

SUMMER 2006/7
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Tairāwhiti
MUSEUM
Te Whare Taonga o te Tairāwhiti

Tui! Tui! Tuituia!

Quarterly newsletter of the Tairāwhiti Museum & Art Gallery
Te Whare Taonga O Te Tairāwhiti

BENEFACTOR LOANS COOK'S JOURNALS

In January 2007 a set of Captain Cook's journals (first edition) goes on display. The nine volumes plus maps were published between 1773-1779 and give a detailed account of Cook's voyages. The set is the recent acquisition of Professor Jack Richards of Wainui. He secured the bound volumes after a successful bid of twenty-four thousand pounds in the Bloomsbury's Auctions in London. The volumes will be displayed in a purpose built case (also supplied by Professor Richards) at the entrance to Kahurangi (i.e. taonga wing). This is an important acquisition given Cook's association with this region. We are grateful to Professor Richards for allowing the museum to display the set.

Professor Richards has been a wonderful benefactor to the Tairāwhiti Museum over the past decade. Annually he provides \$20,000 for scholarships at Toi Houkura, Tairāwhiti Polytechnic. He contributes to the Museum's fine



Professor Jack Richards

arts collection via the Ruanuku award whereby he purchases an art piece from the top Toi Houkura student's work. He also randomly purchases artworks and offers them for the collection.

This year he funded the installation of a fine arts store room to keep the region's artworks under proper climatic storage conditions. And just this month he gave \$25,000 towards the replacement of carpets in the Museum's concourse and galleries.

Professor Richards also does his bit to raise the profile of arts and culture in our community. He is well known for bringing national and international classical performers to Gisborne and has sponsored their performances in the Lawson Field theatre or at his home in Wainui. He also supports touring art and culture shows (e.g. NZ Ballet Company through PAM) and numerous other art events.

TAONGA AUDIT GETS UNDERWAY

Moana Colmer is our newly appointed researcher carrying out a stocktake of the museum's Taonga Maori Collection. She has just completed a Postgraduate Diploma of Museum Studies at Massey University and passed with distinction.

My appointment at Tairāwhiti Museum allows me to work with the wonderful and diverse collection of Maori treasures housed within the Museum. I was very pleased to accept the position, which is funded by Te Puni Kokiri. I have always had a passion for history, anthropology, art and photography, with a view to working within the heritage sector, so this is a fantastic opportunity. I grew up on the Coromandel Peninsula, but I am of Waikato descent.

The audit project involves locating and recording physical information about each of the Museum's estimated 1,800 taonga, checking conservation standards, updating the collection management database and contacting the donors of loaned taonga. I will also be digitally photographing each individual taonga; from objects as small as a fine bone needle through to large wooden carvings. In fact some objects are so large they may need to be filmed!

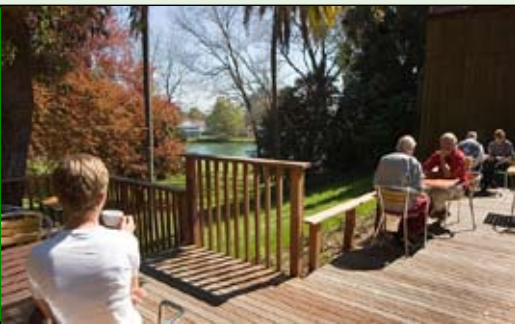
The project is also about providing a high standard of care for the items and being able to use this superb resource more effectively. The museum hopes to publicly display a wider range of Maori treasures and thereby allow the community better access to the collection.

We are committed to stimulating passion for the stories of the Tairāwhiti region. Through this project the Museum will be better positioned to share the stories that these wonderful Taonga Maori can tell.



EXHIBIT
CAFE

Is open on Saturdays from 11.00 a.m. for those looking for a change of setting for Saturday brunch. Reasonably priced lunches in a tranquil setting.
Mon to Fri 10.00 - 3.30pm Phone 06-867 3832
Open every day in January 10.00 - 3.30pm



Friends Inc.

By Richard Brooking, President

When the Friends of the Museum of Te Tairāwhiti Incorporated (Friends Inc.) was established on 15 October 1999 the primary objective was “to support and enhance the activities and operation of the Museum of Te Tairāwhiti”.

In 2004, through inactivity, Friends Inc. was struck off the Incorporated Societies Register. On 1 September 2006 a “think tank” group (which included among others Roger Honey, Gwenda Crawshaw and Margaret Mettner) applied to have the Friends Inc. restored and the request was granted. The “think tank” group then suggested a number of amendments to the Friends Inc. constitution with the assistance of the former Museum Board Chairman Michael Chrisp. A Special General Meeting was called on 14 November 2006 and the following people were elected to form the new Friends Inc. committee;

President - Richard Brooking
Vice President - Sandra Edge
Secretary - Carol Tautuhi
Committee - Norman Maclean,
Cynthia McCann, Clare Robinson,
Michael Spedding and Gaynor Rogers



Gaynor, Carol, Clare, Richard, Norman, Sandra, Michael

The constitution was also amended to correct a number of anomalies. An immediate Friends Inc. Committee Meeting was then convened to nominate two new Museum Board members to fill the vacancies created with the retirement of Michael Chrisp and the more recent resignation of Pam Bain. Michael Muir and Steve Hathaway were nominated and will very competently represent Friends Inc. on the Museum Board.

Friends Inc. will hold regular committee meetings at the Museum, on the first Tuesday of each month at 5.00pm, recommencing in February next year. Currently Friends Inc. has 189 members and

this seems to be growing in line with the projected target of 300 by the end of the financial year. However, the Friends Inc. Committee would still like to encourage everyone to get as many acquaintances, family, colleagues or business associates as possible to join us.

I would like to thank the Museum Director Dr. Monty Soutar, the Museum staff, Michael Chrisp and those members of the “think tank” who have assisted in restoring Friends Inc. On behalf of Friends Inc. can I extend our very best wishes for the festive season, a safe Happy Christmas and a restful New Year.



artbeat gallery shop.

Artbeat

Artbeat Gallery Shop

— this is our new shop name. The walls in the shop/concourse area have been painted double spanish white which looks fabulous with the newly laid coffee/sand coloured carpet. Very swish! Lighting is yet to be finalised and will highlight our new shop stock in a visually stunning manner.

We have been networking amongst artists to source very good quality, high standard items for the shop in a variety of media e.g. fabulous jewellery (rings, necklaces, earrings, brooches), pottery, wooden bowls, pounamu (greenstone), kete, summer fun bags, harakeke (flax) & great books for summer reading! With summer shopping on a roll we are excited about the great range of products the shop will provide over the summer months and beyond.

Tui Tui Tuituia, the Tairāwhiti Museum newsletter is a quarterly publication and is distributed free to members of the Association of Friends of the Museum of Te Tairāwhiti. It is sponsored by the Eastland Community Trust. Some postage is paid for by the Association of Friends of the Tairāwhiti Museum.



Recent roadworks in Gladstone Road involved the lifting of old tramlines and were a reminder of earlier modes of transport.

Photographs

A recent visitor from Canada searched the photographic archives attempting to locate an image of her father. Not finding anything amongst the portrait section she asked if the museum had any images of Jas. J Niven Engineers, her father's place of work in the 1920s. After an unsuccessful browse through the engineer's images, she retired to the Exhibit Cafe for a coffee. Half an hour later a gentleman arrived at the front desk wishing to lend the museum a photograph for copying. The image was of the staff of Jas. J. Niven. The parties were united and the stories flowed!

There are 1000s of images within the photographic collection and these can be browsed by appointment.

The photographs make great and enduring gifts and are available in a size to suit. Remember, Friends of the Museum receive a 10% discount off the normal price.

HELP !

Can you help us identify any of the people or places in our 'mystery photos'? Visit our website and see if you can recognise anyone.

www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz

Collections

The following are some of the treasures added to the museum's collections in recent months:

- A map of the Native Reserve at Te Reinga, 1880. Simply found in a book by the donor.
- Photocopied Admission & Withdrawal Registers of Kokako School, 1897-1926
- 1940s Gisborne school uniform items. 1924 PBRU cap



- PhD thesis: The pioneering press of Poverty Bay 1872-1914
 - Some very important early 20thC memorabilia once the property of the late Chief Judge Robert Noble Jones
 - Items once given as complimentary gifts by former local businesses, with their names inscribed on them. A lasting memory that such a firm existed.
 - A Minutes Book and a Ledger, ranging from 1907 to 1926, of the former Motu Cooperative Saleyards Ltd. Saved from destruction by a whisker when a house was being cleared out.
- The museum is extremely grateful to all donors for remembering us before disposing of unwanted items!

Calling all Artists!

Some of you local painters will have recently received a letter from Norman Maclean on behalf of the Artists Society, suggesting that you might join. The Society urges you to give this serious consideration so that your work can be included in the annual exhibitions that are hung in the museum galleries.

Quite apart from this advantage, it is strongly felt that for the Society to operate under optimum conditions, the support from Gisborne painters is needed. Lysnar House, home base for the Society, offers excellent working space and facilities for those wishing to make use of them. Members are entitled to buy a key and have access whenever they like – provided one of the regular workshop sessions is not in progress.

How do you become a member? Simple really: you pay your Friends of the Museum subscription and then the very low annual rate asked of all Artists' Society members. There have been a lot of new faces seen in the Lysnar House recently including new, young painters and we would be delighted to add your name to the members list.

Don't put it off again! Join NOW and know that you are fully supporting the visual arts in Gisborne.



Norman Maclean outside Lysnar House

Education

Summer workshop for kids

The museum will be running a 2-day mosaic workshop for children 5 and over. Dates: 15-18 January, 22-25 January
Cost \$35 per child
For bookings phone Raewyn Theobald: 867 6042 or 027 304 9399
Pay on arrival

Guided Tours

From 9 January 2007 the museum will be running 1-hour guided tours at 2 p.m. each weekday. Cost \$10 locals \$15 non-locals. The tours will take groups through the galleries, the Museum surrounds and some restricted areas.

Exhibitions

TE TOI O NGA RANGI • Toihoukura art and design Mori
 8th December 2006 • 4th February 2007

Cris Morrell • Roll on summer watercolor landscapes
 15th December 2006 • 11th February 2007

Hymnos • Norman Maclean. Recent works
 Mixed media prints
 22nd December 2006 • 28th January 2007

Mauri Ora • Melanie Tahata. Goth Punk Installation
 9th February • 1st April 2007

The Road Series paintings • Juliet Bowen
 2nd February • 1st April 2007

Wood Turners • 16th February • 25th March 2007



Cris Morrell



Toihoukura



Norman Maclean

Friends of the Museum

The following incentives are available to members.

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| * Free Admission | * 10% discount on all selling previews | \$25 Single |
| * 10% discount on shop purchases | * Special floor talks and workshops | \$35 Family |
| * Invitations to our exhibition previews | * 10% discount on museum photo orders | \$80 Business |
| * Basement and storeroom tours are a rare opportunity to learn what goes on behind the scenes | | |

We invite YOU to become a Friend of the Museum
 Please return payment by mail or drop in at the museum



Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....email.....

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