



# Northern gem

A painter gets a mountain of inspiration from childhood memories.

**When Scout invited Whangārei artist Olivia Garelja to create an artwork for this issue, she knew straight away which New Zealand landscape she wanted to paint: Taratara Mountain in the Far North.**

“Since the age of five, I used this maunga as a marker of distance – it’s roughly 90

minutes from seeing my grandparents in Kaimaumau, East Beach. I have felt spiritually drawn to this beautiful gem of the north forever,” she says.

Olivia has always been creative, honing her artistic skills on colouring books in the early 1990s. “My mum soon realised she had a



perfectionist on her hands at age four when her attempts to fix the slight mistakes with twink weren’t good enough, as the white of the paper was always different,” she says, laughing. “My style over the years has tended to loosen but still always retains a level of detail, even if it is in an abstract way.”

Olivia’s entire life has involved Resene, from murals at primary school to opening her own account as a mural artist. “They really have everything covered for the industry and the artist,” she says. “It’s just great to support local products, and you soon begin to develop a relationship with Resene colour

and key go-to tones. The beauty for me and the way I paint is that I get to take the viewer’s eye on a unique journey, seeing how colour is used through multiple layers and how each tone relates uniquely to the next.”

Olivia’s art isn’t just beautifying our pages – we are also auctioning it off via Trade Me from November 15 to raise money for Paint New Zealand Beautiful. This initiative is run by Keep New Zealand Beautiful and supported by Resene, to help beautify our communities with painting projects.

For more information, visit [scoutmagazine.co.nz/auctionresene](https://scoutmagazine.co.nz/auctionresene).

FAR NORTH

Get creative with Resene

Olivia’s Resene colour palette

Resene Anakiwa

Resene Cornflower

Resene Green Smoke

Resene Vintage

Resene Celery

Resene Elephant

Resene Nirvana

Resene Salomie

Resene Onahau

Resene Caper

Resene Turtle Green

Resene Possessed

Resene Kashmir Blue

**Resene**  
the paint the professionals use