

MINISTERIAL VISIT TO MUSEUM



Mayor Meng Foon, Hon. Judith Tizard, Dr Apirana Mahuika (Museum Board chairman), Moana Mackey MP, Michael Muir (Museum Board), Anne McGuire (Museum Board)

Hon. Judith Tizard, Associate Minister of Arts, Culture & Heritage (also the Minister responsible for Archives NZ, the National Library and other portfolios) and her colleague Moana Mackey MP were recent visitors to the museum. In town for the launch of Creative Tairāwhiti's new arts networking website, she made time to come in and catch up with the latest developments at the museum.

The Minister updated us on all sorts of arts and heritage projects happening nationally and internationally. She also took in a comprehensive tour of the museum and its storerooms. She was particularly pleased to view stored in the Fine Arts Room a piece of art by Philip Clairmont, donated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2001, an initiative she and her colleagues championed as a way of placing fine art back into communities.

Interested in the region's cultural heritage profile, she received an update on the Navigation Project from the mayor and the museum board members involved in the development of this project.

Overall, she was impressed with how the museum is telling stories that provide us with an opportunity to discuss and explore ourselves, our histories and our identities further.



Sarah Pohatu, Moana Mackey, Judith Tizard, and Jolene Douglas enjoying the 'Korowai' exhibition. This exhibition covers a broad range of traditional and contemporary weaving. All 42 exhibits were patiently produced with loving skill by local weavers.

Staff Spotlight

by Dudley L Meadows

I have a background in professional photography. When I came back from my 'O.E.' the museum was looking for somebody to complete the printing of the William F. Crawford collection. I had printed some of these glass plate negatives before and was delighted to take on the contract. I was offered a full-time position in the following year (1995).

The approximately 7000 images made by Crawford are the crown jewels of the Museum's photographic collection. It is my job to 'look after' this collection and the other photographs (about 80,000).

People often offer photos of local events or regional personalities to the museum. If it is a temporary loan, I make copies of the images and the originals are returned to the lender. Otherwise the photographs are accepted into the collection. They are inspected for any immediate need for conservation, which I undertake. Then it is a matter of

'housing' the material to ensure it will last as long as possible. Each image is catalogued and often a file print made for research.

I can then assist researchers who are searching for a particular image. The photographs end up in research papers, books, and sometimes on television documentaries. Prints are often ordered for family genealogists or as decorative and interesting wall prints. Museum staff use the images for research, education and of course exhibitions.

I am called upon to photograph collection items, museum activities and to generate images for use in exhibitions. I have also prepared solo photographic exhibitions.

Being part of a small staff I enjoy working in all areas of the museum. I have had the responsibility of researching and curating historical and social history exhibitions. I have assisted Jolene in exhibition installations and now design and layout these newsletters. Looking after the website and keeping an eye on the Information Technology side of things



Dudley L Meadows

complete my current 'portfolio'.

I find it a privilege and pleasure to work with this district's images of the past and as the digital world expands I hope to make these images even more accessible.

If you have any interesting photographs, bring them in and ask for Dudley.

Education

If your children ever thought the Museum was a boring place where you can only look and not touch, everything's old and dusty and doesn't interest them in the least, then maybe it's time to rethink. Ask the students from Cobham School, who experienced an action-packed day at the museum last month, learning about toys and how they have changed through history.

Some items from the Museum's Toy Collection, dating back to when the museum first opened in the 1950s, were on display, as well as toys spanning the last century and from recent years. Students were shown traditional Māori toys

like the poutoti (stilts) and whai (string games), and experimented with porotiti (whizzers), porotaka (spinning tops). Toys dating back to early European settlement also featured; including china dolls, rocking horses and pull-along toys. Outside they rolled wooden hoops, played quoits, marbles and knucklebones, while the chronology continued through the 20th Century; wind-up trains, rag-dolls, wooden pinball, meccano, and then a range of plastic fantastic, battery operated toys like those every child will be familiar with today.

A big thank-you to Cobham School for their involvement in this lesson, and also to Grace and Kowhai Cleland-Pottie for lending us their toys.



Collections

The following treasures were added to the museum's collections this winter:

- Pakeke Lions archival items; the club has recently closed down
- Gisborne Musical Theatre (formerly Gisborne Operatic Society) archival items
- A Minutes book from the former Gisborne Repertory Society
- Historic photos
- New and historic books for the Research Centre's reference library
- Plan of the Kairoro Saleyards 1921, once adjacent to the Matawhero Saleyards

The museum is always extremely grateful to all donors for remembering us before disposing of unwanted items!

Would you like to support the museum?

Call us about advertising in the Tui Tui Tuituia newsletters.

Artists' Society

If you have passed Lysnar House recently you may have noticed the sharp new appearance of the old studio building, now freshly painted. Much of the shrubbery that almost masked the entrance has now gone. Changes are afoot inside too.

The Committee is delighted to find membership steadily climbing; perhaps local artists are beginning to realise the benefits of belonging. A series of workshops continues with a mosaic course operating on 6th-7th October (Ph. Jenny – 8672202 if interested). In November, there will be a weekend course 'Interpreting Landscape' run by Phyllis Underdown, an excellent tutor with many years' experience as a painter. This is a chance to move from observational drawing into development of images using oils or acrylics.

Ever thought of working in silver? Contact Gwenda Crawshaw (Ph.8685407) or Barbara Pole (8685692) who continue to produce delicate and beautiful pieces and would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to join them.

And if you're not a member of the Artists' Society yet, make sure that happens: you'll be surprised at the range of activities on offer.



Early images from Gisborne Amateur Operatic Society Incorporated Scrapbook



A Word from the Chairman

In 2007 we are able to look back and reflect on our efforts and the tremendous gains that have been made. The 2006/07 year opened with the Museum publicly stating that it was facing a financial crisis that threatened its ongoing operation. After a series of reviews, some self-initiated, others required of the Museum by the Gisborne District Council, we are in the best position going forward that we have been for some years. Financial support from the Council, Ministry of Education and Te Puni Kokiri have helped our situation greatly.

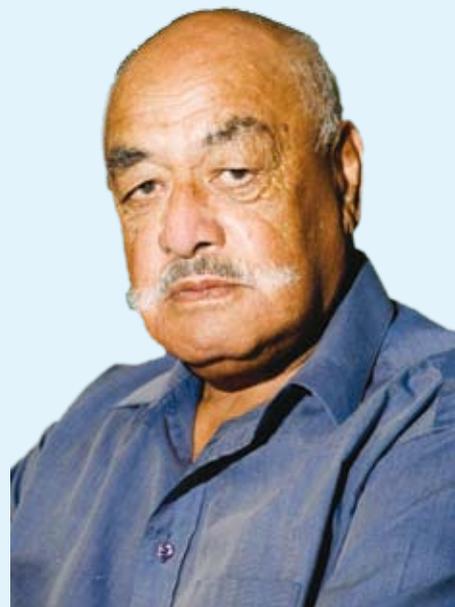
As a result of the working party review undertaken this year we have an improved relationship with our local authority, which provides the main source of funding (65%) for the Museum. Between us we have put in place systems to better monitor the Gisborne District Council's interest in the responsible stewardship of the collections we hold for the benefit of the Tairāwhiti community.

This quarterly issue of Tuituia is the fifth since we resurrected the newsletter and heralds the beginning of Spring. We feel sure it brings with it more positive change for our museum and art gallery and we hope the acceptance of these changes will continue to be reflected by the growth of our Friends membership, which has grown from 70 to 300 in the past twelve months.

Dr A.T.Mahuika

NZ Museum Standards Scheme Report

The past financial year has been dominated by a peer-review of the museum's operation in relation to the Museum Standards Scheme. Ultimately, this evaluation was concerned with stewardship obligations (i.e. whether the museum has adequate resources and facilities to care for and make the best use of its



Dr Apirana Mahuika

collections). No one knew with certainty just what the review would turn up.

Museum staff completed the five modules of the scheme in June. Participation is voluntary for museums, but shows commitment to improving our practice as caretakers of our heritage. The scheme involves a self-review and peer review of its organisational policies and procedures and provides a valuable means of benchmarking performance against accepted standards of practice and setting action plans for the future.

In March we forwarded our self-review findings to National Services-Te Paerangi at Te Papa Tongarewa. They in turn arranged for Dean Flavell (Tauranga Museum) and Catherine Lomas (Auckland City Art Gallery) to carry out a peer review. The peer-review report contains useful findings and suggestions for improvement which the museum's board of trustees and staff are now addressing. Overall, however, it was felt that the Museum meets most standards for museum best practice and, in many instances, exceeds the standards. The report stated generally that the Museum was 'in good hands and was to be commended for its knowledgeable, responsible and committed staff.'

EXHIBIT
C A F E

Award Winning

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

EXHIBITIONS

12/10/07 - 25/11/07



The LIVLIF Project - by Lynne Lambert
An installation of 658 bras donated by
breast cancer survivors throughout New
Zealand.

18/10/07 - 25/11/07

OUR VIEW
Helena Andersson - Jeweller
Peggy Ericson - Clay Worker
Deborah Clark - Painter

26/10/07 - 02/12/07 Erica Holden - multi media artist

07/12/07 - 20/01/08 Toihoukura -Contemporary Maori Art

14/12/07 - 13/04/08 Taonga Maori form the museum collection



Rawiri Tamanui series, Tawera Tahuri

Friends Committee

About a year ago I was asked to provide some support for the Friends of Te Tairāwhiti Museum Incorporated. What started out as a seemingly simple undertaking, which I incorrectly assumed would take no time at all, very quickly turned into a complex mix of activity requiring lots of input. A year later and after holding two Special General Meetings, a rewrite of the constitution, recovery of the legal status, resumption of formal reporting and redevelopment of the database, we not only achieved the goals we had set but also enjoyed the journey.

Thanks to the commitment of a dedicated Friends Committee and the tremendous support of the Museum Director and his staff the challenges that we faced were overcome, some easily and others with a bit more work. The experience of working so closely together has given the committee members a greater insight into the Museum operations and staff. It has also provided the Museum staff with an opportunity to get to know and appreciate some very dedicated Friends.

I have been the chairman of a large number of groups through the years and have spent a lot of time working with groups to achieve their goals or shared outcomes. If you have a group that demonstrates a high level of integrity, shares a common purpose and is action focused, being the chairman of such a group is an absolute pleasure. The Friends committee is such a group and

Making a Killing

Reprint now available

Making a Killing charts the turbulent economic and social history of the freezing works industry in Gisborne and on the East Coast from the era of sailing ships to the present.

Contains more than 300 illustrations.

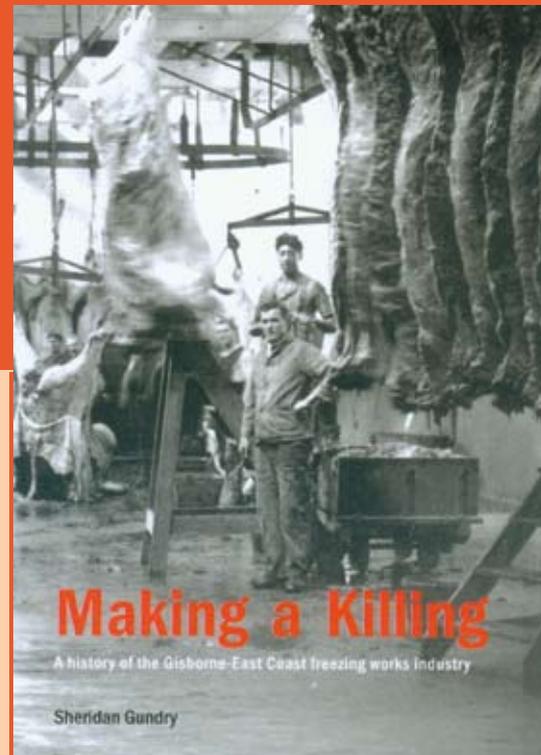
deserves a tremendous vote of thanks for the goals that they achieved during the year and for perpetuating the notion of a "Friend" to each other, to staff of the Museum and to others in the community.

Being a "Friend" of the Museum entitles you, upon joining and paying the fee, to free entry for that year and regular invitations to the wonderful exhibitions and happenings at the Museum. There is also an unspoken expectation that you will be part of the marketing arm of the Museum "Befriending" others and convincing them to join up or at least visit to experience one of the region's most popular attractions.

Become a Friend of the Museum

Join us by completing a membership form available from reception.

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



Get your copy from ARTBEAT, the museum shop.

Makes a great birthday or Christmas gift.

only \$45 while stocks last