

# PONSONBY NEWS

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## LADY WITH A GOLDEN VOICE

by Martin Leach & Jay Platt

Patrons at SPQR several Friday nights back had a treat in store. 'NZ Idol' star Rosita Vai turned up and performed three songs from her new album 'Golden' and the crowd just adored her. "It was packed out with awesome people. I kept the set short and sweet, giving them an insight to the album," she told us with her engaging smile.

Her appearance at SPQR follows her successful win with 'NZ Idol' recently. The congregation at her church - St Johns, Ponsonby - must have been holding their collective breath eight weeks ago, while many of us were glued to our television screens to see who would be the ultimate winner. Rosita's feet haven't touched the ground since and she has been busy with touring, interviews and recording. She is also looking for a house in Ponsonby. "Ponsonby is the place, and there's always something happening but I still find time for choir practice and services at St Johns most weekends".

There are not many interviews where you get a kiss and a hug, both pre and post-interview, but Rosita Vai has a very warm and bubbly personality, combined with a great sense of humour. Rosita is the oldest sibling in her family. "My family are stunned and almost speechless at my success, and my brother is so proud of me," she says. "I have been singing since I was a child and have always loved soul. My parents have always loved 'the big singing' as in church and I have always sung in the bath - in fact everywhere and anywhere - even at work. I wasn't thinking seriously about entering 'NZ Idol', but my boyfriend grabbed an application form from the BP station and persuaded me to have a go."

Rosita doesn't feel too bad about Sir Howard Morrison's comments about her weight and size either. "I have no issue with it, and was more worried about my mother being upset. I guess I should become a role model, as Polynesian obesity is obviously an issue for many." We love you Rosita - regardless of your size!

Ponsonby News has a signed copy of 'Golden' for one lucky Ponsonby News reader.

Email [martinleach@xtra.co.nz](mailto:martinleach@xtra.co.nz) by November 20th to be in the draw to win.



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