

## KAREKARE AND FAIRLIGHT, PIONEERS TOGETHER

**NEW ZEALAND:** Nestled in the hillside overlooking the picturesque Karekare beach, 40km from Auckland and made famous by the movie *The Piano*, sits Karekare Recording. Built in 1992 on land originally purchased from pioneer explorer Sir Edmund Hillary to record New Zealand band Crowded House, it is no surprise that the facility opted to upgrade to the Fairlight Constellation XCS fully integrated large-scale digital recording, editing and mixing system.

'Recording at Karekare is a holistic experience dedicated to music as an expression of how we live and create, as much as the music itself,' says Karekare studio director Nigel Horrocks. 'Local artist Che Foo described it perfectly when he said there were many great studios around but only one Karekare.'

For Mr Horrocks, Fairlight offers a speedy workflow, a great sound and easy integration with external and internal systems already in place at the studio, and those brought in by visiting artists and engineers. 'I love Fairlight,' he says. 'Again, it is that whole holistic experience I

really enjoy. It is fantastic to use, intuitive and powerful unlike some other systems that don't fit in or can't keep up.'

Karekare Recording has an impressive credits list including Crowded House's album *Together Alone*, Pearl Jam, Radiohead, Portishead, Killing Joke and Monta Yoshinori. There is also a strong emphasis on recording the traditional music of the Pacific (including Japan, New Guinea and the South Pacific), classical and contemporary music as well as operating the place for songwriting and pre-production.

Two years ago Mr Horrocks redesigned the studio with an accent on live recording in the grand analogue tradition of the famous Sun Studios (in Memphis, US) but using the latest digital technology. 'I'm a big Fairlight fan and knew their ground-breaking digital technology would enhance my approach to live recording so the choice to incorporate Fairlight in our future path was obvious,' says Mr Horrocks. 'Live recording in the controlled Fairlight environment results in track laying, mixing and mastering achieved at a significantly faster rate, without any reduction in quality, and cheaper for the client. It's an analogue approach using a digital cost-efficient system.'



Karekare chief engineer Ollivier Ballester and MD Nigel Horrocks with Fairlight Constellation XCS

Fairlight Asia-Pacific sales director Lukas Bower oversaw the recent upgrade and was more than happy to welcome Karekare Recording to their rapidly expanding list of Constellation XCS owners.

'Fairlight has its roots in the music industry, as Fairlight's original

product was the CMI Sampling Keyboard – which revolutionised music production in the 1980s,' he says.

'Although we have expanded our product range to support the film, broadcast and post-production markets, we still have a special

place in our hearts for music facilities and are thrilled to count such a special studio as Karekare as one of them.'

**Karekare Recording, New Zealand:**  
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