



## Exhibitions, News & Events

Quarterly newsletter of the Tairāwhiti Museum & Art Gallery  
 Te Whare Taonga o te Tairāwhiti  
 August 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](http://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 Cafe 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



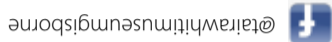
For café enquiries, bookings and catering contact:  
 Brenda Reid at Tairāwhiti Museum on (06) 867 3832 ext 812  
 Mob: 027 765 5509  
 email: [the\\_reidz@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:the_reidz@hotmail.co.nz)

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](http://www.collection.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz/explore)



[www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz](http://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](http://www.sunrisefoundation.org.nz) or [www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz](http://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

HB Williams Memorial Library is delighted to support Ngā Kaituhi Māori with their upcoming Writers Hui.

This new organisation for Māori writers was established in 2024 and patrons are past NZSA President of Honour Witi Ihimaera and Haare Williams Writer and Rangatira o te reo.

Witi Ihimaera will also be the convenor of Nga Kaituhi Māori's upcoming hui scheduled for Gisborne, Turanganui a Kiwa, from October 9-19, 2025.

This hui, "Tui, Tui, Tui Tuhia," is part of Ngā Kaituhi Māori's efforts to uplift Māori writers and will feature a 10-day program of events, including workshops, panels, and meet-the-stars events. Co-organised by the TaiTech Writers Hub and local organisers Regina de Wolf-Ngarimu and Polly Crawford.



The library will also be delivering a range of 'literary themed activities' in support of this kaupapa.

For aspiring teen writers we offer the opportunity to 'Unwrap Witi'. Members of the Library Teen Writers Hub will have the opportunity to meet with Witi for a fun-filled 360 interview.



Witi unwrapped



Michael & Anne Muir  
 Friends of the Museum  
 Claire Robinson  
 Eugene Derwin - Finance Officer  
 Kristine Walsh - Chairperson

All three current office holders stepped down after many years of service in their respective positions. We are pleased to let you know that the new officers are: Eugene Derwin - Finance Officer, Kristine Walsh - Chairperson, and Tash Johnson - Secretary. The Tairāwhiti friends of the Museum are looking forward to new energy and developing special FOM events in the future. Our regional Museum, and its staff, are a taonga here in Gisborne and FOM are proud to support.

Lastly, a friendly reminder that the 2005 - 2006 Membership fees are due, so please check that you've renewed your membership. The Tairāwhiti Friends of the Museum held their AGM on the 12th of August. Thank you to all who attended this meeting.

## FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Nga manaakitanga  
 Tapunga Nepe

We encourage you to visit our *New Old* exhibition, curated by our very own Dudley Meadows, which features a broad and fascinating collection of photographs donated to the museum over the past five years. Looking ahead, our exhibition calendar is full of exciting opportunities to engage with art, culture, and history.

We are also delighted to share that Tairāwhiti Museum has welcomed new staff members to our team. Aline Curtis has joined us as our new Collections Manager, and Hinauri Donald has come on board as our new Education Lead. We are very fortunate to have their skills, passion, and fresh perspectives contributing to the ongoing care of our collections and the delivery of inspiring educational experiences for our community.

Although we've experienced some cold weather recently, our hearts have been kept warm by the richness of our exhibitions, museum visits, collections related projects and education programmes. A particularly special moment was the recent acknowledgement and farewell for our former Chairperson, Michael Muir, who has given many years of service, leadership, and wisdom to our whare taonga. Alongside his wife, Anne Muir, together, they have both committed their time and support to the museum and to the Friends of the Museum. Although they have concluded their terms of service, we know their aroha and connection will remain close, and we look forward to keeping in touch.

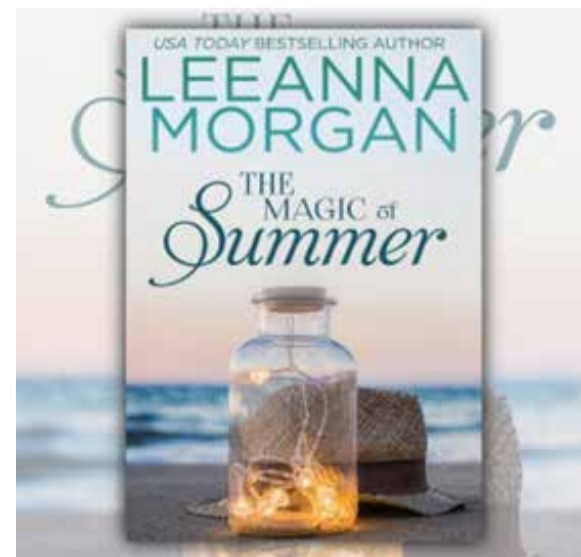
## FROM THE DIRECTOR

For those keen to learn more about Self-publishing or the 'Business Side' of writing we are delighted to present a Top Tips and Q&A session with USA Today Bestselling Author Leeanna Morgan.

Based on the Kapiti Coast Leeanna published her first book in 2014. Since then all of her books have been self-published and in the past decade Leeanna has been able to generate a six figure annual income from her writing exclusively. Registrations for this session will open soon so don't miss out if you are interested in following suit!



Leeanna Morgan



In addition to these sessions the library will be hosting an action packed programme of activities including:

- Creative Character Development using Dungeons & Dragons: a fun writer's workshop with Kelly Blackwell
- An Afterhours Research for Writing Lock-in Event
- Found Poetry Session with Poet Aaron Compton
- Maori Author Themed Te Pihinga Session for Toddlers

And much more! Full details will be available soon at [www.gpl.govt.nz](http://www.gpl.govt.nz)

Nau mai haere mai.  
 Lois Haddon | Library Service Leader

# EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS : September 2025 - November 2025

## Currents

28 June 2025 – 14 September 2025

*Currents* – recent series of paintings by Pru Davis

I have lived on the East Coast most of my adult life and the sea is central to the artistic inspiration I have gained there. I love that the sea is never static and never predictable.

This seems to me to symbolise life itself which also presents us with challenges and the unexpected.

There is an old local saying that one should never turn ones back on the ocean which speaks to the power and unpredictability of water and nature itself. I have also attempted to capture the different beauty of swimming holes in the local rivers with their intricate play of light and shadow and reflected sky.

I hope my paintings catch the magic of water for others to see and enjoy.



Waimate - Pru Davis

## Waerenga-a-Hika: Hohou te Rongo

19 November 2025 – 22 March 2026  
Opening 18 November 2025

2025 marks the 160th anniversary of the siege of Waerenga-a-Hika (17-22 November 1865).

In 1865, 200 colonial troops with 300 Māori allies attacked the pā site where hundreds of Māori families lived. During the battle, which lasted five days, 71 Māori living at Waerenga-a-Hika pā and 11 government soldiers were killed. Many people were wounded, captured and deported to the Chatham Islands.

To mark these reflections of history and time, creatives, story tellers, educators and historians come together to share their stories, perspectives of past, present and future, through an exhibition of empowerment, identity and pride of place.

Presented in collaboration with Te Aitanga a Māhaki Iwi Trust, Hohou te Rongo is an exhibition that weaves a history that once simmered beneath the surface, now rises to the forefront in remembrance and honour of our tipuna sharing stories of survival, resistance and mana motuhake.

Featuring a collection of taonga that connects to time and place of Tūranga in the 1800s, and contemporary artworks by selected Tairāwhiti practitioners, *Hohou te Rongo*, serves also as a bridge towards understanding and healing, through these shared visual conversations.



Waerenga-a-Hika pā in ruins after it was attacked in 1865. Photo: Alexander Turnbull Library Reference: 1/2-008137; F

## Gisborne Artists, Potters and Photographers

2 August 2025 – 19 October 2025

Once again, members and visitors to the museum, will be able to check out what has been happening in art filled environments all over the motu. Each year associated members of local arts and crafts organisations pool together to present a miscellany of artwork in Tairāwhiti museum's main gallery.

The common thread is the connection to the three core groups of GAPP, the Gisborne Artists' Society, The Gisborne Pottery Group and the Camera Club (Photographers). The majority produce work year after year for submission into the annual show, but once in a while some will test the waters by exhibiting in a solo situation or a regrouping outside of the yearly expo.

Earlier the Gisborne Pottery Group marked 2025 by celebrating 50 years of clay making in the exhibition *A Piece of Me*. The title makes reference to the moulding and creation of signature pieces by each and as a member of the wider group. The space was shared with tutors and mentors who have supported the pottery group as it has evolved.



Pit fired sagger - Seymour May

## 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.

## Te Oro o Te Whenua – Echoes of the Land

30 August 2025 – 9 November 2025

A selection of photographic landscapes by Mike Spedding.

Mike is a former curator and Director of the Tairāwhiti Museum. He has also worked as a heritage consultant and managed and interpreted numerous heritage sites across Aotearoa. He has had a long-time interest in photography as a means of storytelling.

*Te Oro o Te Whenua* includes images of the coastline and bush of Tūranganui a Kiwa. Reminders of what we have got, what we have lost, and, what we are losing. Tracing the impacts of colonisation and climate change on our whenua. Images that also help capture emotions and memories of our connections with the world around us.

The landscape both reveals and obscures our past. It's not just what you can see, but what is hidden from view, or lost. These are things that can bury our past, bury the stories of our ancestors.

The presence of absence. Sometimes it's what's missing that's doing all the talking.



Papa whariki - Mike Spedding

## New Old

Every month the museum receives generous offers of material to be added to its collections. *New Old* is a cross section of some of the historic photographs the museum has had donated over the last five years. We have made a selection to show the broad variety of images that have extend our already diverse collection.



### 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.



## The Art of Finding Value. Andrew Ellmers

25 October 2025 – 30 November 2025  
Opening 5:30pm 24 October 2025

A few years ago, I entered a piece of furniture into an art competition, it was accepted as a piece of art, I won. This set me on my current path to have an exhibition.

A definition of this exhibition's title; it takes time and patience to find value in something which has been discarded for no fault of its own. That value is found in its repurposed use and the natural beauty of the timber.

The native timbers I work with were once treasured on farms as fence lines, then discarded to rot, or burnt. What I have managed to save is a very finite and gnarly resource to work with.

Inspiration comes from the Arts and Craft period, coupled with the design principle "Form follows function", where all pieces have a use as well as my own unique design aesthetic.



Plinth with Fruit Bowl - Andrew Ellmers

## Donations

As a keen local photographer, Carol Chan set herself a project in which she observes and photographs what is right in front of her, literally. She could not resist a scene that presented itself in the car park of her place of work.

*The Monsters of Our Times - Potholes and Pandemic* reflects upon a moment of life in Tairāwhiti during the early 2020s.

Renowned photography supporter and critic Peter Ireland spotted the work on display and thought it deserving to be in the museum collection. The museum agreed and gratefully received a framed print that Peter had organised to be made.

The piece can be seen on display hanging in the new exhibition *New Old*.



Peter Ireland and Carol Chan



*The Monsters of Our Times - Potholes and Pandemic* - Carol Chan

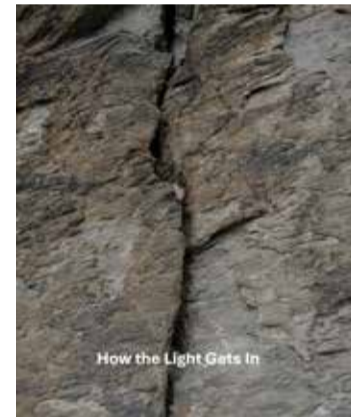
## How the Light Gets In John Pennington

20 September 2025 – 7 December 2025

John is a photographer who works on long-term community-based documentary projects.

The project (ongoing) *How the Light Gets In* reflects two of John's preoccupations. One: how photography can be used to access a geographical place and its communities. For someone new to Tairāwhiti this involves photography as sense making, orientation and discovery. By its nature photography forces the photographer to observe closely, to notice the mundane, the comical and the significant. It's a work of immersion and integration.

The physical landscape is mediated and enriched by the people who live there. Engaging with this richness in all its variety and diversity is an important part of John's practice. Taking his cue from the Leonard Cohen song of the same name John's portraits hopefully reflect our imperfections and vulnerabilities not as barriers or obstacles to understanding and connection but the ways in which we recognise the complexity and beauty of people.



How the Light Gets In

## New Staff



Aline Curtis (left) and Hinauri Donald (right)

The museum welcomes two new members to staff.

### Aline Curtis

Kia ora koutou,

I'm delighted to have joined the museum team as Kaiwhakahiato Taonga – Collection Manager. I'm originally from France, where I studied history before completing my Master's degree in England, specialising in book and paper conservation. Over the years, I've worked with a wide range of institutions across Europe—particularly in France and Spain—conserving, caring for, and organising diverse collections.

I've been living in Aotearoa for five years now, mostly in Gisborne, which is my partner's hometown and the place we've chosen to raise our child. Following my role as Conservator for the Auckland Council Archives, I'm excited to be back in Tairāwhiti and contribute to the care and preservation of the region's rich collections. It's a privilege to be part of a community so deeply connected to its heritage and whenua.

## Colour Visions Jan Linklater

14 November 2025 – 8 February 2026

Aotearoa colour is exceptional. It is intensified by the clear light that enhances even the ordinary. As someone brought up with the soft hues and muted tones of England it never ceases to amaze.

Colour gives excitement to movement and highlights the patterns of landscape

My obvious European allegiance to Matisse and Hockney is now influenced by all things kiwi and I trust the blend stimulates the viewer as much as myself.

My creativity goes in waves with no set routine or timeline: something gives me a buzz and I'm away... I have my favourite colours like magenta, orange and turquoise and I use them to augment reality and give joy.

I have a love of life drawing which has given me an understanding of body language which I employ when using my family as action models. I also delight in the natural world, the birds, the different and often startling land forms and the patterns of the rich New Zealand plant life.

This exhibition is a celebration; please look and enjoy.



The Plunge - Jan Linklater

### Hinauri Donald

Kia ora koutou,

E ngā mana, e ngā reo o Te Tairāwhiti, nōku te hōnora nui kua riro māku tēnei tūnga, hei ārahi i te wāhanga mātauranga mō ngā tamariki, mokopuna. Ka noho aku iwi a Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki me Ngāi Pākehā hei tūāpapa i roto i aku mahi. Ko taku nei whāinga, kia akiaki, kia poipoi hoki i ā tātou mokopuna ki roto i te ao Māori, me ngā mātauranga puta noa i te motu. He ara tēnei hei taotoko i ngā tamariki kia pūrangiaho ai rātou ki roto i tēnei ao hou. Mauri ora!

It is a great honour to take on this role as Lead Educator, guiding the education programme for our tamariki and mokopuna. My iwi — Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki, and Ngāi Pākehā, form the foundation of all that I bring to this mahi. My aspiration is to inspire and nurture our young ones through te ao Māori and the diverse bodies of knowledge across Aotearoa. This role will help create pathways for our mokopuna to thrive.

Nāku iti nei