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### [Is the Paralympics encouraging inspiration porn?](#)

Plus: Mobility parking fine hikes, and an unconventional method to make music

[The D\\*List](#)

Aug 30



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Kia ora! With the international warm up sports event completed and outta the way 🙄 the **Paralympic Games** has finally begun in Paris! Reducing our communities to stereotypes often becomes a popular sport every four years around the time of the Paralympic Games. Inspiration porn or '[superhuman](#)' storylines, anyone? However, most athletes want to be known for their sporting accomplishments, just like their non-disabled peers.

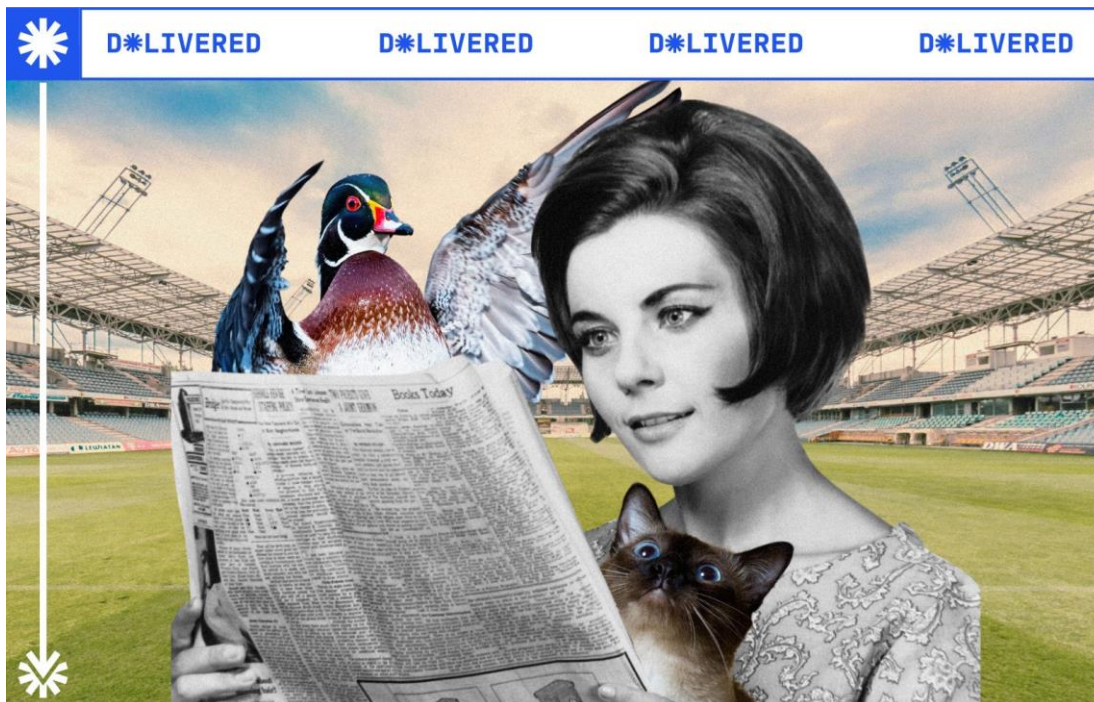


Image description: A black and white image of a woman reads the newspaper, with surprised-looking animals coming out of the pages. A sports stadium is in the background.

In anticipation of the usual clangers, we trawled through countless headlines from the mainstream media to see how their stories about the Paralympics are framed. And to be fair, we were overall quite impressed; we didn't even come across any 'wheelchair-bound' athletes, shock, horror! [Read about some of the stories we love \(and were less impressed by\) here.](#)



## IN THE NEWS

*The Spinoff* has written up profiles about the 25 **Paralympic athletes** competing in Paris this year. From **Michael Johnson** who is appearing at his sixth Paralympic Games to debut athlete **Matthew Britz**, who is the first Kiwi in 48 years to compete in table tennis at the Paralympic Games, [you can get to know them here.](#)

There was a collective cheer in our office this week when we heard that [mobility parking fines are increasing](#) from \$150 to \$750. The Government said regulated fees for towage and impoundment have not been updated since at least 2004.

🚗 What do you think of the **mobility parking fine increase**? Too much, not enough or just right? Here's what our Instagram followers had to say... Reply to this newsletter and let us know what you think of the new fine!

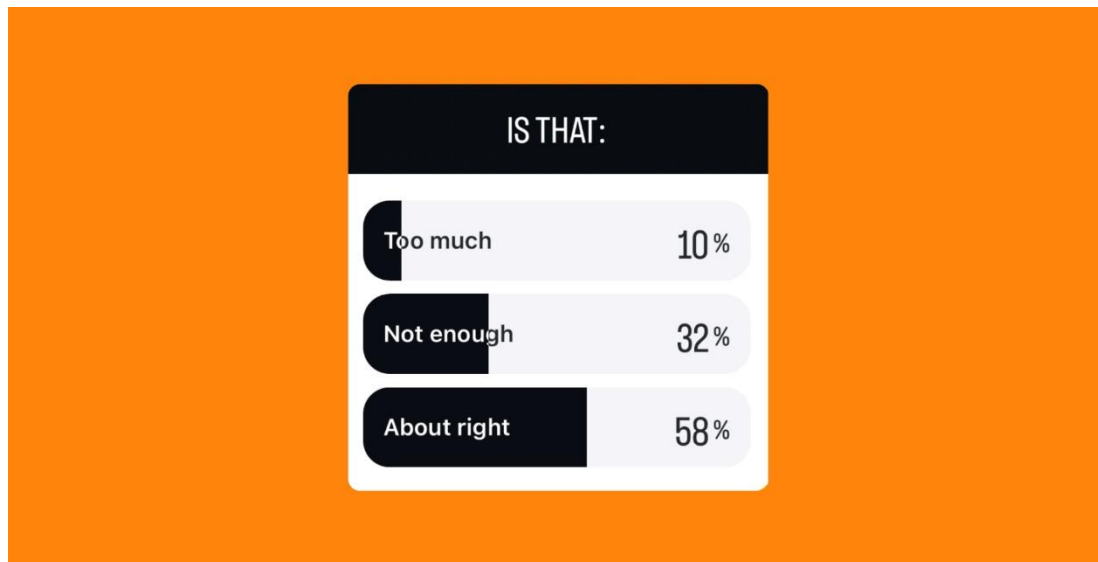


Image description: A poll reads - Too much: 10%, Not enough: 32%, About right: 58%

## ✳ OVER ON THE D ✳ LIST

We are so excited to follow the **Kiwi Paralympic athletes** compete in Paris over the coming weeks! To get others excited about it too, we roamed the malls of Tāmaki Makaurau asking people if they could name any Paralympic athletes? Here's what people had to say...

[thedlistnz](https://www.thedlistnz.com)



**Can you name a Paralympic athlete?**

A post shared by [@thedlistnz](#)

[This week on The D\\*List](#), contributor Marlo Schorr-Kon interviewed Wellington music producer Jesse Austin-Stewart who is taking an unconventional approach to producing immersive sound. Using a **PlayStation** controller, users can feel vibrations move across the controller to each hand. How cool?! Through this project, Jesse says he'd like to see more disabled people getting involved with the music creation process and hopes it will allow people to "explore music in ways they haven't been able to before".



## YOUR TO-DO LIST

🍎 Keen to find out what's available after you finish school? Disability Connect's [annual Transition Expo](#) hosts organisations who help navigate the exciting - but often challenging - stage of leaving school. The event will be held on Wednesday 4 September from 9am-2pm at the Auckland Netball Centre, 7 Allison Ferguson Drive in St Johns.

🚲 **Power in the Park**, held on Thursday 12 September in Tāmaki Makaurau, is an opportunity to check out Eden Park behind-the-scenes and have a tour of the very accessible venue. You'll also be able to check out stalls from disability support groups and find out about the latest mobility aids. There will also be wheelchair techs available throughout the day, which sounds handy for those of us who get frequent flat tyres! 😊  
[You can register to attend the event here.](#)

🎭 Whangārei-based theatre company Company of Giants is producing [The Tiny Show](#), a show for kids that will be on during the Auckland Fringe Festival. The performance has been developed to be accessible to both Deaf and hearing audiences. It runs from 1st to 3rd of September; [you can find out more here.](#)

📧 Email us with the name of your favourite Paralympic athlete and why, and we'll give them a shout out in the next newsletter!

- Olivia Shivas, Editor

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