

Tron ton at Regency Summer Ball

A first in New Zealand, and it seems the world, is a large outdoor Regency-era Summer Ball. Every town is crying out for such a ball, but Hamilton is where the ton will be this season. At the Bridgeton Summer Ball, Sat 11 March 2023, 11:45am to 8:30pm, costume is mandatory, though the ticket includes a costume to keep.



The Regency era was loosely 1795 to 1837. Young ladies would come out or debut into society. Being a debutante basically means being available for marriage. Making the right connections between families was a serious business and the balls were where such allegiances formed. Family status was at stake. A bad match or, worse, no marriage could destroy a family and its future generations. Nerves rattled when two suitors paired to dance.



For your erudition, ton (pronounced like gone) refers to high society and the season is the season for balls.



Set in the beautiful grounds of English Cherry Tree Manor, practice Regency dance in classes prior to the ball, which is between 6-8pm. Learn to bow, curtsy and conduct yourself in the correct social manners.

An improper social step such as a debutante being found alone unchaperoned with a suitor would result in an enforced match whether desirable or not, sealing the family's fate.



Beauty make-up sessions are available onsite. Bring or buy a picnic. Partake in High Tea. Try a food vendor, ice cream and the odd mocktail. Included in the price is a light pasta dinner. Try your hand at croquet.

Many different acts perform on the main stage and throughout the garden during the day. Local group, Dance Folkus lead the ball and dance classes.

When the ball ends at 8pm, there is a finale where various of the performers collaborate in a bopping medley. The medley includes contemporary pieces Forever Young, Kashmir, Rolling in the Deep, Viva la Vida and Sky Full of Stars played in a classical style. Performed by Jazz Vidamo, Arcus Quartet, Wai Taiko Drummers, Mana Whenua, Drury Lane Dance Studio and a top saxophonist among others. Jazz Vidamo of Morrinsville, soprano, is one of the top one hundred upcoming stars in the world. Arcus Quartet have players from Auckland Philharmonia.

The Tron ton will be out in force, no doubt walzing with the Auckland high society, the Tauranga BOPpers and the very best down from their country estates far and wide. Find out who is 'in' and who is 'out'.

Admission: Early bird \$169, 4th March 2023 \$199

From 6 March: Standard \$239 VIP \$499/\$609

From 11 March: Standard \$299 VIP \$549/\$659

Event: Bridgeron Summer Ball

Date: 11 March, Saturday, 2023

Time: 11:45am to 8:30pm

Venue: English Cherry Tree Manor, 125 Matangi Rd, Tamahere 3284, Hamilton

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