

CAPITAL DAY



THE DIARY

Sparkling literary talent **Eleanor Catton**, winner of a \$26,000 New Generation award, swears she is not using her global status as a young star to pick up international suitors. The former Wellingtonian, now based in Iowa, mentioned in a recent interview that she had brought her "American boyfriend" home for Christmas. "That sounds terrible," she said, before making it clear she did not have different boyfriends in countries around the world.

Aged singers Young@Heart, led by musical director **Bob Cilman**, have just ended their concert tour of New



Eleanor Catton



Bob Cilman

Zealand, warming the hearts of audiences nationwide with their renditions of well-known rock songs. The concert tour ended with a performance in Palmerston North on Tuesday night. With an average age of 83 the American singers are not your typical rock stars – hotel owners found their hotel rooms were



tidier when the rockers left than when they arrived. The 70-plus group, who perform songs by everyone from the **Rolling Stones** to **Cold Play**, took their time getting through airports. But Air New Zealand staff in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch were on hand with wheelchairs to make life as comfortable as possible.

A reader who has been perusing papers past-writes: "The controversy

about buses in Manners St echoes a similar one in Wellington in 1904. A letter in the *Evening Post* on June 14, 1904 warned of children running in front of trams on Kent Terrace. It read: 'There are only two or three feet between the railing and the tramline, and all day long the 'kiddies' are playing about, dodging in and out like so many rabbits, from the trees on to the street and back. 'If something is not done the motorman will turn grey-headed in no time, as they no doubt will be continually ringing their bells and applying brakes'."

Spotted outside the Wellington City Council buildings this week was a jay-walker making a mad dash