**The Southland Times** www.southlandtimes.co.nz

+ INSIDE

TV programmes......D2

## The Southland Times VAN GOGH ON SHOW





Peaceful man: Russell Crowe at the premiere of his new film, Body of Lies.

## Method in his madness

angry man. Sure, three years ago he threw a phone at a New York concierge, was arrested and spent a few hours

in a New York police cell. In another infamous outburst, the Oscar winner confronted and delivered a verbal blast to the English TV producer responsible for cutting Crowe's speech short at the 2002 cally imposing, standing about British Academy of Film and Tele-

vision Arts awards in London. But, again, that incident was actor packed on almost 30kg,

would like the world to his best behaviour in recent years know he is not an and is eager to shed the bad boy 95kg. image.

"I assure you I'm not an angry man," the New Zealand-born, Australian resident and onetime Hollywood wild man, said during an interview in Los Angeles.

When you meet Crowe, it is well below his shoulder blades. understandable why some are intimidated.

He's an Aussie larrikin and physi-182cm, and thanks to his role in the new spy thriller, Body of Lies, the

CROWE many moons ago. Crowe has been on although he has shed two-thirds of that, leaving him today at a solid

> When Crowe talks to you, his eyes lock on and do not let go until he is finished his sentences, which are often long, well thought out answers. Today, the 44-year-old is wearing his hair in a long ponytail that falls

He's tired of the references to his colourful past and says his words, dripped in Aussie sarcasm, are often lost in translation.

"It is so convenient to take my sense of humour and pretend that it's anger," Crowe explained.

kind of level of dry humour does not go across well.

"Sarcasm doesn't work on the Crowe's home life in Sydney appears to have calmed the beast

that once lived inside him. In April he celebrated his fifth wedding anniversary to Danielle

Spencer and the couple has two sons, Charles, 4, and Tennyson, 2.

Despite a film career where he reportedly receives \$20 million per movie and his role as co-owner of his beloved Rabbitohs rugby league team, it is his wife and children that

"Because in black and white, my are number one. "I think I'm beyond performance in Scott's 2000 epic, caring about misconceptions," Crowe says of the bad press.

Gladiator, and their upcoming film,

Nottingham, where Crowe will play

the Sheriff of Nottingham in the new

take on Robin Hood, and Crowe and

Scott will have collaborated five

times in eight years.

"I will just get on with my day, get on with my life and prioritise my life as I see the needs are.'

Crowe has also found a way to avoid butting heads with directors. He largely limits himself to directors he knows and has worked with in

Five of his last eight films were with Ridley Scott (Body of Lies, American Gangster, A Good Year) or Ron Howard (A Beautiful Mind and Cinderella Man).

Toss in Crowe's Oscar-winning

## Are we all neutral?

**MATE** MARK WILSON



S Helen Clark the first pioneer of a new breed of gender neutral

Even the thought of placing Helen Clark at the pinnacle of evolution casts a wave of fear deep into my gumboots akin to finding out that Steve Walsh or Kelvin Deaker are

officiating a Stags shield challenge. Looking broadly across the past 50 years of society's evolution a trend as unsettling as a ginger streaker becomes evident . . . women wanting to be treated more like men and men becoming increasingly like

The end result has been the narrowing of the gender gap where all but the pure physical differences we once attributed to having a Y chromosome have disappeared.

Being from Southland, often insulated from fast moving social phenomenon for a time because of its physical isolation and the practical, unimpressionable nature of its population, this trend was hardly noticeable to me as a youth.

However, I was blinded by the social melting pot I was to discover upon arriving at Otago University.

There resided thousands of students set free from the shackles of their parents and often common sense, looking to assert their independence by signing up to a variety of social groups and weird behaviours, Goths, hippies, feminists, metrosexuals, communists . . . there was a group for practically every impressionable youth and some of them just plain blurred the gender boundaries. If this didn't quite convince me things were a changing a trip to Europe last year rammed the point down my throat as I gagged in shock.

Males drying their hair with hairdryers, wearing white skin tight leather suits, tinting this and dyeing that and wearing handbags all capped off with jewellery that would make a Westside hip hop crunker jealous.

While fair and justifiable given some of the treatment dished out in the bad old days, in this rush to celebrate a new found equality we seem to have forgotten we are in fact

It seems a little extreme to eliminate all points of difference between what are after all two fundamentally different sexes.

I think we need to celebrate the genetic differences we have been given and embrace the uniqueness of our sexes

God forbid in 50 years all we are left with is men in eyeliner and **Turn to D5** | women in pants.

## Central Otago Show Home — Now Open



Canterbury • Central Otago • Nelson • Marlborough • Southland www.goldenhomes.co.nz

Visit one of our show homes or call us today. We will design your floor plan and provide you a quote for FREE.

**Invercargill Show Home** Opening Soon at 186 North Road Phone 03 215 4785

**Cromwell Show Home Now Open 4 Alpha Street** Cromwell Office 4 Alpha Street, Cromwell P. 03 445 4785 Mon to Friday 9am-5pm & Sun 12pm-4pm



**Solid construction** − Timber or Zog steel framing

**✓ Water saving** – Methven satin jet shower heads

**Style** − Italian porcelain wall hung vanities

**☑ Reliability** – Methven Minimalist tapware

**▼ Turn key** – Complete floor coverings

dish drawers, and range hood

Colour Consultants

**Warmth** − Double glazing, pink batts R 2.6 walls R 3.6 ceilings

☑ Choices – Gerard shingle, concrete tile, or metal tile roofs **☑** Brands we trust – Fisher and Paykel appliances incl double

☑ **Professional** – Quality kitchens and Design Consultants

**Security** − Well respected company, 7 year warranty

**☑ Finishing touches** – Ladder towel rails, wardrobe organizers,