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**Tairawhiti
MUSEUM**
Te Whare Taonga o te Tairawhiti



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

Return of the tekoteko Manuruhi

On Wednesday 26 November 2008, Tairawhiti Museum staff paid a visit to the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch to collect the tekoteko 'Manuruhi' from the Tokomaru Bay whareniui Hau-te-ana-nui-a-Tangaroa (The sacred great cave of Tangaroa).

This taonga will be on loan to the Tairawhiti Museum from Canterbury for the up coming 'Watersheds / Nga Wai Pupu' exhibition due to open at the Tairawhiti Museum in early 2009. The exhibition will detail the history of the Tairawhiti region, from early Maori settlement till today. This carving represents a very important story of the beginnings of the Iwirakau style of carving particular to the East Coast of the North Island. The whareniui Hau-te-ana-nui-

a-Tangaroa was designed and carved by Ngati Porou master carver Hone Taahu in the 1860s. It was originally intended as a residence for the Tokomaru Bay chief Henare Potae. However, with the advent of the East Coast wars, materials prepared for it were partially destroyed by supporters of the Pai Marire movement (i.e. Hauhau). In 1873 Samuel Locke of Napier purchased it from Henare Potae for the Canterbury Museum.

In January 1874 Hone Taahu and another Ngati Porou carver, Tamati Ngakaho, were engaged to proceed to the Canterbury Museum to create replacement pieces for the whare and to re-erect it. This took almost 12 months with their work finishing in December of that year.



Louie Glass Vase Donation

The Bowl of Wealth, created by Susan Louie, and recently exhibited in the Harvesting the Happy Heart exhibition, was purchased for the Tairawhiti Museum by Professor Jack Richards.



Art at the Library

H.B. Williams Memorial Library

Art is Good for You?

Therapy for the imagination. Healing through art. Awaken your artist's soul. Restore the spirit through self-expression. Is this what you expect from an art gallery or is the field of expressive arts therapy something that should remain in private practices, hospitals, prisons, workshops and art studios? We may consider this for ourselves when, in February, Nina Mariette shows her work in the Chris gallery.

Art therapy is generally used to help maintain mental health and emotional well-being. More formally, it may be used by therapists as an assessment tool. Established authority Cathy Malchiodi maintains that using the arts – dance, drama, music, painting – is healing and life affirming for the individual and also that collective projects serve the well-being of the community.

The reasons people find themselves consciously or

unconsciously telling their stories visually are as varied as people themselves. Loneliness, moving house, being bullied, financial woes, abuses, effects after natural disasters, depression, secrets and dread are all too often difficult to express even for the most articulate and outwardly confident people.

Occasionally a therapeutic art workshop is held in Gisborne and there is great support from *Creative Space* yet many people choose to start their path to unlocking the subconscious or pushing themselves beyond challenging experiences at home. Plenty of books that explain or deliver case studies about art therapy are available at the library. An accessible starting place is:

Art journals and creative healing by Sharon Soneff.



The real-life personal stories and creative exercises, combining written and artistic expressions, have produced some unique journals. One journal is in a series of bottles labelled 'Pure rage', 'Anxiety', 'Depression' and 'Unforgiveness: no sugar added', and 'What's bottled up inside: original recipe for disaster.' Others include 'Insomnia', 'Mirror mirror' (about anorexia) 'I was just a little girl' (sexual abuse) and 'Fear not' (phobia of drowning). What connects them all is that through colour and form, is the journalling process contributes to what the author refers to as "my work-in-progress life"

Totally different in nature is Frank Warren's *Postsecret: extraordinary confessions from ordinary lives*.



This is a community art project that has become addictive for many people. The gist is that people write down a secret they have never told anyone on a post card, and then send it to Frank. These small but overwhelmingly powerful ditties are collected in this book and range from what appear to be relatively insignificant matters to the shocking. A New Zealander contacted the U.S. author commenting "The things that make us abnormal are actually the things that make us all the same."

Whilst sending a secret through the post might be a relief for some, for Nina Mariette art therapy was not about the abuse she had experienced but expressing the "visions of memories stacked inside me" Once she was able to forget about proportion or form she finally began painting in her 40's when she produced a work that had more to do with herself, rather than producing a work such as a still-life. She says "this painting business hasn't solved or resolved her issues but it is like 'I've finally come to grips with my childhood" and she finds it is still very difficult to deal with the feelings her paintings raise inside her. The book *Painting myself in* is well illustrated and the reader may come to agree with George Bernard Shaw when he said, "if you can't get rid of the skeleton in your closet, you'd best teach it to dance."

Pene Walsh



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

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

My family moved to Gisborne late in 1973, where I attended Ilminster Intermediate and then Lytton High School. I moved back to the Waikato in my late teens, travelled overseas and continued the gypsy path until I returned to Gisborne with my son Jacob in 1991. By then I had matured (slightly) and decided to put down some roots and start studying towards my Business Degree at Tairāwhiti Polytechnic. After completing my first two years and graduating with my Business Diploma, I worked as an administrator at McCann's for several years. I have held other administration roles, including four years at Gisborne Development Trades Training Centre developing their Quality Management Systems and Strategic Planning documents. I continued to study part time extramurally towards the completion of my degree finally graduating in May this year. After a stint in Christchurch with the Ministry of Education

as an analyst, I returned to Gisborne and again became involved with administration before starting here at the Museum just over a year ago. I absolutely love my job here and enjoy the diversity that is part of the museum culture. As a child I always had an absolute passion for museums and history, so being part of the great team that makes up the awesome staff here is a dream come true. As a closet poet, I would like to end with a rhyme.

*Life is a journey...
A roller coaster ride...
One drifts with the wind...
One floats with the tide...*

*One has a choice
In the path that one follows
One rises with the mountains
One dips in the hollows*

*Sometimes we get lost
On the toss of a coin
Sometimes we take risks
That we should best avoid*

Staff Spotlight

by Leanne Rattray



*Life is a journey...
A leap into the wide...
One swims with the dolphins...
One drowns in the mind...*

*One has a choice
In the path that one follows
Simply click those red heels
And enjoy the tomorrows...*

Watersheds : Nga Waipupu

Watersheds Nga Waipupu, curated by nationally renowned art historian Dr. Damian Skinner, traces the history of Tairāwhiti from earliest settlement through to the present day. Dr. Skinner, Steve Gibbs and museum staff have been working on this exhibition since late 2007. The exhibitions *Footprints*, *Kahurangi* and *The Price of Citizenship* have been removed from the gallery to make way for *Watersheds Nga Waipupu*. *C Company: The Price of Citizenship* will be re-installed in a new gallery built specifically for this purpose.

Watersheds Nga Waipupu will include a wide range of treasures from the museum collection. Each section of the exhibition covers an important aspect of Tairāwhiti history

including the development of the Turanga and Iwirakau carving styles, the arrival of James Cook, the impact of European settlement in the nineteenth century, the role of women in the history of the region, industries such as sheep farming, freezing works and the Watties cannery, and the development of Gisborne City.

Watersheds Nga Waipupu follows the cultural strands of human history in Te Tairāwhiti. Sometimes these strands make their own way and at



other times they intertwine. As with any history, each of the participant communities has their own history and this presents a challenge for historians and museums when they try to weave a coherent narrative that will bring the strands together in one account.



EXHIBIT
C A F E

Award Winning

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

EXHIBITIONS 2010

Taonga Maori Collection

Toihoukura - Raumati - Summer. *showing until 8 February 2009*

A signature piece in the Toihoukura exhibition this year is an elegant black and red cape of harakeke. It is positioned in front of the title wall under the pohutakawa coloured lettering of 'Raumati' - a forecast that summer in all its heat and dazzle is here, and in a sense the same can be said for the artwork which fills the main gallery. Splashes of red, gold, blue, intricately carved surfaces, complex and detailed sweeps of acrylic - a visual panorama for the summer visitor.



Scent *showing until 31 January 2009*

"Autumn has come let her locks down completely
Cinnamon, cardamom, object no sides
Volatile particles puff in a sand storm
Prisms like trinkets delayed in their flight
Wet wool A compost that sips up your senses
Impressions are pressed to the back of your eyes"

Six lines from a song composed by musician Francis Marsh form an irresistible serenade which woos the visitor in to *Scent* an exhibition curated by Lina Marsh. The song and chorus line are infectious and like the compost that Francis writes and sings about it will sip up your senses and have you humming in no time. This exhibition showcases the sensorial noses and distinctive flair of 11 artists who were all given the task of defining scent.



Hamokorau - Tiopira Ihimaera Rauna
showing until 1 February 2009

Hamokorau was the name of an ancient whareniui and wananga built and carved at Te Reinga. Tiopira Ihimaera Rauna is descended from renowned carvers and with this exhibition he continues with that tradition. He pays homage to those who have gone before him and the inspiration that guides him in his craft today.



During the last two years the museum has undertaken a major project auditing and redeveloping the storage area for the taonga Maori in its care. Following the audit the smaller taonga, including the toki (adzes), tiki and taiaha (not quite so small), were rehoused, providing each taonga with its own place in the storeroom. The final stage of this project has now been completed. The main storage area for carvings has been completely redeveloped by Simon Lardelli, Chris Douglas and Jonty Hall. With the installation of new storage facilities, the carvings can now be clearly seen and appreciated by staff and visitors. Since the new storage has been completed, Simon has shown a number of school groups and other visitors through the storage area and they have all commented on how wonderful it is to be able to have such easy access to the collection.

C Company Book Launch

The *Nga Tama Toa* book launch during Labour Weekend was a huge success. The museum played its role not only because the author is our own director, but because the parade became part of the Museum education programme. Our education officer, Gayle Te Kani, and her team had been working on this event for a few months with promotions to schools and helping with the organisation of the parade. Secondary and primary students from the Tairawhiti region and beyond took part in the parade carrying 1,000 photographs from the railway station to Te Poho-o-Rawiri Marae. These photos were mostly from *The Price of*

Citizenship exhibition which was recently taken down. *Thousands turned up for the parade - school students, parents and grandparents - everyone of them proud to represent relatives who had served in the Maori Battalion.*



Dr. Monty Soutar and Prime Minister Helen Clark at the launch of the book Nga Tama Toa. Due to the high public demand the book has sold out and the museum expects to have more stock in its shop by February.

