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Iva's street soul



Iva Lamkum turned teenage angst into a fledgling songwriting career that's ready to fly. **Kimberley Rothwell** reports.

LISTEN to Iva Lamkum's new CD and you'd expect a diva; you'd expect lashings of eye makeup and immaculately coiffed hair, perhaps a manager or PR person in tow. What you wouldn't expect is Iva (pronounced to rhyme with diva), the 22-year-old singer and songwriter, to be at the cafe early, straight after finishing work for the day as a receptionist. You'd expect a diva because, listening to her debut self-titled EP (extended play CD), you would think she was one. Her voice is huge and rich and deep, she's been favourably compared to Erykah Badu and Amy Winehouse. Iva writes her own material, plays guitar and drums, and sang with Wellington artists for about five years before recording her own EP.

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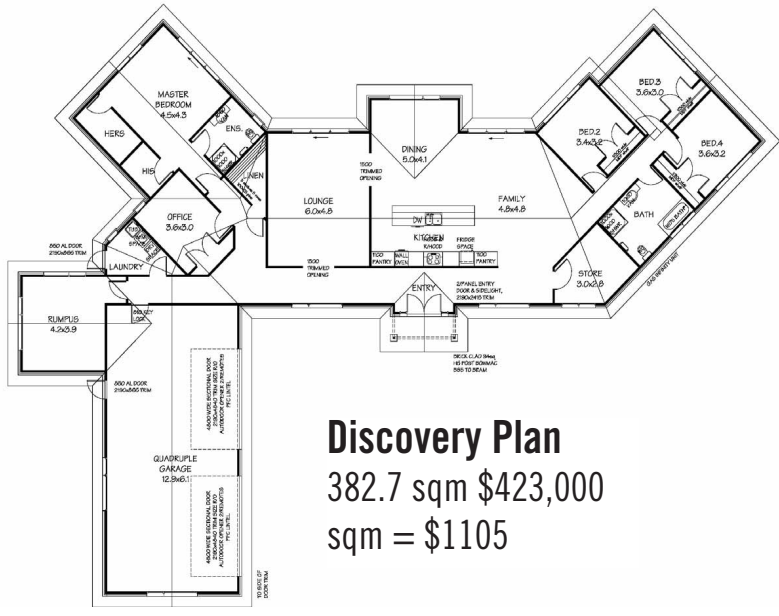
No throwing stones in glass houses

MATE
MARK WILSON



WHO among us would trade a Rugby World Cup title for a little bad press? Or a Stags victory at Eden Park for a few broken bottles? I think the answer would be, the vast majority of us would gladly favour a trade on those terms. Why is it, then, that we now seem more concerned with how our sports stars acquit themselves at 3am than we are with how they perform on the field? I can only assume last Saturday that Graeme Henry was punishing Jimmy Cowan for his recent indiscretions by leaving him warming the pine while Andy Ellis popped off loopy-paced passes at Dan Carter. Did the whole country deserve to suffer the indignity and heartbreak of a close loss on home soil, when a simple substitution could have at least alleviated one of the problems the ABs faced that night? If a video camera, pix-capable mobile phone or the latest model of night vision digital cameras followed you around to all hours each night when you decided to let your hair down ... what would they show? The odd disagreement with a bouncer over your level of intoxication, a few over-zealous remarks fired around in the heat of the moment or some rowdy antics with your mates. There are not many of us who can say we keep a polished halo at the end of the bed and don it religiously each time we step out for a few drinks. I would not, for an instant, suggest that this behaviour is socially desirable but, like it or lump it, it's part of Kiwi culture, especially among young males and all of us will sooner or later fall victim to a slight lapse in judgment after a few brews. Recently, Marc Ellis nostalgically lamented in the Dominion Post on how the antics of the amateur days are no longer acceptable in the era of professional rugby. He continued to say that, at least when you had the misfortune of being caught short in public after a few too many, someone would give you a pat on the back and help you. Now they're more likely to run to the media. We are all so quick to jump on our high horses and bag people for being human. However, we don't get a great example from our so-called leaders. Politicians are the kings of this hypocrisy, sitting up there in Parliament condemning speeding, except when you're Helen Clark and late for the rugby; or obesity in Maori and Pacific Island children — rich coming from the more-than-slightly-obese Parekura Horomia. Most of us are all guilty of things we would like to forget and often do forget. So why should professional sports people be any different. They are, after all, one of us? We have to stop building up, targeting and then knocking down our athletes and if New Zealand was a glass house there would be few broken panels appearing, I'd say.

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