember as he opened Parker's.

Most importantly, the new facilities have made a really positive impact on the student community.

Year 13 Joe Hastie is one of a number of UK day pupils who converted to boarding this year and says: "It has been amazing. It has had a positive influence on me and helped me to become more independent. Boarding has been a massive help with focusing on academic work and the exceptional facilities and support have helped me keep on top of all the demands of studying A-levels."

The Michael Morpurgo library has created an exceptional area for learning with the design further enhanced by a beautiful stained glass window created by Year 10 student Ted Kilvington. Lizzie Nicholas in Year 13 sums up the development: "Everybody that joins us and gets to spend time and work in this environment is extremely fortunate."



The West Buckland School Foundation says a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the fundraising campaign for the new buildings.

The generosity of alumni and parents continues to support the next generation of West Bucklanders.

**Thank you from us all.**

# Au Revoir Prep 6!

Prep 6 had a wonderful time in Normandy on their history and adventure trip this year. The children stayed in a large chateau in Normandy from where they visited the Normandy beaches, the American Cemetery at Omaha and then Arramanches to see the remains of the Mulberry Harbour. They spent time at a French market and explored several French towns where they had plenty of opportunities to practise their French. There was also time for

zip-wires, camp fires, archery and a multitude of other exciting games.

In May, Prep 5's trip to Portsmouth Harbour to see the historic ships included dropping in to the fascinating National Motor Museum at Beaulieu on the way. Once in Portsmouth the children enjoyed a boat trip around the harbour, took part in an adventurous 'Action Stations' and explored HMS Victory and HMS Warrior.



## U11s Excel

It's been a busy year of sport in the Prep School and our U11 boys have had a very impressive season in rugby, hockey and cricket. In rugby they enjoyed one of their most successful ever seasons and in hockey they were outstanding in becoming IAPS Plate winners in the West of England Hockey Tournament.

The cricket team has done equally as well, having qualified for the National U11 Hardball finals which will take place in London this summer, after becoming West of England Champions with particularly good wins over Christchurch Junior School and Millfield Prep School.

## Charities Committee

Over the past year the Sixth Form Charities Committee has been co-ordinating fundraising efforts for two great charities, the Calvert Trust and Farms For City Children.

Calvert Trust Exmoor enables people with physical, learning, behavioural and sensory disabilities to experience exciting, challenging and enjoyable outdoor activities.

Children's author Michael Morpurgo and his wife Clare founded Farms for City Children at Nethercott House in Devon in 1976. The charity offers urban children from all over the country a unique opportunity to live and work together for a week at a time on a real farm in the heart of the countryside.

The Charities Committee co-ordinated numerous fundraising events and activities, raising over £1,400 for each of these two charities.



Thank you to all the businesses, parents, pupils, staff and wider community who have supported the fundraising events over the course of the year.

## New Head for September



Over the past year Phillip Stapleton and his family have been preparing to join the West Buckland community. Phillip, who was previously the Deputy Head of Ardingly College, has reflected on the past twelve months which have been extremely busy, not least with him attempting to run one school whilst keeping half an eye on another.

In addition to regular visits and meetings, Phillip has completed his MBA, scratched and scraped his way through Grade 8 Double Bass and completed endurance events

raising funds and awareness for two charities.

Phillip comments, "When I first arrived I was struck by the dynamic juxtaposition of traditional and modern, conjuring in the mind's eye a school that is both established and forward thinking. As I pulled into the School a group of students set off for an early evening run around the gloriously situated campus, and I knew West Buckland School offered something special. A community, self-reliant and free from the pressures of city living, but bursting with the

creativity and intellect needed to shape exciting and global futures.

Since then every visit has presented a fresh sense of purpose and possibility. I have enjoyed grasping what the School offers and what it might become. Education is the process of preparing people for independence and providing them with the skills needed to make a difference. The new buildings are a striking indication of the vibrant heart within and we are looking forward to joining in September."

## Sports Highlights

In a busy and successful sporting year, Hallam Chapman was selected for the U18 England Rugby Schools Squad, a fantastic achievement and just reward for all his hard work.

There have been a number of other significant achievements, both for teams and individuals and these include our U15 boys' and girls' tennis squads reaching the Regional Finals of the Aegon National Competition – their performances enhanced by our increasingly popular Tennis Performance Programme which is now into its third year.

## Sporting Roll of Honour

- Under 18 National Girls' 80m Hurdles Champion
- Under 18 England Rugby Schools selection
- Under 13 County Rugby selection
- Under 14 Netball Regional Finalists
- Under 17 Regional Long Jump Champion
- Under 13 Girls' Hockey Regional Finals
- Twelve players selected for County and Regional Hockey Performance Programme
- Five netballers selected for Satellite Performance Programme
- Under 13, 15, 17 and Senior County Cricket squad selection for eight boys and girls
- Under 18 Devon Girls' Tennis squad member
- National Bouldering team selection for three pupils
- National Climbing Champion
- Nine girls competed in National T20 Club Cricket Finals at Under 15 and Under 13 level
- National Cross-Country finalist

# West Side Story Thrills and Charms

West Buckland students lit up Ilfracombe's Landmark Theatre in February with a stunning production of American musical **West Side Story**.

Following on from the musical extravaganzas of **Fiddler on the Roof** and **We Will Rock You**, audiences were wowed by a sassy, fast paced and unexpectedly moving production, following the story of two rival street gangs, the Jets and the Sharks.

With a cast of over 40 students (plus Mr Ralph!), and a considerable behind-the-scenes effort led by students and staff, the production was a fitting tribute to director, **Caroline Tibble**, who retires this summer.



## Prep Plays



## National Youth Theatre



Budding young performers in the Prep School have had an exciting year and treated audiences to some energetic and entertaining productions. Highlights have included Year 5 and 6 performing A

Midsummer Night's Dream, the Prep celebrating British history with their 'Great British Timeline' and Prep 3 and 4 staging Tim Minchin's musical version of Roald Dahl's Matilda.

## Caroline Tibble 98 - 16 S



When members of staff or pupils move on to new jobs or university there is something correct in that, it is the way of things, how it is supposed to be. However, when long serving members of staff retire it is a very different feeling, as it is often only at this point we realise how much we relied on them for guidance and support. For that is what friends and colleagues do for each other every day and Caroline Tibble more than most.

Caroline's various roles in the school could be said to be tripartite. She was John Vick's pastoral deputy for 15 years, a job she executed with efficiency, thoughtfulness, firmness (when needed) and, most crucially, great care for the individuals concerned. She is well known amongst the pupil body as a wizard maths teacher who can inspire the talented and open the mathematical eyes of almost anyone!

However, it is in her role as head of performing arts where I, and countless others, will remember her most. She adored all five of the musical productions staged at the Landmark Theatre (2008-2016) and this love of performance and creative collaboration is both infectious and awesome to behold.

She has the absolute respect of all involved, staff or pupils alike and is a one woman 'tour de force' in action. Caroline is an extraordinary woman and an outstanding female role-model. I, and all her colleagues, as well as her pupils, will miss her enormously.

*Emma Kent (04 - 5)  
Director of Music*

Millie Podmore in Year 12 has won a place at the National Youth Theatre after successfully coming through auditions that were held nationwide.

She played the lead roles of Maria and Anita in West Side Story and has won many accolades and awards for her dramatic ability during her time at West Buckland.

Drama teacher, Angela Passmore, says: "I'm so pleased that Millie has been accepted at the National Youth Theatre. She is hoping to become a professional actress and, if she keeps up the good work, has every chance of success!"

Keep up to date throughout the year with all the latest news, events and information



@WestBuckland



West Buckland School

[www.westbuckland.com](http://www.westbuckland.com)

# Farewell to John Vick

## 97-16 S



1997: Tony Blair swept into Downing Street, the first book in the award winning Harry Potter series was published, Scotland voted to create its own Parliament after 290 years of union with England, and John Vick arrived at West Buckland School, taking over as Headmaster from Michael Downward.

The world is quite a different place to that of 19 years ago, and the same can be said for West Buckland School. Of course the history, heritage, values and community remain, but John has steered the school into the 21st century with distinction: raising the academic profile, ensuring pastoral care is at the heart of everything we do, and of course, leaving a physical legacy of some truly exceptional buildings providing incredible facilities to both students and staff.

John has led the School to an increasing level of achievement, whilst West

Buckland has also broadened its horizons; sport has continued to be central to our lives, but the growth of drama, music and outdoor education makes the School a much more stimulating place to learn.

The regulatory demands of inspection bodies and governments have grown, making schools much more complicated places to work. Challenges abound for both staff and pupils. John has navigated West Buckland through this minefield, making the difficult decisions where necessary, but showing compassion, understanding and human kindness as he does so.

A few words here cannot do justice to John's tenure and his level of commitment and that of his wife, Lynne, to West Buckland. But we would like to say thank you and we wish you the very best as you start a new chapter in your lives.

The retirement of a Headmaster at West Buckland is a momentous occasion. John Vick is only the 13th full time Head since 1858.

A lot has changed at West Buckland in the intervening years, most notably the buildings. John has however been at pains to remind the governors that buildings do not of themselves make a school. They can help, but it is the ethos, determination, commitment and rigour that mark out a great school. In this regard John has cherished, maintained and developed that which he inherited from his predecessors.

At the same time the world around us has changed. On a UK level, education has become a political football and independent education has had to both retrench and adapt. John has steered West Buckland through these changes and challenges to emerge a stronger, better resourced school preparing its pupils for life in a demanding but exciting global community.

The governors would like to thank John for all he has done for the School. He has led a talented and dedicated team of academic and support staff and is handing over a school that is well placed to meet the challenges ahead. We wish John and Lynne a long and fulfilling retirement in their new home in South Devon.

**John Light**  
**Chair of Governors**

# Adventure Society



This year saw the launch of the Adventure Society, which aims to encourage pupils to challenge themselves by trying new outdoor activities. The Adventure Society

has given over 200 pupils, from both Prep and Senior schools, the opportunity to partake in surfing, coasteering, kayaking, canoeing and climbing.

## New York, New York



Members of the Aldiss Society enjoyed a trip to New York over the Christmas holidays which included a surprise encounter with Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne!

The meeting with the Chancellor, who was in New York to address the United Nations Security Council, took place at The Frick Collection art museum where he was happy to pose for photographs.

In total 22 students in Years 11-13 spent five days in the 'Big Apple' which included visits to the Empire State Building, the United Nations Headquarters, the 9/11 Memorial Museum and Yale University. They also enjoyed an incredible atmosphere at Madison Square Garden where they watched a New York Knicks versus Orlando Magic NBA (National Basketball Association) game.

The evening surfing sessions on Wednesday have been very popular, pupils have not only learnt to surf, but also gained useful citizenship skills of first aid and basic lifesaving drills on the beach.

This year two teams entered the 35-mile Ten Tors challenge. Training in snow, hail and rain, they also gained their Hill Skills Certificates. In addition, over 70 pupils gained their Duke of Edinburgh awards and at least 12 pupils will collect their Gold awards next year.

## Green Goblin Go-kart

The curiously named Green Goblin Club is one of the many after school activities available to pupils in the Prep School.

This club gives children the opportunity to actively participate in building the Green Goblin electric powered kart. This is an exciting venture that delves into many aspects of mechanical and electrical engineering and pupils take a 'hands on' role in the construction, design, and, ultimately, racing of the kart at events throughout the UK. This is part of the Green Power project which aims to spark students' interest in engineering and technology in an exciting and unique way.

The highlight for the club is racing the kart at the annual regional heat of the Green Power electric car races, which this year took place on the 22nd June. Hundreds of schools came to race their karts at Treloy Gate, Newquay and the West Buckland kart performed admirably, providing just reward for the children's engineering efforts.



# Sports Awards

Sports awards evenings were held for both the senior and junior sportsmen and women to celebrate both individual and team success in the past year.

The seniors enjoyed an informal BBQ and were blessed with a beautiful, warm evening. We were delighted to be joined by Governor, Neil Kingdon and President of the OWBA Jamie Conchie, who both awarded prizes.

The Junior Sports Awards took place in the Karslake where the pupils, smartly dressed for the evening, enjoyed a delicious dinner and ceremony. Cups were awarded to individuals who had made a particularly successful contribution to their sport and to those who have made notable progress during the year.



# High Bullen Belles and Beaux



The Sixth Form Leavers' Ball was a night for glamorous outfits at High Bullen Hotel on a beautiful sunny evening in May. We wish the leavers every success for the future.

# Higher Education Day

As part of our extensive higher education and careers guidance programme, Year 12 students and parents received detailed advice and information about higher education, apprenticeships and careers at our HE and Careers Day held in June.

Admissions personnel from a number of universities including Exeter, Cardiff, Lancaster, Plymouth and Sheffield met with students

to give advice about the university application process, writing personal statements, choosing courses, industrial placement options and general student life.

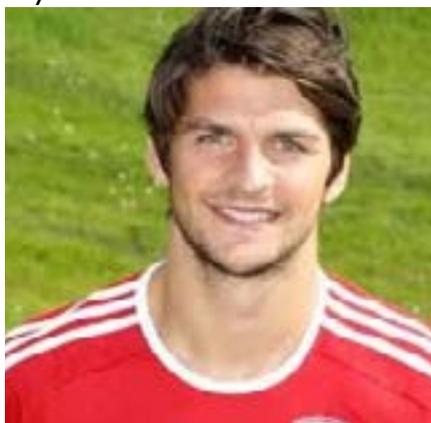
Representatives from Maastricht University were also on hand to give advice on applying and studying overseas. The day finished with former pupil, Daisy Lavington 07-14 C, sharing some of her experiences of life at the University of Southampton where she is finishing her second year studying Population and Geography.

Head of Careers and Higher Education, Matt Brimson, says: "In an increasingly competitive world with a vast array of university courses, apprenticeships and career options, it is important that students and parents are provided with relevant information and support as they make important decisions about their futures. The Higher Education and Careers Day plays an important part in our overall programme as we give our students intensive support and guidance in preparation for life beyond the sixth form."

## PFA Award for Old Boy

Congratulations to Middlesbrough defender George Friend (99-06 F) who recently won the PFA Player in the Community Award at the Football League Awards 2016. George was recognised for his contribution as a leading ambassador for Middlesbrough FC Foundation's social inclusion projects. In 2015 he was the driving force behind the 'Spirit of Teeside' charity calendar. It has been an exciting year for George as he was an integral member of the Middlesbrough team which won

promotion to the Premier League in May.



## Alex Rides to Success



Having successfully completed her A-levels, Alex Baker (11-14 B) went to work to pursue her dream of becoming an international dressage rider. In July 2016, Alex and her horse Nilbeley UJ Lady Lara will be competing in Oliva Nova, Spain in the Young Rider European Championships, representing Ireland. It has been a long, gruelling journey to get to this point as they have had to qualify by competing internationally to attain the required points. Alex has been to three internationals, competing in Spain, France and Holland. After the European Championships Alex will be riding in the Irish National Championships.

## A Busy Time



90s & 00s Reunion, June 2016



London Reunion, March 2016



Jazz Night, April 2016



The Exmoor, March 2016

## Impact of Community Support on School

This year, the Foundation has been able to put the increase in financial support received in last year's campaign to good use. In addition to funding part of the costs of Parker's and the Michael Morpurgo Library we have increased our Bursary Fund. From September 2016 there will be 15 pupils on 100% bursaries across Years 7 - 11.

An increase in general funding has also enabled us to provide a range of equipment. This has included the purchasing of new rugby and hockey scoreboards, tackle pads and netball post protectors; a set of tablet computers; an A3 printing press for the Art Department and a PA system and choir folders

for the Prep School. We are also delighted that over the Summer we will be able to contribute to the re-development of the external area behind the Pre-Prep building.

We have also been fortunate to tap into the generosity and expertise of alumni, parents, staff (past and present) and other well-wishers who give so freely of their time and advice in careers, events and publications. West Buckland is a community, and as such our success is a community success.

All your gifts make a difference. They change lives, they open new doors and they help children to thrive at West Buckland School.

## Oxbridge Offers

Year 13 students Ed Mabon and Beth Keech have both received offers to study at Cambridge and Oxford respectively this coming October.

Ed has an offer from Emmanuel College, Cambridge to read Engineering, while Beth has been offered a place to study French and Russian at Lincoln College, Oxford.

Many of our Year 13 students will progress on to a diverse range of courses at world class universities this coming autumn and we wish them all well.



# Farewells



As another school year ends, we say goodbye to a number of staff who are moving on to pastures new. These include Julia Harvey who has worked for the last eight years as a Learning Support Assistant. Working across both Prep and Senior schools, her strengths of patience, perseverance, flexibility and care have enabled her to make a real difference to young people's lives.

A committed and active Christian, Julia has been a stalwart supporter

of the Christian Union and organised activities such as Christmas shoeboxes for homeless children overseas. Julia has had time for everyone and made herself part of the fabric of the school, always willing to lend a hand wherever needed and active in many areas of school life. We wish her well with her future plans and particularly with her extended trip to Australia to visit her eldest daughter in October.

We also say goodbye to Director of Sport, Kevin Morris, and wife Lisa, Houseparent of Boyer. They have both made an enormous contribution to the school over the last three years and we wish them and their family well as they take on a new challenge at Monkton Combe.

We wish all staff who are moving on this year the very best and thank them for their contribution to West Buckland School.

**Phillip Stapleton**

Headmaster from September 2016

01598 760281

headmaster@westbuckland.com

**Andrew Conibear**

Marketing & Communications

01598 760015

marketing@westbuckland.com

**Valerie Bishop**

Foundation Manager

01598 760164

foundation@westbuckland.com

**Jamie Conchie**

President OWBA

owba@westbuckland.com

To receive your copy electronically, please email the Foundation.

West Buckland School

Barnstaple

Devon EX32 0SX

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1598 760281

Registered Charity Number 306710

West Buckland School Foundation

Registered Charity Number 1096487

## Forthcoming Events

Saturday 10th September 2016

**WBS Speech Day**

West Buckland School

October

**Parents & Alumni Drinks, Honk Kong**

Details tbc

Friday 11th November  
6pm

**OWBA v School Phoenix Society  
Debate & Dinner**

West Buckland School

Saturday 12th November  
5.30-7.30 pm

**'West Buckland School's Fallen  
Soldiers of World War One'  
publication launch & talk by  
Chris Allin, with Drinks Reception**  
Memorial Hall, West Buckland School

Saturday 19th November  
12pm

**Tom Hitchins' Lunch & 1st XV  
Rugby Match**

West Buckland School

Saturday 19th November

**Parents & Alumni Drinks, Moscow**

Details tbc

Friday 9th December  
7pm

**Christmas Jazz Night**

High Bullen Hotel



Keep up to date  
throughout the year  
with all the latest news,  
events and information



@WestBuckland



West Buckland School

www.westbuckland.com

Printed on recycled paper