



Wineries bring back top trio

TEN years ago three of New Zealand's premier song writers joined forces to tour the country. The first step was sitting down together and playing and writing music, for them an important indicator of whether the tour was going to succeed.

Tim Finn, Dave Dobbyn and Bic Runga performed their own music and backed each other, sharing the role of front person and taking themselves out of their comfort zone. Runga even played drums, something she had rarely done on stage.

Now the three are set to embark on another journey as part of the More FM Winery Tour. I talked to all three about the upcoming shows.



Finn says he wants to bring on the harmony, exploring the skills he developed as a boy singing harmonies with his brother Neil.

Runga believes this tour will be a test for her too, as her first performances since giving birth. On the last tour, she admits, she had nerves but thinks she is more nervous now.

They all express an interest in this place called Arena in Palmerston North and laugh when they hear it is the stadium grounds at Pascal St. They have vivid memories of the city.

Runga remembers performing on the back of a trailer as a storm hit, fearing she could be electrocuted.

They say learning each other's songs and rehearsing is a challenge. Dobbyn thinks the important thing is to play the songs over and over again. Finn says lots of people think that songwriters are like jukeboxes, who know lots of other people's songs, but this isn't really the case.

The More FM Winery Tour comes to Palmerston North on February 26, at the Arena Manawatu Lawns. Tickets from winerytour.co.nz.



On tour: Bic Runga, Tim Finn, centre, and Dave Dobbyn not only performed their own music on the tour but backed each other.