

PRIME MINISTER OPENS EXHIBITION



The Honourable Parekura Horomia (Minister of Maori Affairs), Angus Fletcher (Fletcher Trust), Prime Minister Helen Clark, Mayor Meng Foon, Dr Apirana Mahuika (Museum Board chairman), Dr Monty Soutar (Museum Director)

Tairawhiti Museum was honoured to host Prime Minister Helen Clark and the Honourable Parekura Horomia when the Prime Minister opened the Fletcher Trust, Sarjeant Gallery Te Huringa/ Turning Points touring exhibition on Wednesday 31 May.

Museum trustees, staff, Friends and others in the community numbering almost 250 were present to hear opening addresses by Mayor Meng Foon, museum chairman Dr Api Mahuika, the Prime Minister and Angus Fletcher of the Fletcher Trust who brought the exhibition to Gisborne.

Ms Clark, who holds the Arts, Culture and Heritage portfolio within her government and is well known as a passionate arts advocate, congratulated the Museum on its successes since her last visit in 2004 including the completion of Te Moana Maritime Museum, its tourism success and the renegotiation of its LEOTC contract with the Ministry of Education.

Te Huringa/Turning Points aims to present a diverse range of works devoted to the representation of Maori and Maori subject matter by Pakeha in New Zealand's art history and, as the turning point, the way in which Maori as art practitioners have reflected their own ideas.

Over 50 pieces are hanging and they include the works of Augustus Earle, Charles Goldie, Ralph Hotere, Colin McCahon, Shane Cotton and many others.

It runs from 31 May - 8 July.

Our thanks to the *Friends of the Museum* who helped make the event an auspicious one. *Friends* volunteers are monitoring the exhibition while it is here. They are also carrying out visitor surveys so we are more informed about the range of people coming to the museum. The survey information will also help us plan more effective exhibitions for the future.



Curator Peter Shaw with PM Helen Clark

The Museum is pleased to be welcoming back the co-curator Peter Shaw and Angus Fletcher to a discussion on the exhibition to be held Thursday July 3 at 12.15pm and 5.30pm. If you would like to attend one of these floor talks please RSVP to the museum before 30 June.

Staff Spotlight

by Ann Milton-Tee

My background is librarianship. After years in Asia I came here in 1985 as a volunteer, then secured a library job elsewhere. In 1992 I returned here as a volunteer. I never left!

In those early months I did a range of tasks including on-call relief work for the Crawford photographic project and the front desk. I subsequently became the receptionist, continuing with history research. My next position was inputter for the newly-acquired museums-specific collections database after which I was appointed Curatorial Assistant, handling all history inquiries and related issues. During this time I assisted with the writing of the interpretations for Footprints. The next challenge came in 1997, to combine all that with being *de facto*

Collections Manager for 9 months while the position was vacant.

In 1998 I became the Collections Manager. My main responsibilities are registrar of the collections items (about 100,000), maintaining and monitoring their records; responsibility for the collections' care; processing new additions to the Community Archives; organising volunteers' projects; responding to the public's very diverse inquiries – and plugging on with the database.

We are versatile, regularly undertaking tasks outside our job descriptions. For example I was part of the team that wrote the biographies for the Famous Faces exhibition, which you can now read at the airport and in the newspaper. We became creative with the catering we formerly did for previews. I have painted walls for exhibitions - and we all do our bit at whatever event our Director dreams up next!



Ann Milton-Tee

Thus I have learnt so much 'on the hoof' thanks to wonderful colleagues. It is a privilege to work in a twofold museum such as this, our treasures are awe-inspiring and I have discovered much about art. In this job, I will never stop learning – and that's me!



W Douglas Lysnar

Lysnar's Papers

When Wathan (Wattie) Lysnar's offices were undergoing demolition in the mid-1970s workmen discovered in the ceiling a huge quantity of W Douglas Lysnar's papers, covering many aspects of his long working life. Public Library and Museum staff quickly saved them, sorted them into very basic categories and boxed them. They have been in the museum's Community Archive ever since, 313 boxes plus some extra material!

The museum has never had sufficient resources to tackle such a massive archive. However we have been privileged to receive a bequest for use in our archives from the late Mr A Cassin – and the Lysnar Papers collection could not be a better candidate. This year a professional archivist will conduct an appraisal of the collection; her report will help the museum plan the next steps (and cost) so that W Douglas Lysnar's world can finally be easily accessible.

Education



The C Company mobile exhibition was completed on the 21st April and used in education wananga in Ruatoria and Tolaga Bay in the week of Anzac. This was a huge undertaking with 1,042 students taking part over three days. Three teachers, the director, and two members of the Nga Taonga a Nga Tama Toa Trust (who partly sponsored the event) facilitated the lessons.

Anzac lessons at the museum were booked up to week 7 of term two. Despite two weeks being school holidays, 1,868 students were taught during the month of April either in the museum or on outreach programmes.



EASTLAND
Infrastructure

Collections

Some of the treasures added to the museum's collections recently:

- Nan Booth's autobiography
- 2 adzes
- 2006 Ruanuku Art Award: Toihoukura's top student, courtesy of Prof Jack Richards
- 2 Maori carvings and a coach horn from England, once part of an Uawa household
- Anne De Lautour pot inscribed on the base as Bola Silt
- A crucible from the Star of Canada
- A diverse range of historic photographs, including more of former Gisborne photographer Alan Gordon's professional images
- Radio NZ Archives CDs of W Good's reminiscences of early theatrical life in Gisborne - most amusing stories

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



Mrs Shirley Eaton - by Alan L. Gordon

"This was the smartest swimsuit I saw during the summer 1950-51. The Cape was scarlet with white polka dots." - Alan Lindsay Gordon

Museum Standards

Tairāwhiti Museum has recently completed benchmarking its performance against accepted standards of best practise within the Museum sector.

Te Puni Kokiri Policy Analyst Sarah Pohatu has been seconded from Te Puni Kokiri Head Office in Wellington to the Museum to co-ordinate this self review.

The Museum Standards Scheme was developed by Te Papa's National Services and recognises that all museums are unique, yet each is aiming to achieve high standards within its own context.

This is a great opportunity for the Tairāwhiti Museum to examine its strengths and build on these strengths to create not only a unique visitor experience but also centre the Museum as the gateway for culture and heritage in Tairāwhiti.

Unlike overseas countries where schemes such as this are compulsory



Sarah Pohatu

in order to use the term museum, this scheme is voluntary to New Zealand museums with the prime benefit of providing an assurance of quality and accountability, an appreciation of the roles and responsibilities of the Museum and a commitment to best Museum practise.

The scheme involves a self-review and a peer review completed by two Museum professionals and is expected to be fully completed by 30 June .

Exhibit cafe wins best cafe award

The Exhibit Cafe is the winner of the restaurants, cafes, fast food and take-aways category in the Gisborne Chamber of Commerce 2007 Business Excellence Awards.

'Great menu, great food with healthy choice options' and 'Customer service excellent' were among the judges' comments. Congratulations team!



Caren Holms-Chote, Mary Charrington, Anna Charrington, Bridget Tait and Haley Cochrane

EXHIBIT
CAFE

Award Winning

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



EXHIBITIONS

01/06/07 - 08/07/07 Te Huringa - Turning Points - Pakeha colonisation and Maori Empowerment.
An exhibition of paintings from the collections of the Fletcher Trust and Sarjeant gallery, Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui.

01/06/07 - 20/07/07 Bedazzled - an interactive featuring mirrors from Te Manawa

25/06/07 - 06/07/07 Top Art - top national Bursary folders

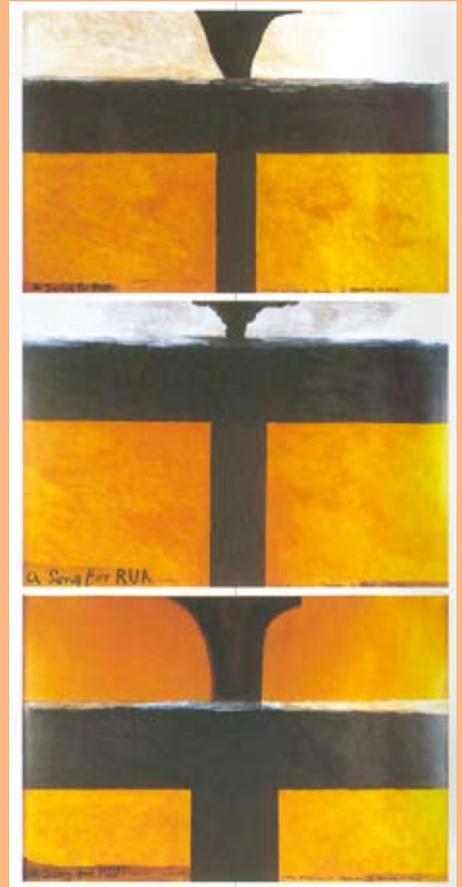
06/07/07 - 12/08/07 Artists Society and Pottery Group

13/07/07 - 19/08/07 Grant Hughes - Paintings

20/07/07 - 02/09/07 Pacific Patterns - photography, Glen Jowitt, toured by the Dowse

17/08/07 - 07/10/07 Korowai - Nukutere Weavers

24/08/07 - 14/10/07 Poll Tax & Chinese New Zealanders.
This exhibition explores the discrimination faced by Chinese Immigrants from 1881 - 1951. From the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library. A National Library Gallery touring exhibition.



A Song For Rua Prophet - Colin McCahon

Did you know?

The first public museum in Gisborne of any consequence had its origins in the establishment of the Gisborne Branch of the Hawkes Bay and East Coast Arts Society in 1948. During the period to the early 1950s, in the absence of a public museum in Gisborne, several important collections of taonga Maori from the Tairāwhiti region were acquired by the museum in Napier and are there today. In December 1953 the Gisborne branch decided to separate from the Hawkes Bay and East Coast Arts Society and form the Gisborne Arts Society. Mr Leo Fowler became the first Honorary Director of the Museum section.

In 1954, Winifred Lysnar gifted to the city of Gisborne a house and the property on which this museum now stands. On 11 June 1955 the society opened its new art gallery and museum in this house and it was not long before the society was planning extensions and modifications to the facility, including a new Maori wing opened in 1959. The present museum building was opened in 1975 and there have been a number of additions since then including the Star of Canada.

BeDAZZLED

THE MAGIC OF MIRRORS

The museum opened its latest touring exhibition last week. It's one for the kids, but it's sure to be a hit with adults as well. *Bedazzled* is a great example of maths and science made fun.

Visitors can explore the world of mirrors – concave, convex, flat, multiple mirrors, and moving mirrors. Lenses also feature alongside kaleidoscopes and a 'build-it-yourself' periscope.

Art and history play an important role in *Bedazzled*. Visitors are challenged to decode some anamorphic art and see their portrait in a mirrored sphere.

We hope you are able to come and enjoy this wonderful exhibition and discover for yourself the magic of mirrors. *Bedazzled* is here for six weeks.

TEACHERS - Please contact our educators to book lessons for 'BeDAZZLED'



Ngahiwi Manuel
Wairoa Primary School

Become a
Friend of the Museum

Join us by completing a membership form available from reception.

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

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

www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz