



Spring 2008
ISSN 117-4975

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

Tuituia!

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

Act of Terrorism

A recent acquisition to the museum's fine arts collection is a relief work on stainless steel by Professor Robert Jahnke. This piece from the exhibition *New & Used: A Rose by Any Other Name* at Pencil Gallery was selected by the museum's curator of art and purchased for the fine arts collection by art patron Professor Jack Richards.

This wall relief is festooned with roses which creep over the subtle and repetitive words of the title. A work of precision, Jahnke utilizes an industrial cutting process to achieve his art form.

Professor Robert Jahnke is of Te Whanau a Rakairoa o Ngati Porou descent and was born at Waipiro Bay. He is an academic who specializes in Maori visual culture and is based in Palmerston North where he heads the Maori Visual Arts programme at Massey University.

Act of Terrorism, 2008
Painted Relief on Stainless Steel



Expert Quilting Lessons for Students

It has been a privilege to work alongside Irene Smith again this year in our education programme. Irene is a Gisborne quilter and has recently exhibited her work in the museum.

It is very exciting when artists who are exhibiting in the gallery are willing to spend time teaching skills to school children at the museum. Our association with Irene began in 2006, when she and Deb Williams offered their services to help resource and co-teach quilting art lessons motivated by the quilters exhibition. Since then Irene has worked alongside the education team to support them in lessons associated with quilting. Her input has been invaluable and we have really appreciated the time and effort she has taken to assist us.



Quilter Irene Smith

I am a member of the Gisborne Quilters who have had exhibitions at Tairawhiti Museum in 2006 and 2008. Jolene Douglas presents our quilts so beautifully and it is a credit to her especially that such a

large number of the public come to view the exhibition.

Another way we are able to promote our fabric art is through the Museum Education Programme. Gayle Te Kani and Lina Cleland-Pottie have promoted fabric workshops to the schools at the same time as the exhibition. This proves to be a great inspiration to students who have not previously had the opportunity to learn about quilting. We enjoy being involved with the setting up of classes and are always encouraged by the students' enthusiasm. The children's work provides wonderful examples of individual expression.



Tui Tui Tuituia, the Tairawhiti Museum newsletter is a quarterly publication and is distributed free to members of the Association of Friends of the Museum of Te Tairawhiti. This issue is paid for by the Association of Friends of the Tairawhiti Museum with support from the HB Williams Memorial Library.

Art at the Library

H.B. Williams Memorial Library

A small renaissance, if you like, of places to view paintings, photographs and other visual arts have sprouted all over Gisborne. Cafes are popular sites for work to be seen and some artists are converting the back shed into studio come gallery space to showcase their own work. The Maia Gallery continues to grow artists and there is now a dealer gallery set to sell Gisborne work on the international scene.

The world wide web hasn't completely taken over our desire to learn more about our art in the context of today and the success of art lectures currently being held at Tairawhiti Museum is testament to local people enjoying stimulation of ideas and discussion.

The 'Skinner' lectures as they will surely be known hark back to the 1970s when the Museum held series of lectures about a wide range of subjects. The ensuing talkfests – fueled by plenty of Velluto Rosso – continued well after people went home. As a

young teenager, I was thrilled to hover on the fringes of these sophisticated art doyens talking about worldly issues and art, not that I understood a lot of it. I did however have the opportunity to visit the library next day and follow up on some of the exciting esoteric topics that were raised. Thanks to an art lecture at the Museum, Picasso's Guernica became an obsession and the books at the library filled in the gaps.

The collection of art books held at H B Williams Memorial Library has always been known in library circles as the best in the country for a library of its size despite political obstacles. The single most common positive comment made about the library is about the excellent quality of the collections. This is great feedback to staff as budget fluctuations have challenged the library at times but the core business of maintaining quality books has not wavered.

As book production has become more lavish and there are whole books, as opposed to skinny catalogues, published about individual artists, it is difficult to be selective and keep the art collection both inspirational and useful for Gisborne people. Two rather sumptuous books have been recently added:

Untitled: portraits of Australian artists
By Sonia Payes
Macmillan 2007

This huge book flopped open serendipitously at Fiona Hall's portrait. I had visited her exhibition at the City Gallery in Wellington just the day before. The short essay and accompanying photographs cemented and added to my understanding of her and her work. The book accompanies

photographer Sonia Payes portrait exhibition of Australian artists where she showed 27 portraits. It is one of those books that are more fulfilling to browse than the exhibition itself. The 60 artists are photographed in their places of creation, inspiration and exhibition, giving the people in the images firmer context. Perhaps the combination of text and a variety of images appears less formal than the exhibition portraits or perhaps it is because the viewer is less inclined to lock in an image of the artist as being 'the' image of that person that makes the book a success.



Sculpture Today, By Judith Collins
Phaidon 2007

Another huge book focused upon contemporary sculpture. Intended to be a global look at sculpture from the 1960s it has to be read with an acceptance of a Eurocentric viewpoint. Nevertheless this mammoth undertaking is fascinating with its broad overview of the shift from modernist sculpture into more immediate production of work that involves non-traditional elements like clothes, bugs and recycled waste. **Pene Walsh**

Art Lectures

The Damian Skinner Art Lecture Series continues at the museum. Do you wonder about the differences between Maori and Pakeha art, and why they matter? Want to know more about why the spiral is one of the most hotly debated designs in contemporary New Zealand art. Led by Dr Damian Skinner, each session features a panel of local and imported experts who will discuss these complex, controversial and critical issues for contemporary art.

Check these websites for details;
www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz
www.skinnerlectures.tairawhitiarts.net



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.

Taonga Maori Collection

Tairawhiti Museum undertook the first stage of an audit of the taonga Maori collection in 2006. This audit ensured that the whole collection was entered onto the museum's computerized database and photographed so that the taonga would be more accessible to museum staff and the wider community. The second phase of the audit process is to improve the standard of storage for the taonga Maori collection. Simon Lardelli has been employed at the museum on this phase of the project since February 2008. The project has been funded by Te Puni Kokiri.

Simon is working with the Curator of the taonga Maori collection, Jody Wyllie, to design and implement new storage arrangements for the collection. Staff caring for the taonga Maori collections at Te Papa Tongarewa The Museum of New Zealand in Wellington have been very helpful in sharing their experience in developing appropriate storage for these collections. In recent months Simon has developed new storage for the weapons, including the mere pounamu, patu, wahaika, patiti, taiaha, and tewhatewha, the hoe (paddles), and the large collection of toki (adzes).



Tairawhiti Museum researcher, Simon Lardelli in the museum's reserve store vault. The vault has been refitted and repainted.

It has also been wonderful to hear the supportive encouragement of kaumatua, kuia, and others who have been visiting the new storage facilities to see this work in progress. The benefits of this work have been evident to museum staff who have been planning the museum's new exhibition about Tairawhiti history. Many taonga Maori from throughout the region will be included in this exhibition. The storage redevelopment project will be completed by the end of November.

Staff Spotlight

by Lina Cleland-Pottie



Rob and I, our three kids, two cats and dog Helen, moved to Gisborne on the 16th December 2005. We left Auckland, our secure jobs, our friends and families, to live in a house we bought on a whim in a town we had spent Easter in the year before. We felt like pioneers. Two and a half years down the track we have settled into this buzzing community, and have even encouraged family to move and settle here with us. I can't imagine living anywhere else.

My background is in art. I studied at Whitecliffe College of Art and Design and graduated with a BFA in painting in 1999. I went on to gain a diploma in secondary teaching in 2003 and have been teaching art ever since. Currently my role as museum educator mostly involves developing and delivering art lessons. I work alongside Gayle Te Kani and Jen Pewhairangi. We deliver mostly social science and art lessons to schools within Tairawhiti. Working at the museum is the most rewarding job I have had to date. I have the privilege to see and experience things many people who belong to this area may never experience in their lifetime. I have also had the opportunity to meet and work with artists I had only read about. It's an amazing job where I learn something new everyday. I also work with an amazing group of experienced colleagues. I feel seriously out of my depth at times.

Working at the museum also inspires and informs my own artistic practice. I create works using skills and hand crafts taught to me by my mother and grandmother. My work has always centered on my personal experience associated with migration, mixed cultural identity, and contemporary culture. The museum environment allows me to explore these ideas in the treasures it holds. I am able to see close up how hand crafted items were made and appreciate the journeys and stories attached to them.

Since being in Gisborne I have been part of many regional, national and international art exhibitions. In December the museum will host my first curated group exhibition titled Scent. Included in this show will be the museum's very own art makers Jolene Douglas, Dudley L Meadows and Moana Colmer. Gisborne is definitely the bay of plenty.



EXHIBIT
CAFE

Award Winning

Open Monday to Saturday 10am - 3.30pm

For fantastic food in a relaxed and tranquil setting.

EXHIBITIONS

26th September - 16th October

SOUNDS AMAZING - An interactive display developed at Te Manawa Science Centre. This is a hands-on exhibition exploring how and why sound is made. How do musicians get different notes from their string, wind or percussion instruments? Find out by strumming the giant harps, striking the gamelans, playing the slap-a-phone (bongo pipes), or trip along the ivories of the giant keyboard.

3rd October - 30th November

Susan Louie - **HARVESTING THE HAPPY HEART** - cast glass and mixed media. This is Susan's first solo exhibition and her personal home coming. She references childhood memories of working in a market garden and expresses herself through the medium of lead crystal glass.

10th October - 7th December

GROUNDWORK - Recent work by Sue Lloyd
Painter Sue Lloyd portrays dramatic and powerful images of nature from the denseness of the forest floor to the sheltering canopy above.

28th November - 8th February

TOIHOUKURA - The students of this school of contemporary Maori Art and Design work in an environment which fosters the vibrancy of creativity and a commitment to the richness of traditional knowledge.

5th December - 31st January

SCENT - Ten diverse noses.

Graeme Knowles, Cris Van Doren, Anya Veryaskina, Lina Marsh, Moana Colmer, Dudley L Meadows, Melanie Tahata, Jolene Douglas, Kate Lobb, and Owen Mapp.

Scent in all it's myriad forms, photographic, tactile, two dimensional, conceptual - paints, prints, mixed media, sculptures. Each of these artists will pool their sensorial energies into this enticing bouquet.



Collection



A descendent of the Beere family recently deposited an ornate East Coast Hussars shooting trophy belt in the museum. The East Coast Hussars were formed in Gisborne in 1887 and attracted both town and country members. Engraved discs on the belt indicate that it was first awarded in 1888 to Robert Thelwall. He won the trophy four out of five times during the next five years. The last time he won it was in 1892, the year the East Coast Hussars were disbanded; thus, the belt remained in the possession of the Thelwall/Beere family until it was deposited in the museum. The family guardian of the belt, now living outside Poverty Bay, wanted the belt to come "home". We were delighted to have such a wonderful treasure placed in the museum. It will be included in Watersheds, the museum's new exhibition about the history of Tairāwhiti.

C Company Book Launch

The book *Nga Tamatoa - The Price of Citizenship* represents the culmination of 14 years of research and collection by a large team of descendants, veterans and families of C Company led by museum director Dr Monty Soutar. The book belongs to the Nga Taonga A Nga Tama Toa Trust on behalf of the members of C Company and their descendants. However, the full story of this book has been 62 years in the making.

The museum is involved in the launch of the book at Labour Weekend (Sat 25 October), coordinating a parade of 1,000 school children and family members who will recreate the return of C Company to Gisborne in 1946. The civic parade will leave the railway station at 9.45 a.m. and reach Te Poho-o-Rawiri marae at 10.30 a.m. Almost all the 945 photos of C Company men will be provided by the museum for the parade to carry to the marae. It will be a spectacular and moving event. The official welcome at the marae is at 11.00 a.m.

...Amohia Te Mauri...
Book Launch Celebration

NGA TAMA TOA
THE PRICE OF CITIZENSHIP

1,000 school children march thru city

Kapa Haka Revival

Entertainment

Exciting history of the Maori War Effort

Descendants travel from far & wide

C COMPANY 28 (MAORI) BATTALION 1939-1945
MONTY SOUTAR

"E kore ratou e warewaretia..."
"...we will remember them"

Gisborne Sat 25th Oct Labour Weekend 2008 Turanga

Stout Street P O Box 716 Gisborne New Zealand Tel +64-6-867 3832 Fax +64-6-867 2728

www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz