

**INSIDE**

Books .....D3  
 Diary .....D5  
 Movies .....D6  
 Puzzles .....D6  
 TVs .....D7

# The Southland Times Unwind



## A fanciful wish

For Peter Jackson it was *The Lord of the Rings*. For James Cameron it was *Titanic* and *Avatar*. So you'd think for film-maker Guillermo del Toro the pinnacle of his career will be *The Hobbit* right? Del Toro tells **Tom Cardy** about his wish for an even bigger fantasy film, set - and partly filmed - in Antarctica.



Guillermo del Toro

**R**IGHT now Mexican film-maker Guillermo del Toro is knee-deep in pre-production for *The Hobbit* in Wellington. The film, which has had its release delayed until 2012, will involve del Toro and visual effects studios Weta Workshop and Weta Digital bringing to life many of JRR Tolkien's creations, from trolls and goblins to the mighty Smaug the dragon.

But if del Toro, best-known for the *Hellboy* movie series, has his way, there are several other creatures he also wants to bring to life. These are creations so horrible, so unthinkable, just uttering their names is enough to give anyone the heebie-jeebies: Cthulhu Tsathoggua, the shoggoths, the Elder Ones, the Great Old Ones. Few who have glimpsed these entities have survived to describe them. Some appear to be dark and shape-shifting. Others resemble a cross between a squid, a bat and a crustacean. More often than not there's tentacles. Lots of tentacles.

The places they inhabit don't sound enticing either - the demonic plateau of Leng, or Commorion, Uzuldaroum, Lomar, Valusia, R'lyeh, Ib and Mnar. Places you won't find in any holiday guide book. Worse, there's the reputed books that reveal information about these beings and their domains - the *Prakotic Manuscripts*, and the infamous - some say "abhorred" - *Necronomicon*. Just reading the pages of these tomes is supposedly dangerous enough.

But that's just what del Toro wants to do, with his goal of bringing horror fantasy writer HP Lovecraft's short novel *At the Mountains of Madness* to the big screen. Lovecraft wrote his tale, set in Antarctica, in 1931, when even at that time large parts of the continent were unexplored. Lovecraft details an all-male expedition that discovers a giant mountain range, with peaks higher than Mt Everest. As they explore it they uncover the well-preserved remains of giant tentacled creatures, that may in fact be millions of years old, a vast deserted city and even gigantic albino penguins. The explorers, commissioned by the fictitious Miskatonic University in Massachusetts, begin to realise that the creatures may in fact be the fabled Elder Ones that came to Earth millions of years ago, and may not necessarily be dead.

Del Toro has been wanting to make *At the Mountains of Madness* for years.

But it will need a big budget - at least US\$90 million (NZ\$122m), he figures - and he still has to convince Hollywood.

Continued, Page D2

## Let the SAS do its job

**MATE**  
Mark Wilson



**I**T seems everyone is on the SAS band wagon at the moment.

The NZ Herald started the ball rolling after publishing a large photo of two New Zealand SAS personnel on duty in Kabul.

It didn't take any large degree of intelligence or a super computer to identify celebrated soldier Willie Apiata as one of those depicted.

From here the argument has snowballed with the picture being splashed around our interconnected society to all parts. It seems there is a conflict of opinion as to whether we have the right or in fact even need to know what our elite soldiers are up to in the world's hot spots.

I'm never short of an opinion or two so deemed it almost compulsory for me to wade into the melee.

Do we have the right to know what our elite soldiers are doing, do we in fact need to know and should we know?

The armchair conspiracy theorists, who have spent too much time on Wikipedia and not enough time in the real world, would of course argue that the Government must disclose to us all of its activities no matter how boring and mundane they are in reality. This would probably serve to deflate these theorists or have them crying from the rooftops that it was still a cover-up and there really are aliens running the Beehive.

Have we watched too many movies, do we really think there is some smoke screen created in Wellington - a sort of hologram illusion that shows us a working parliament of paper filers and speech makers when really there is a spy base watching our every move and deciding what information our regular Joe Brains can handle?

Or is it in fact that some things we just don't need to know, can derive no benefit from knowing and the sheer fact that we know them may jeopardise our own country (persons) men and their families.

How well do you all know Kabul? I couldn't tell you Taliban St from Terrorist Lane but that information may mean a lot to a local lad intent on blowing himself up and taking a first class ticket to his so-called 99 virgin afterlife.

What good does it do me in Southland to know where Willie and the lads are staying and who they are meant to be killing? Nothing.

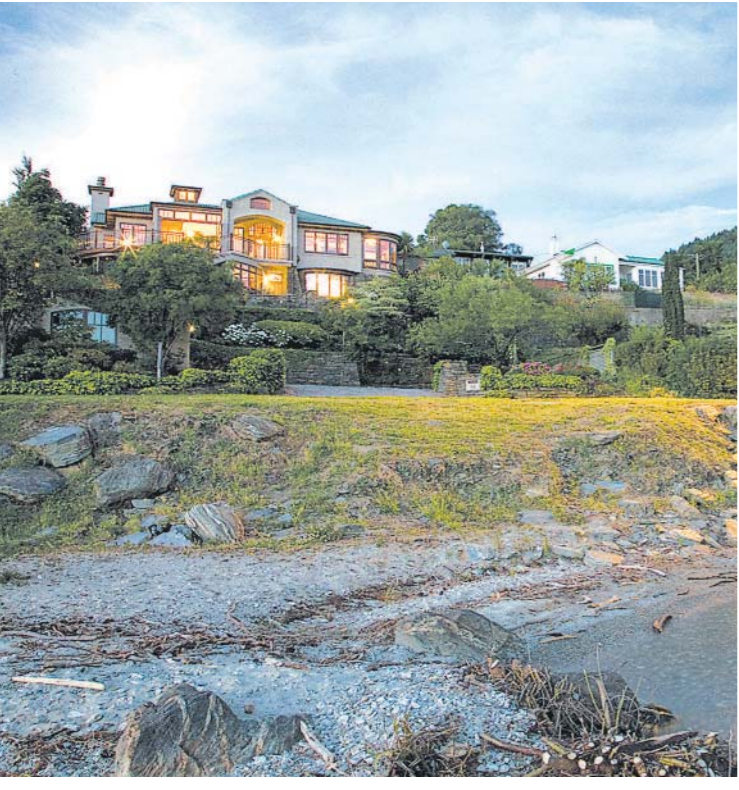
It may raise concerns and debate about whether they should be there but I can't just fire up the silver bullet, throw it in 5th, drive them home.

I wouldn't be keen on taking their place nor, if I did, having my movements broadcast in the media for my enemies to see.

Willie and his crew do us proud, have a great reputation aboard and whether or not we think they should be there, now that they are let's help them stay alive any way we can. They are Kiwis, aren't they? Just like us, not just robots working for John Key on search and destroy.

Let them do their job and hope they all come back alive.

68 Park Street, Queenstown 3 3 2



This award-winning waterfront home has been lovingly restored resulting in a spectacular centrally-located property with superb craftsmanship and attention to detail.

- Located in sought-after Park Street only a minutes walk from central Queenstown.
- Slightly elevated and private home, with superb indoor/outdoor flow, spectacular timber interiors, mature gardens and unrivalled lake and mountain views.
- Self-contained, one bedroom guest unit with fully-fitted kitchen on lower level.

Price By Negotiation

Internet [brownsothebysrealty.com/QBS10227](http://brownsothebysrealty.com/QBS10227)

Contact Julian Brown  
 Mobile +64 21 790 153  
 Direct Dial +64 3 450 0485  
 Email [julian.brown@sothebysrealty.com](mailto:julian.brown@sothebysrealty.com)

70 Park Street, Queenstown 405sq m



Ideally located in one of Queenstown's most sought-after central addresses, this 405 sq m site is perfectly located on Park Street's waterfront just minutes walk from local cafes, restaurants and shops.

- As one of the last remaining vacant sites now available in this prestigious dress circle location, this site presents a rare opportunity to purchase in an area which is home to some of Queenstown's most spectacular residences.
- Slightly elevated, and with stunning views over Lake Wakatipu, over to Kelvin Heights Golf Course and the Remarkables mountain range, the property has all services in place ready for you to build your dream home.

Auction On site 12.30pm Fri 26th Feb 2010 (unless sold prior)

Internet [brownsothebysrealty.com/QBS10228](http://brownsothebysrealty.com/QBS10228)

Contact Julian Brown  
 Mobile +64 21 790 153  
 Direct Dial +64 3 450 0485  
 Email [julian.brown@sothebysrealty.com](mailto:julian.brown@sothebysrealty.com)