

MUSEUM ROCKS

20 December 2007- the night that shook Gisborne city – could have been a lot worse for Tairawhiti Museum. Earthquake damage to the museum and its collections was minor considering the number of items that were on display.

Structural damage occurred in Wyllie Cottage due to the brick chimney collapsing and the building had to be closed for 10 weeks while repairs were carried out. Some shop vases and pottery in the museum collection were damaged (only 5 pieces in all).

We had taken some precautions last year and quake-proofed many of the items in the storerooms. As a result there was no damage to the items in storage. Fortunately we were closed at the time of the earthquake.

Readers may be interested in a museum product called *Quakehold*. *QuakeHold* adhesives are used to secure your treasured items and collectibles during an earthquake or from falls when bumped. It is available at <http://www.conservationssupplies.co.nz>



Sorta Photo Experts



Val McGreevy(l) and Gwenda Crawshaw(r) are two members of the museum's valuable resource, our volunteers. Every week they come in for a few hours and work on the extensive photographic collection. Sorting, cataloguing, mounting and re-housing the photographs for public access is their speciality. Without our volunteers our museum would

struggle to operate.

A long time Friends of the Museum member, Val has been helping out for the past five years and is a strong supporter of the museum. Val personally brings to the museum every guest that visits her. Over the years she has always been involved with the Gisborne community and upon retirement sought volunteering work at the museum to give some time back to the community. Val has interests in photography and embroidery, enjoys travel, but most recently has found a passion for lawn bowls.

Gwenda has an association with the museum that spans 45 years. She is a past president of the museum executive and served on the committee several

times. She has volunteered in many parts of the museum including such things as hanging art exhibitions and even ran the iconic Montana Art Award. A past president and secretary of the Artists' Society, her active painting and wood sculpting has been replaced with an enthusiasm for silver crafting and enamelling. Gwenda is chair of Art in Public Places and runs 'Gwendas Cottage', a bed and breakfast set amongst her beautiful garden, another one of her passions.

Gwenda and Val are involved in Friendship Force and bring the touring groups to the museum. Both have extensive local knowledge and are passionate about preserving history, making them the ideal volunteers for the job.

Art at Your Place

by Pene Walsh

Public libraries traditionally loaned out reproductions of the 'great masters' – just like loaning a book - in part because access to viewing these works was limited. However, over the years the service became less important as posters became freely available. Subsequently early posters bleached quickly and all great masters had a 'blue period' about them.

At that stage staff had a serious look at the relevance and condition of the art reproduction collection at H B Williams Memorial Library and decided both to localize the collection, keep it 'real' and keep the tiny budget within Gisborne's art economy.

The main criterion for the artists who have been represented in the collection are that the work must be original; on paper and that the artist must hail from or live in Gisborne District. It is

important, too, that the work be a manageable size – that is, you should be able to walk home a painting or photograph tucked under your arm.

Why do people borrow these works from the library?

- Some families have a spot on a wall reserved for a library painting that they change every 6 weeks so their family can appreciate local art.
- Gives an opportunity to decide if an artist's style is to your liking before buying a painting from the artist
- Professional business's hire works to hang in their offices and waiting rooms providing an ever-changing vista for their customers
- Teachers borrow art works to assist in teaching the arts curriculum
- Home sellers and landlords hire work to make their homes look desirable to potential buyers and renters.

We have a number of paintings and photographs that depict

Young Nick's Head and Mt Hikurangi. We started collecting these because that is what people wanted to hang in their homes and because they are local icons. Over a period of time it has been interesting to note the changing landscape of Young Nick's Head and so the collection is beginning to become a record of the visual evolution of Te Kuri o Paoa.

There is also the famous photograph of the dawn of the new millennium that was published on front page of Sunday Star Times 01/01/2000. Complimenting that is a framed piece of tapa cloth from Tonga depicting 'where time begins'.

Have a look at the collection online:

Go to www.gpl.govt.nz

Click on 'search catalogue' button

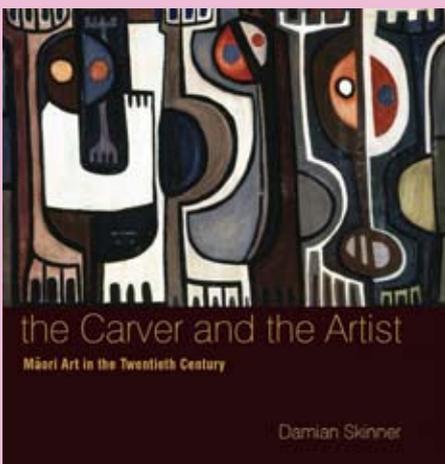
See a menu on the left hand pane?

Click on 'reading lists'

Click on the art work collection list

The Tairawhiti Museum and the H.B.Williams Library are working together on various projects. The Library will feature regular articles in Tui Tui Tuituia.

Book Launch



Launching on 26 March, 5:30pm

Please join us at the museum on Wednesday 26 March 2008 for the launch of Damian Skinner's book *The Carver and the Artist: Māori Art in the Twentieth Century*, published by Auckland University Press.

In The Carver and the Artist Damian Skinner charts the growth and development of the new forms of Maori art that emerged from the rapid urbanisation of Maori in the mid-twentieth century. He tells the story of the customary culture championed by Sir Apirana Ngata at the Rotorua School of Maori Arts and Crafts, and how artists like Arnold Wilson, Para Matchitt and Selwyn Muru, encouraged by Gordon Tovey and the Education Department, reacted against this and constructed a Maori art that engaged with the modern world in which they lived. There was a rich trafficking between tradition and modernism – two seemingly incompatible but not always opposing positions that were the source of a great upswelling of creativity.

Damian moved to Gisborne in February 2007, and he is working with Tairawhiti Museum to develop the new semi-permanent history exhibition titled Watersheds/Nga Wai Pupu: Historic Rivers of Tairawhiti. He is a well-known art historian and curator who has written about a variety of Maori and Pakeha artists. *Metaphysical Heart: Jewellery* by Peter McKay, which was curated by Damian, is opening at the museum in April 2008.

The launch will begin at 5.30pm, and will also include a guided tour of the taonga exhibition. Dr Sam Elworthy, the director of Auckland University Press will be attending, and the book will be officially launched by Jody Wyllie, curator of taonga Maori at Tairawhiti Museum.



Protestant sampler
Peter Ireland. 1999
Oil on paper

ART FOR ARTS SAKE

HB Williams Memorial Library has an extensive collection of local artworks and photographs available to borrow.

Create inspiration to any home, office, waiting room, real estate open home, or just show off to your friends!

Visit our website to view the entire artwork collection.
www.gpl.govt.nz

artworks | Library

Additions to the Museum's Collections:

- Research materials of John Mephram who published a book on Tokomaru Bay just before his premature death in 1968 at the age of 25
- A Maori cloak of local origins, sent from Wellington
- Fibre art portrait of a Maori gentleman in the style of Lindauer or Goldie
- An artwork from the recent Toihoukura exhibition
- 1902 Memorandum of Lease from the Mangatu district
- Memorabilia from Tom and Esmé Tombleson, including a Norman Scott painting of Mt Hikurangi
- Matawhero sale yards identity, Barrie Gordon, donated his latest book *Shut the Bloody Gate*
- An Anne de Lautour pot
- Salving the Jody F Millennium, Feb 2002 - video by United Salvage
- 2 photos by early Gisborne photographer Elworthy Doddrell, from a descendant in Rotorua
- 1887 Maori bible

Staff Spotlight

by Gayle Te Kani



I was employed as Education Officer at the Tairāwhiti Museum in May of 2005. A teacher of 28 years, I have taught in Gisborne, Tokoroa and Tauranga in both Primary and Secondary, and also in an International school.

I come from Rotorua, grew up in Turangi, trained as a teacher in Hamilton and have remained in the teaching profession ever since. I have always felt a real connection with the Tairāwhiti region. My husband Tauha Te Kani is from Gisborne and we have five sons.

It has been a privilege to be part of the education team at the museum. There are two other members of the team, who have strengths in Art and Te Reo. Our main focus is Social Sciences, which looks primarily at the history of this area. Creating lessons around Tairāwhiti stories, history and collections that are housed at the museum, have definitely been a highlight.

Drama and story telling methods are utilized to bring this history alive, engaging students and adults alike. Art is another major focus, which allows us to utilize the three art galleries we have in the museum.

The education programme caters for students from Potaka in the north to Kotemaori in the south and as far inland as Motu. We travel to schools out of Gisborne but the majority of our education programmes take place in the museum where students are able to have relevant and valuable learning experiences outside the classroom. We are constantly updating and creating new lessons to support the current exhibitions. Our aim is to provide stimulating hands-on, interactive lessons that leave the students and teachers wanting to return to the museum for another lesson.

My passion for teaching and history is certainly rewarded when I see the enthusiasm, thirst for knowledge and obvious learning that takes place through the museum's programmes.

EXHIBIT
C A F E

Award Winning

Open Monday to Saturday 10am - 3.30pm
for fantastic food in a relaxed and tranquil setting.



Visitor Services

In July last year we changed the visitor desk operation to a rostered system. This alteration allowed those staff working weekends to keep in touch with what was happening during the week. The change has been beneficial to the museum's operation. Three people are working the roster and after eight months in the job we would like to introduce these Visitor Services Officers to our friends.

Bridget Tait

I have lived in Gisborne all my life and love the lifestyle here, especially the beaches! I am enjoying working here. Each day brings new and interesting people.



Jana Ruru

Jana Ruru

I was born and raised in Wellington but I have been living in Gisborne for the last 2 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed coming back to my home roots. I am learning a whole lot about the history of the East Coast area and meeting new people everyday is a huge privilege.

Mia Lee

I am Korean and married to a Gisborne guy. I enjoy helping people and operating the museum's visitor desk gives me great opportunities to meet new people from all around the world.



Bridget Tait (l) & Mia Lee (r)

EXHIBITIONS

14-12-07 - 31-03-08

He Whakaaraara / An Awakening
Taonga Maori museum collection

25-01-07 - 16-03-08

Famous Faces II
Profiles of the region's personalities

04-04-08 - 25-05-08

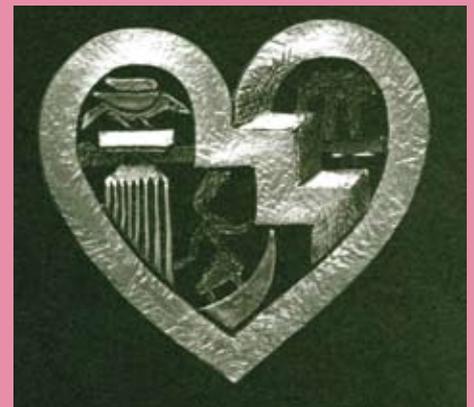
Gisborne Artists Society and Pottery Group.

18-04-08 - 01-06-08

Simon Lardelli - *IWI*

24-04-08 - 29-06-08

Peter McKay - *Metaphysical Heart Jewellery*.



Small heart with column.
Peter McKay jewellery exhibition.

Gisborne Artists' Society

The New Year finds the committee of the Artists' Society planning activities to interest members and those of the public who wish to extend their skills.

The intention is to offer a weekend workshop at least once a month and to have a wide variety of styles, media and genre presented by different tutors. These will add to the usual weekly studio sessions, offering recreational painting, life drawing and the like.

Members are reminded of the annual exhibition which will

be in the museum's Chrisp gallery 4 April - 25 May. The last receiving day for entries at Lysnar House is THURSDAY 20th MARCH and as always, there is an emphasis on originality of work submitted with adequate framing.

The Lysnar House studio has had a major make-over with exterior painting and new curtains. All members using the premises are asked to attend to the removal of rubbish and to make sure a donation towards the cost of power - the appropriate box is right by the door - is not forgotten.

New membership is encouraged! If you know of anyone who would like to become more involved, suggest that they sign up by first becoming a supporter of Friends of the Museum then paying the very modest fee to join the Artists' Society.

Become a Friend of the Museum

Join us by completing a membership form available from reception.

Annual membership
\$25 Single
\$35 family
\$80 Business