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Rock of ages: A photographer's eye view of

Emma Clark-Dow

South Aucklander Chris Traill has spent more than 40 years taking "incredible" pictures of rock concerts, music festivals and cultural festivals.

Now, he's been given a special opportunity to put them on display: Traill's exhibition piece, commissioned by the Auckland Festival of Photography, is a six-metre billboard, with a montage of 300 photographs filling both sides.

"I have photos of the first Sweetwaters [music festival], photos of Bob Dylan in concert in the late 70s, tracking all the way up to photos I shot at Polyfest last month," Traill said. "I gravitate towards music and cultural festivals, because I love to get lost in other worlds with my camera."

Traill, 63, was bitten by the photography bug at the age of 12, when his passion for displaying photos of musicians and live music on the walls of his bedroom soon morphed into being behind the lens himself.

"I started sneaking my camera gear into concerts when I was 15, and would fight to get to the front of the crowd."

One picture that features in Traill's montage is a photograph of a Western Springs gig by UK band Uriah Heep, who Traill photographed for the first time when he was a teenager.

"I went and saw them a few years ago at a studio in Auckland, and so I have those two photos of them side-by-side 40 years apart," he said.

"This is just a beautiful retrospective of a long period of time."

Traill hasn't had many opportunities to exhibit his work, and said the fact he is in the "twilight of his career" makes the opportunity "even more special".



"I haven't had many exhibitions, I just have been quiet doing the mahi over the last 35 years."

The exhibition was on display in Auckland's Silo Park for three weeks, and has now moved on to Manukau - a special spot for Traill, who was born and bred in South Auckland and also raised his three daughters there.

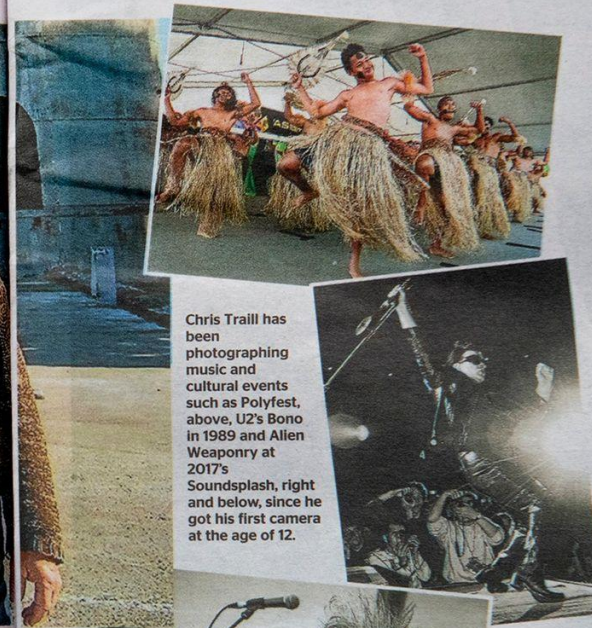
"It's really special for me to bring my work out here. Where you live really defines you as a person," Traill said.

"I've operated in Papatoetoe for the past 35 years, so a lot of the things I have worked on have been local events with local people. I'm really proud of that, and I don't

ure, this is done in accordance with the law."

of us get one vote to decide who leads our government and what processes to use on constitutional issues".

40 years of music



Chris Traill has been photographing music and cultural events such as Polyfest, above, U2's Bono in 1989 and Allen Weaponry at 2017's Soundsplash, right and below, since he got his first camera at the age of 12.



"I have a few cool ideas with what I might do with it," he said. "I could lay it out on a beach and get a drone and photograph it from above."

made his money photographing thousands of weddings and family portraits over the years, and said that kind of photography was his "bread and butter".

The company that printed Traill's work has gifted it to him.

Traill's exhibition piece is currently hanging on the corner of Osterley and Putney Way, behind Manukau's Westfield Mall, where it will be displayed until Thursday. This is a Public Interest Journalism funded role through NZ On Air.

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