

# Tui! Tui! Tutuia!

Quarterly newsletter of the Tairāwhiti Museum & Art Gallery  
Te Whare Taonga O te Tairāwhiti  
Spring 2010 ISSN 117-4975



From *The Whale Rider: Prologue*

## The Passing World, The Passage of Life: The Art of JOHN HOVELL

24 SEPTEMBER - 5 DECEMBER

### SHADES OF FANTASTIC



9 July - 12 September

#### Shades of Fantastic Rom Brown and Jack Straker

Jack Straker's polymer clay figures include dragons, gnomes, warriors, alien cats, a sea horse robot and an alien giant ant. Imagine finding one of these creatures amongst your Christmas presents! Rom Brown's paintings can also be purchased as prints. Visitors' favourite paintings include *The Brewers* and *Toadstool Guardian*.

#### Body in Action

17 July - 19 September

Body in Action is a science interactive exhibition that enables children to put their bodies to the test. How acute are their senses of touch, smell, taste, sight, and hearing? Can they solve the brain teasers? Are they eating a balanced diet? How steady is their hand movement? Interactive science is both challenging and fun.



### THE ART OF JOHN HOVELL



24 September - 5 December

#### The Passing World, The Passage of Life: The Art of John Hovell

This exhibition celebrates the art of Māori artist John Hovell. Surveying a career that spans four decades, *The Passing World, The Passage of Life* showcases the work of an artist who has achieved success in two spheres of activity.

From the mid-1960s to the early 1980s, Hovell was part of the contemporary Māori art movement, exhibiting his paintings alongside artists such as Paratene Matchitt and Sandy Adsett, and taking part in the activities of organisations such as Ngā Puna Waihangā (the Māori Artists and Writers Society).

Since the mid-1980s Hovell has been working in customary contexts, designing and producing kōwhaiwhai and murals for marae projects in Auckland, the Coromandel peninsula and the East Coast. He has established a reputation as a kōwhaiwhai artist of note, working alongside tohunga whakairo (carving experts) such as Pakiriki Harrison.

Hovell's art practice offers a series of important insights into the development of Māori art in the second half of the twentieth century, including the relationship between customary and contemporary Māori art, the connections between Māori and Pākehā art, and the ongoing development of customary arts such as kōwhaiwhai in the present.

Damian Skinner, curator

Opening: 5.30pm Friday 24 September.  
Floor talk: John Hovell and Damian Skinner: 2pm Saturday 25 September.  
Lecture: Damian Skinner: Rethinking kōwhaiwhai after a conversation with John Hovell: 5.30pm Wednesday 6 October.

### EARTH AND OCEAN



1 October - 19 November

#### Earth and Ocean Juliet Bowen and Anna Cirolli Brown

'I have long been fascinated with the intersection of the land's structure and the sea, where they touch – where there is constant interaction, movement, life, debris and change. Faced with the reality of the huge spaces, elements and the dynamics at work within them, I have painted what I've noticed and simply followed that.' Juliet Bowen

'In essence my work refers to the unique relationship between land and sea which defines Mahia. This has been the impetus for exploration and reconnection with my whakapapa. The natural media uku (clay) and harakeke (flax) have been the inspiration for the expression of my Māori heritage and personal journey.' Anna Cirolli (Rongomaiwahine)



### ROCKERS AND ROLLERS



19 November - 14 January

#### Rockers and Rollers

Printmaking emerged in the 1970s as a dynamic and affordable art form that engaged a much wider audience with contemporary New Zealand art. While the New Zealand Print Council provided a national forum for printmakers at this time, there were also a number of metropolitan and regional printmaker collectives throughout New Zealand. In Gisborne, Penny Ormerod led an active group of printmakers and a number of that group are still printmaking today.

Rockers and Rollers, a selection of New Zealand prints from the New Zealand Print Council Collection, collected from 1967 until 1977, includes works by Pat Hanly, John Drawbridge, Marilyn Webb, Barry Cleavin, Robin White, Penny Ormerod, Roy Cowan, Gordon Walters and Jeffrey Harris. The New Zealand Print Council Collection was gifted to Aratoi the Wairarapa Museum of Art and History. Aratoi has generously made this selection of prints from the collection available for exhibition at Tairāwhiti Museum.

Images clockwise :  
*RED Dragon* - Jack Straker ;  
*Pohutukawa as a public address system, Ruanahanga Bay* - John Hovell ;  
*Turihaua (Brown)* - Juliet Bowen ;  
*Tubular No 3* - Don Ramage - 1971 Collection of the Wairarapa Cultural Trust ;  
Te Hapara School visit :  
*Kina 1, Kina 2, Māhē* - Anna Cirolli.

## EXHIBIT CAFE



**The Exhibit Café** is open for lunches, brunches, morning and afternoon teas. Select from the delicious range of pasta, frittata, soup, panini, bagels, salads, sandwiches, muffins and cakes. There are quiet spots for you and a friend to meet or larger tables for families or groups to celebrate a special occasion.

Moy Chan and her staff do all the baking on the premises, use predominantly local ingredients and cater to a variety of dietary needs including gluten free options. Exhibit Café offers catering services for meetings, courses and exhibition openings.

Opening hours: 10.00am to 3.00pm. Monday to Saturday.

Enquiries contact: Moy Chan at the Tairāwhiti Museum on (06) 867 3832. Mob: 027 415 701. Email: moychan@xtra.co.nz



## ARTBEAT GALLERY SHOP



**Artbeat gallery shop**, the museum shop, sells a wide range of art and craft items including prints, paintings, pottery, inlaid wooden bowls and boxes, jewellery, bone carvings, kete, and weavings. Books about the history of Gisborne and the wider region, particularly on historic places, and on New Zealand art are also available.

Artbeat gallery shop sells pottery created by local potters David Hope, Hew Lloyd and Seymour May, woodwork by John Hall and weaving by Sarah Spence. You will find a unique birthday gift at Artbeat for a very reasonable price. Our staff are very helpful and gift wrapping is part of the service.

September Special: 10% off Pam Kerr's Jewellery

Julia Gould kete (image above)  
Kete Price: \$ 135



## FROM THE COLLECTION



### Cookie in the South Pacific

Michel Tuffery is a New Zealand artist of Samoan, Rarotongan and Tahitian descent whose work explores ideas and stereotypes of Pacific colonisation and the ongoing effects of globalisation. Tuffery is interested in the encounters between Pacific Island peoples and Europeans during the period of European colonisation; in particular the voyages of James Cook, beginning in 1769. It was on his first voyage into the Pacific that Cook first encountered Māori during his landings at Turanganui river-mouth (Gisborne) and Te Upoko o Te Ika (Cook's Cove), south of Uawa (Tolaga Bay). Tuffery has created paintings and prints exploring the place of Cook in Pacific history. Tairāwhiti Museum and Art Gallery recently purchased two prints by Michel Tuffery for the fine arts collection. One of these prints, *Cookie in the South Pacific*, is illustrated above.

Michel Tuffery recently visited Tairāwhiti Museum to make a presentation about his art work. While he was here he visited Cook's Cove and toured the 'Cook sites' in the Turanganui heritage precinct. It is hoped that he will have an exhibition at Tairāwhiti Museum in 2012 at the time of the Transit of Venus.



## DIRECTOR'S COMMENT



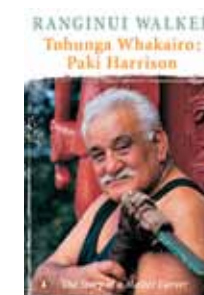
Dr David Butts, Mrs Phyllis Underdown, Mrs Pamela Hall and Mrs Ingrid Searancke

The museum trustees have recognised three new Life Members: Mrs Ingrid Searancke (for services to museum governance), Mrs Pamela Hall (for services as Honorary Museum Archivist) and Mrs Phyllis Underdown (for services to the fine arts). In recognising the significant contribution made by these individuals to the museum and hence to the wider community we also recognise the importance of the work done by all our trustees, volunteers and other supporters.

Tairāwhiti Museum and Art Gallery has been a hive of activity this winter. The diverse range of exhibitions and lectures has attracted many visitors to the complex. Knowing that you can come to the museum and art gallery to see wonderful exhibitions, have a cup of coffee or a light meal in the café and browse in the museum shop, offers an inspiring and restful option during a busy week or at the weekend. Jack Richards' collection of Chinese and Korean embroidered robes, Nigel Brown's paintings and the selection of Tairāwhiti Landscapes from the museum collection, followed by the science interactive exhibition *Body in Action* and the alien creatures depicted in Romilly Brown's paintings and Jack Straker's sculptures, ensured that we have had something for everyone to enjoy.

Museum staff have been working with local families, community groups, public institutions and iwi on a wide range of projects. Some of these projects will result in exhibitions at the museum, while our participation in other projects, such as the Marae Conservation Advisory Group and the Vietnam Veterans' Oral History Project, is focused on working with particular communities to pursue their own heritage projects.

## H B WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY



A hazard for researchers, librarians and googlers alike is getting side-tracked from the topic one should be researching, as happened when I was trying to research marakihau and rediscovered a love of kōwhaiwhai. Times spent in wharenuī (meeting houses) as a child, not really listening to the speeches of grown-ups, meant I spent a lot of time gazing upwards at tāhu and heke on the ceiling. The patterns on these painted ridgepoles and rafters almost always seemed to be derived from nature. For me, it meant taking imaginative journeys on olden day Māori fishing trips and on bush adventures, at least until it was time for kai. Whilst not entirely productive at the time, this pleasurable side-effect has led me to not just look at the pictures but properly 'read' and 're-read' them.

**Painted Histories : early figurative painting**  
**Roger Neich**  
1869402782

The cover of *Painted Histories* illustrates paintings from Hinetamatea house at Anaura Bay. Inside, the book contains a rich resource of photographs and information including a lot of East Coast material. Kōwhaiwhai appear to have been free from tapu, resulting in a lot of experimental work, such as the introduction of figures, first created by artists in the Gisborne area in the later nineteenth century. Many of the kōwhaiwhai in local houses have been restored through conservation projects. The nineteenth century development of figurative non-traditional kōwhaiwhai subjects and forms has been superseded by a revival of customary art forms such as carving.

The earliest kōwhaiwhai patterns were painted on paddles and under the prows of canoes. This tradition influenced modernist kōwhaiwhai artists such as John Hovell and can be seen in the painted elements of contemporary meeting houses.

**Tohunga Whakairo : Paki Harrison**  
**Ranginui Walker**  
9780143010067

Master carver Paki Harrison was responsible for guiding the creation of ten contemporary North Island meeting houses. His cousin, John Hovell, was responsible for the kōwhaiwhai and tukutuku in many of these projects. John Hovell's innovative designs complemented the genealogical carvings created by Harrison. More than a biography, this book describes the creation of several meeting houses.

## FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM DICK FRIZZELL LECTURE

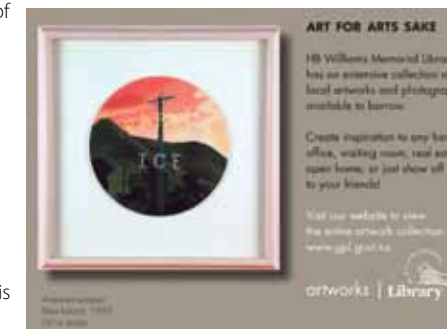
**The Friends of the Museum** (FOM) was established in 1999 to support the activities and operation of Tairāwhiti Museum. The FOM Committee organises and funds a programme of lectures, exhibition floor talks and other activities for members each year.

This year the Autumn Lecture Series explored issues relating to Art in Public Places. The Spring Lecture Series will include lectures by local art historian Dr Damian Skinner (The Art of John Hovell – 6 October) and renowned New Zealand artist Dick Frizzell (Art, Design, Commerce: Branding the Rugby World Cup – 20 October).

At their August meeting the FOM Committee decided to allocate 10% of membership subscriptions to the acquisition of an art work for the museum and art gallery fine arts collection.

Friends of the Museum gain free entry to the museum and the lecture series, as well as 10% discount in *Artbeat gallery shop*, the museum shop. FOM also receive the quarterly museum newsletter and invitations to all museum and gallery exhibition openings. FOM membership forms are available from museum reception or from the website:

[www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz](http://www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz)



### Art, Design, Commerce: Branding the Rugby World Cup

5.30pm Wednesday 20 October

Dick Frizzell graduated from the Canterbury School of Fine Arts in 1963 and pursued a successful career in advertising, followed by a career as artist and teacher at Elam School of Art at Auckland University. Ask anyone interested in New Zealand art about Dick Frizzell and they are likely to mention 'Mickey to Tiki' or the 'Four Square Man'. He is as much concerned with exploring the nature of art itself as he is in exploring contemporary issues such as commercialism, consumerism and appropriation. As a painter and printmaker he has worked across a wide range of styles and subjects. Frizzell is currently involved in the branding of the Rugby World Cup and in his lecture he will discuss the intersection of art, design and commerce in the context of this project.

Image:  
Dick Frizzell : Matisse (Cutout) Tiki