



Earth and Fire - Lynell Wakelin

Tairāwhiti Museum
www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz

Exhibitions, News & Events

Quarterly newsletter of the Tairāwhiti Museum & Art Gallery
Te Whare Taonga o te Tairāwhiti
March 2025 ISSN 1117-5890



SHOP

Our shop holds a fabulous range of product to choose from and we continue to add new items. Whether you are looking for a gift, wanting to send something overseas or buy a treat for yourself, there is something for everyone.

We believe there are some wonderful choices for all occasions, so do come and have a look. As always, the museum continues to support local artists including Seymour May, Julia Gould and Michael Stammers. All purchases at the museum shop provide funding for the museum so not only can you buy a fabulous present, but also support the museum at the same time. Friends of the Museum receive a 10% discount on all purchases (excluding sales).



You can now purchase museum publications from our new online shop.
www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz

EXHIBIT CAFE



Great coffee, teas, smoothies, and freshly prepared food. Exhibit Café is open for morning tea and lunch. Enjoy fresh and seasonal counter food or select from the blackboard menu. Gluten free and vegetarian options also available on request. Enjoy the sun on the deck with views of the river and park, or inside all year round in air-conditioned comfort.

Exhibit Café also offers catering services.

10% discount for Friends of the Museum

Opening hours: 9.00am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday
Saturday 10am – 2pm, Sunday closed



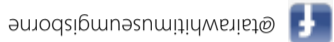
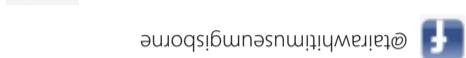
For café enquiries, bookings and catering contact:
Brenda Reid at Tairāwhiti Museum on (06) 867 3832 ext 812
Mob: 027 765 5509
email: the_reidz@hotmail.co.nz

Mon. - Sat. 10am-4pm
Sun. 1.30pm-4pm
Stout Street • Gisborne
06 8673832



Thank you to our exhibition preview sponsors

Search the museum collection online
www.collection.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz/explore



www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz

CONNECT AND SHARE WITH US ONLINE

Please sign up to our e-news, check our website or follow us on our social media pages for the most up-to-date information on museum events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Any donation you make will be invested, protected and grown each year, with surpluses investment income granted back to the museum annually. If you would like more information call Glenda at the Sunrise Foundation 06 867 7939 or visit www.sunrisefoundation.org.nz or www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz.

Tairāwhiti Museum has established an endowment fund with The Sunrise Foundation to support collection development and care. We are grateful to Michael and Ann Muir for making a donation to establish the fund; and to Les McGeevy, who when he passed away in 2019 left a generous bequest to the museum which has now also been transferred to the fund.

TAIRĀWHITI MUSEUM ENDOWMENT FUND

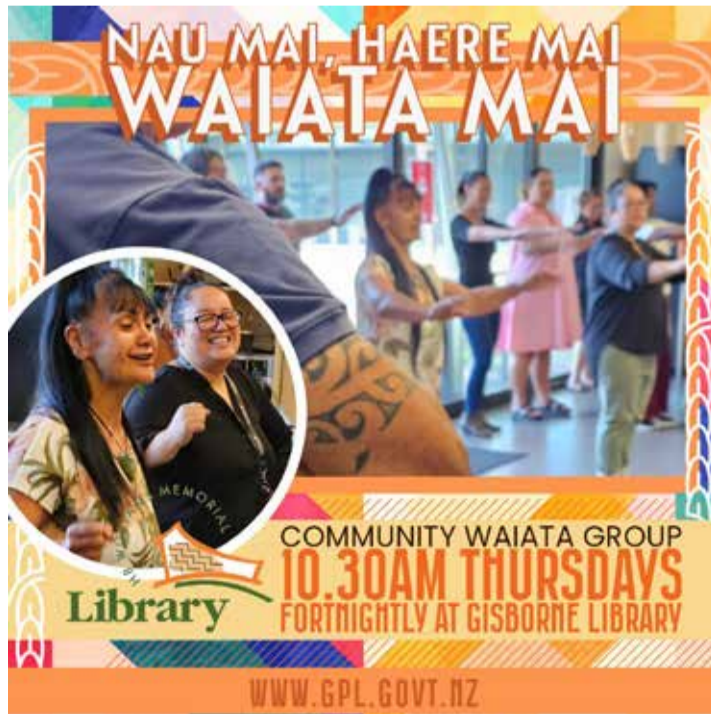
H B WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

There is lots going on at HB Williams Memorial Library this year for those of you looking to learn a fun skill, meet some new people or just have fun!

To get the year started the library team are excited to offer the opportunity to learn Māori waiata in a beginner friendly environment with the Community Waiata Group.

Sessions will run fortnightly from Thursday 20th of February and this new rōpū will be open to all ages, all skill levels, and all cultural backgrounds. All are welcome to join us as we share the many benefits of waiata - without the pressure to be the next Te Matatini maestro.

Together with our experienced group leaders the focus will be on building up our waiata list as a group, starting with 2-3 songs, adding more waiata as we go. In addition we are keen to hear about the waiata you love or that you'd like to learn with your whānau.



For those of you who are interested in scrolling less and reading more we also have the 'HB Williams Bookworms' book club Community Silent Reading Group.

Come along at 6pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month, and 1.30pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Meet inside the library at the seats near the Peel Street entrance and quietly read until you've had enough, it's that simple.

After an hour of silent reading there's a no pressure option to chat books, reading challenges, and other events if you'd like - or you can either keep reading or simply head off.

All are welcome - bring a book to read, or pop by early to pick out a library book, we'll see you here.



We have recently opened three new exhibitions: *Identity in Frame* by Charly Walsh, *A Piece of Me* by the Gisborne Pottery Group, and *Tōi - Wāe with your Tribe* by Julie Noanoa and Norm Heke, with even more exciting exhibitions on the horizon. Tairāwhiti Museum commemorated the Treaty of Waitangi by projecting a digital copy of the East Coast Te Tiriti in the foyer area, signed by 24 chiefs. This will lead into an exhibition in our Concourse Gallery, opening in May, which will also reflect the signing of *Te Tiriti* in Tairāwhiti from 5 May to 9 June 1840.

The first acquisitions of the year included several historical photographs. These feature an 1895 mounted print of the Turanganui Football Club, a dozen prints showing the World War II experiences of Tokomaru Bay soldier Ian George Eveden Sives, and a C.P. Browne portrait in a unique wooden frame. Other additions include photographs and a price list from Gisborne photographer Marus Bongenaar's and a 1953 shot of the old Wattie's building and its surroundings.

Our whare taonga is a living space where history speaks, art inspires, traditions are honoured, and our education programs thrive with the energy and excitement of our tamariki. In doing so, it helps us weave a future that upholds and celebrates the richness of our unique histories.

These words remind us of the threads that bind us together—our connections to the past, to each other, and to the world around us. Like the tui calling to weave, our whare taonga brings together knowledge, culture, the arts, and identity, ensuring that the stories of our ancestors and communities are preserved and shared.

Whakarongo ake au ki te tangi a te manu nei, a te tui
Tui, tui, tui
Tui i runga, tui i raro
Tui i waho, tui i roto
Tui te here tangata
Ka rongo te pō, ka rongo te ao
Tui, tui, tui

FROM THE DIRECTOR



In addition we have a great opportunity for the young person in your life who have a guitar gathering dust when it should be gathering the whānau... If that sounds like someone you know tell them to dust off those guitars and recommend they join our 6 week Guitar Lessons for Beginners starting March 6th.



Spaces are limited and filling up fast! Students must bring their own guitars, either acoustic or electric - with an amp is fine if they have them.

TO REGISTER: phone us on 06 867 6709 or come in and see us today.

Nau mai haere mai.
Lois Haddon | Library Service Leader

Tairāwhiti contingent visiting Whanganui Regional Museum.
Photo: Kathy Greenlides

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS : March 2025 - May 2025

Wimples, crosses, and lepers Women of influence - Margaret Hansen

23 Novemebr 2024 – 30 March 2025

It began simply enough. Margaret's aunts looked at her from their old photographs. These aunts, Marie and Alice were Catholic nuns, of different orders, women among the last of their kind.

Margaret looked back and came to wonder about their lives, about who they were within and beyond their veils. She decided to honour the family place of these intelligent, resilient, funny women by painting a portrait of each. But portraiture is not neutral. It's both personal and political. Decisions needed to be made about how to appropriately portray them and their extraordinary lives. Margaret's thinking led to significant research and musing - about family history, about growing up Catholic. She developed relationships with the archivists of each order, spoke with nuns who told treasured stories about them, and researched the orders her aunts had joined.

She rediscovered family secrets, stories and her own childhood memories and questioning about what it meant to grow up Catholic. As she painted, she wrote, stitching their stories together with her own. After ten years of work this exhibition and book celebrate their lives and her questions.



The garden of earthly delights

Identity in Frame Charly Walsh

1 February 2025 – 23 March 2025

Charly Walsh is a 26-year-old photographer from Tairāwhiti, based in Ōtepoti Dunedin. His practice is inspired by the layered ways art can capture intimacy, history, and community. Captivated by historic locations, psychogeography, quiet drizzly nights, negative space, and conceptual portraiture, all which weave into his visual storytelling. With each photograph, you are invited to step closer and see the world as he does—where moments, places, and people hold stories waiting to be seen.

'Photography is a universal medium. It connects us to people, places, and history, by capturing transgender people as we live, love, and express ourselves freely. It serves as a powerful statement: we are here, we have always been here, and we always will be. I'm committed to capturing our daily lives to normalise our existence and to counter the hostile conditions we face as a community. I'm on equal footing with my subjects. I'm fuelled by the remarkable strength and resilience of my family, friends and members of groups I volunteer with. You always learn so much when you choose to give some of your time to helping causes you truly believe in. I hope that my photography can represent and accurately portray their livelihoods and stories'



Charly Walsh

A Piece of Me Gisborne Pottery Group

22 February 2025 – 4 May 2025

The Gisborne pottery group has been ever evolving for the past 50 years. It takes time, effort and connection to transform a piece of clay into a piece of art. *A Piece of Me* is a reference to our work being 'A Piece' or 'Pieces'. Each piece has been moulded and created by hand which will forever hold a piece of our Identity. These pieces reflect who we are, where we're from and what has shaped us. Our pieces are an exploration of our growth and Identity as individuals and also as an ever-evolving group. We're delighted to include pieces from our mentors who have supported us along this journey.

A Piece of Me is also a reference to the inner peace that working with clay brings. As you stand in front of our pieces, we hope you too are able to connect to them in some way. As potters we may shape clay, but the clay undoubtably continues to shape us.



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Tōiri. Vibe with your Tribe

7 March 2025 – 25 May 2025

A Māori artist collective re-indigenises the customary artform of taonga puoro (Māori musical instruments) through the contemporary lens of their respective art practices—whakairo (carving), uku (clay), print media, and videography. Taonga puoro has undergone a renaissance in recent years, the sounds and associated stories emerging and reintegrating into the living culture of tangata whenua. In the Tairāwhiti region, carved poupou figures holding musical artefacts feature in several wharenui, highlighting the artform's deep connections to hapū, iwi, and whānau in earlier times. A small gathering of puoro practitioners held at Te Araroa's Hinerupe Marae in 1991, is widely recognised as the seed of the present-day revival.

Tōiri means vibration or resonance, the exhibition is an invitation for manuhiri to reflect on how taonga puoro resonates with the people, places, and natural environment of Aotearoa.



Long-term Exhibitions



Watersheds | Ngā Wai Pupū
Encounter famous people, significant events, interesting places and wonderful objects that tell the stories of arrival, survival, struggle and transformation which have shaped Tairāwhiti.

Te Moana Maritime Gallery
Glimpse into 1000 years of maritime myths, legends, stories and development in the Tairāwhiti East Coast region.



The Star of Canada
Explore the two-storied wheel-house and captain's cabin of the Star of Canada, a cargo steamer wrecked on rocks on the Gisborne foreshore on 23 June 1912.



Wyllie Cottage
Visit Wyllie Cottage, the oldest European house still standing in the Gisborne area. Recently restored with new displays.

Blooming Kathy Grimson

29 March 2025 – 18 May 2025
Opening 5:30pm 28 March 2025

"I love the characteristics of wildflowers. Their resilience and ability to find a place to grow in unlikely and difficult places, their diversity and the provision of food and habitat to many species, including humans are all qualities to be admired. All this and looking great too!

This collection of pieces is me celebrating the brightness these simple plants bring to what seems to me an increasingly chaotic world.

I have been quilting and creating textile art for more years than I wish to say and have exhibited with friends and in national and international shows. 'Blooming' is my first solo exhibition 'I hope that you enjoy it as much as I have had creating it.

My sincere thanks to my friends and family whose support has got me to this point"

-Kathy Grimson



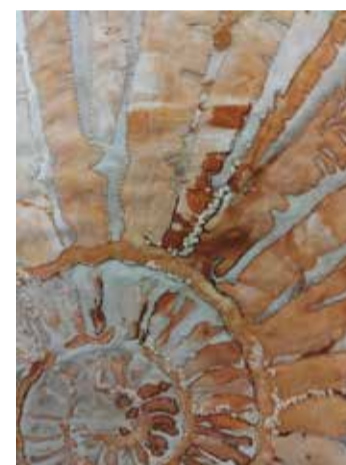
Daises - Kathy Grimson

Add, Subtract, Transform

5 April 2025 – 22 June 2025
Opening 5:30pm 4 April March 2025

Textile artists (TARTS), Morva Thomson, Irene Smith, Bronwyn Furlan, Lina Marsh, Donna Rowan, Kathy Grimson and Deb Williams have exhibited together for many years.

We all enjoy working with textiles and fibre to create our art. We often meet to share techniques, ideas and processes to encourage and learn from each other. This exhibition is an eclectic mix using different approaches culminating in this celebration of our collective work. The concept is altering fabric or fibre to transform the original materials into something unique.



Nautilus - Kathy Grimson

Local As

10 May 2025 – 27 July 2025
Opening 5:30pm 9 May 2025

Local As (locals only) - Life in Tairāwhiti past and present.

Scott Gardiner, Gene Paul Walker, Jason Braybrook.

Local As will bring together, for the first time, three artists with a strong connection to the Gisborne / Tairāwhiti region.

Scott Gardiner has a diverse art practice encompassing painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture. His interest in surfing has him forever tied to the Gisborne region, local surf breaks, and people and from this interest ideas spill over into his work directly and indirectly.

Gene Paul Walker has held a significant presence in the local Tairāwhiti art community and nationally. In 2004 he contributed to the establishment of the Paul Nache Gallery in Gisborne. Since his departure from the gallery, Gene has found time to work on his own methodology within the media of painting and sculpture.

Jason Braybrook, works primarily in paint enveloping a wide variety of themes but more recently he has focussed on the concept of tūrangawaewae - home and place and it's wider meaning and significance. Jason will be exhibiting works that cover a period of 20 years or more, many of which have never been exhibited before.



Artwork by Scott Gardiner

Te Tiriti ki Te Tairāwhiti

24 May 2025 – 10 August 2025
Opening 5:30pm 23 May 2025

When Henry Williams arrived here from the Bay of Islands on 8th April 1840, he had with him two handwritten copies of the treaty, both in te reo. Henry took one of these on to the Wellington region, the other was left here in Tūranga with his brother William.

On the 5th of May, William wrote in his journal that following conversations about the treaty, there was approval *of the tenor of it*. Three days later he reported to Willoughby Shortland that it had been signed *by the leading men in this Bay. ...and I have no doubt but that all the rest will follow their example*.

William took the treaty with him when he travelled up the coast while undertaking his work for the Church Missionary Society. Over the course of the next month, another 17 chiefs signed the East Coast sheet : 3 at Ūawa, 6 at Whakawhīrā, 3 at Rangitukia, and finally, as he returned back down the coast, another 4 at Tokomaru Bay.

This exhibition is a brief look at the journey taken by the East Coast sheet of the treaty, from Manutuke in the south to Rangitukia in the north.



Te Tiriti o Waitangi - East Coast Sheet

Hau Kainga

31 May 2025 – 6 July 2025
Opening 5:30pm 30 May 2025

Michelle Kerr, Claudette Collis, and Fiona Collis are traditional fibre artists from Te Aitanga a Hauiti, whose work is deeply rooted in their whakapapa and cultural heritage. As sisters and skilled weavers, they draw inspiration from the natural materials and techniques passed down through generations, blending traditional Māori weaving with contemporary artistic expression. Their upcoming exhibition, Hau Kāinga, meaning "the true home, the heart of one's identity and belonging," is a celebration of the deep connection to whenua (land), whakapapa (ancestry), and tūrangawaewae (place of standing). Through intricate fibre artworks, they explore the strength, beauty, and resilience of their people, honouring the artistry of Te Aitanga a Hauiti while expressing the evolving nature of mātauranga Māori in a modern world.



Michelle Kerr



Claudette Collis



Fiona Collis

Up the Coast

Up the coast. That's where I'm from.
Up the coast. That's where I'm going.

Up The Coast is an exhibition that looks at some of the lesser known images in the Tairāwhiti Museum photographic collection. Those that have made it up the coast to live or visit have found a unique part of Aotearoa/New Zealand. The photographs within this exhibition showcase some of that uniqueness.



Places and Faces

Fred Foster found a way to make a dollar. Well pre-decimal pounds actually. His plan was to learn how to use a camera and make photographs. That accomplished he took his camera and his sale like charms to his neighbourhood. Knocking on the doors of homes, many newly built, he would talk the lady of the house into have her and her family photographed in front of their home.

This exhibition displays the results of those whom posed for Foster in the early 1900s.



Friends of the Museum

Nau mai, haere mai.

The Friends of Tairāwhiti Museum is on the lookout for new, youthful, energetic members.

An interest in the arts, local history, te ao Māori and a passion for our wonderful Tairāwhiti Museum and Art Gallery is, of course, desirable.

We support our fabulous Museum team and hold 6 meetings per year. Interested? Or know anyone who might be interested?

Please contact via text 0276348683
Or email Clarerob13@gmail.com

Ngā mihi
Clare Robinson
FoM Chairperson.



Friends of the museum support the museum in many events and activities including assisting in the recent acquisition of this study made by the late Norman Maclean.