

Ngā mihi tāurima mo tenei wā o te Kirihimete me te tau hou Pakehā ki a tātau. Warm wishes to everyone for a joyful Christmas season and a happy New Year.

These experiences reflect our ongoing commitment to preserving, sharing, and celebrating Tairāwhiti heritage—both locally and on the global stage.

Most recently, Tairāwhiti Museum had the honour of hosting a presentation celebrating the inclusion of the William Fitzgerald Crawford photographic collection in the UNESCO NZ Memory of the World Register. We acknowledge the Crawford whānau, all those who supported the recognition, attendees of the evening, and members of the UNESCO NZ Board, including Sean McMahon, who presented the certificate to our curator of photography, Dudley Meadows.

And then back home in preparation for the *Waerenga a Hikā - Hohou Te Rongo* exhibition, commemorating 160 years since the Waerenga a Hikā siege in 1865. A collaborative exhibition with Te Aitanga a Māhaki led by Tai and Rina Kekeke, and Nick Tupara. An exquisite exhibition, featuring taonga held in the care of Tairāwhiti Museum, including a tekoteko associated with Te Poho o Rawiri Mārae (on loan from MITG Hawke's Bay), alongside new taonga and artworks from local artists and a collage of student artworks from Te Karaka Area School, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Whatatutu and Te Kura o Pātutahi. The exhibition opened with a morning blessing and a public opening in the evening, which was met with an outstanding turnout from our Tairāwhiti community. We encourage everyone to visit this well curated exhibition.

Shortly after, I meet up with our contingent from Turanga in Munich, Germany, for the opening of *He Toi Ora* exhibition at the Five Continents Museum—a beautiful presentation of its taonga Māori collection, including the pou-tokomanawa of our ancestor Tawhaki, originally from Te Mana o Turanga meeting house at Whakato Marae in Manurūke. The exhibition was co-curated by Dr Hille Aroa, Head of the Oceania Department, and David Jones of Rongowhākāta.

In October, I had the great privilege of joining eleven other museum professionals from around the world as part of the British Museum's International Working Group, assisting as an advisory group in the planning of the museum's future permanent galleries. While there were robust and wide-ranging discussions and perspectives, this was also an important opportunity to maintain relationships with the British Museum, which cares for an extensive collection of taonga Māori, including taonga from our region.

Nau mai, haere mau ki Te Whare Taonga o Te Tairāwhiti—welcome to a place of connection, memory, and belonging for the people of Tairāwhiti.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

THU 09 OCT 6:30AM - 10AM Te Pihinga Special with Koka Katarina • Children's Storytime Enjoy stories written by NZ Authors and sing-along to favourite waiata!	FRI 10 OCT 3:30PM - 5PM Teen Writers Hub 360 Interview with Witi Ihimaera • Teen Author Talk + Q&A A unique opportunity for our Rangatahi writers to meet, share and debate with Witi.
SAT 11 OCT 10AM - 11AM Author Talk with Paula Morris • Author Talk + Q&A Storytelling, history, identity and exploration combine to produce a creative platform.	SAT 18 OCT 9:30AM - 12PM Self-Publishing Workshop with Leeanne Morgan • Presentation + Q&A Learn to package and publish your writing to compete for an international audience.
MON 13 OCT 10AM - 11AM He Kōrero No Te Tairāwhiti with Te Rūnanga o Tūranganui a Kiwa • Te Reo Māori Presentation + Q&A Kōrero ano ki te hakeno māori o te Māorimai i Hawaiki ki Tūranganui-a-Kiwa.	MON 13 OCT 1PM - 2:30PM Literary Taxidermy with Taranga Kent • Writers Workshop A fun writing exercise to stitch together a flash fiction piece.
TUE 14 OCT 5:30PM - 8PM Creative Character Development using Dungeons & Dragons with Kelly Blackwell • Writers Workshop Gamify your writing and level up your creative character building as a writer!	TUE 14 OCT 8PM - 10PM Researching for Writing Lock In with Research Librarians Shariene Douglas-Huriwai & Maraea Brown • Researchers workshop Discover the library resources available to enhance your writing.
WED 15 OCT 10AM - 11AM A story from the Tairāwhiti with Te Rūnanga o Tūranganui a Kiwa • Presentation + Q&A Learn about the origins of local Māori from Hawaiki to Tūranganui-a-Kiwa.	WED 15 OCT 1PM - 2:30PM Poetry Film Workshop with Taranga Kent • Poetry Workshop Explore the option of recording your poetry as a visual presentation.
THU 16 OCT 2PM - 3:30PM The Story of HB Williams Memorial Library with Your Library Guides • Interactive Tour Step through history and discover the stories embedded in HB Williams Memorial Library.	FRI 17 OCT 3:30PM - 5PM Found Poetry with Aaron Compton • Teen Writers Hub Workshop A creative session for Rangatahi. Learn how to find poetry hiding in books, newspapers and screens!

WWW.GPL.GOV.TZ

This two week programme included presentations from international authors and local writers. Community groups like Te Rūnanga o Tūranganui a Kiwa also contributed to the programme which had a strong bi-cultural focus and content for all ages.

There were multiple highlights from *Te Uru Whārangī* Library Writers Festival. But one session that was particularly memorable was Witi Ihimaera's Workshop 'Witi Unwrapped' with the Library Teen Writers Group. Witi listened to the rangatahi as they shared their dreams and writing aspirations before reflecting on his own journey growing up on the East Coast.

His message to the group was clear: 'Success comes from perseverance, focus, and belief in yourself'.

As the year draws to a close the library team thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you in 2026. Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te tau hou.

Prepared by Lois Haddon – Library Service Leader

Tairāwhiti MUSEUM
Te Whare Taonga o te Tairāwhiti
Stout Street • Gisborne
06 8673832
Mon. - Sat. 10am-4pm
Sun. 1.30pm-4pm

SUNRISE FOUNDATION
Space Cafe
VINEYARD

Thank you to our exhibition preview sponsors

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

Tairāwhiti Museum #tairawhitimuseum

Review us on TripAdvisor

@tairawhitimuseum | Gisborne

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

The library team were proud to provide another year of diverse programmes, services and activities in 2025.

The fortnightly Library Waiata Mai sessions continued to prove popular. Additionally inviting other groups like IDEA Services to co-lead sessions was not only successful but seemed to improve the confidence and sense of community for those attending.

NAU MAI HAERE MAI WAIAATA MAI
COMMUNITY WAIAATA GROUP
10.30AM THURSDAYS
FORTNIGHTLY AT GISBORNE LIBRARY
WWW.GPL.GOV.TZ

This year the library team also enthusiastically delivered a range of activities for Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. Including hosting Taonga Puoro and Poi Making workshops as well as playing Taonga Tākaro Traditional Māori Games with Whiti Ora Tairāwhiti.

The 1st July 2025 marked three years since H B Williams Memorial Library removed overdue charges for our community. The impacts have been largely positive with loan rates, visitor numbers and customer satisfaction rates steadily climbing.

Finally in October HB Williams Memorial Library was delighted to support Ngā Kaitiuhi Māori the association for Māori Writers with their Hui Kaitiuhi programme which ran from the 9-19th October.

In support of this the library proudly launched *Te Uru Whārangī* Library Writers Festival.

Te Uru Whārangī draws its name from the small native tree, melicope ternata, as well as the Māori word for page (whārangī), bound and gathered together like a grove of trees into a book. When many whārangī groves are set close to one another, they form a wood, or a forest. Authors, writers, contributors to the literary reserve help sustain our forests, made literally of tree and gum.

At this year's *Te Uru Whārangī Festival*, we welcomed and celebrated some of the contributors to our local grove of books and made welcome everyone keen to hear their kōrero, their stories, and inspiration.

Tairāwhiti MUSEUM
www.tairawhitimuseum.org.nz

Tiki Kaue 2009, Bernice Williams
Ruanuku Art Award 2009



Exhibitions, News & Events

Quarterly newsletter of the Tairāwhiti Museum & Art Gallery
Te Whare Taonga o te Tairāwhiti
December 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
Open during the holiday period. Closed on statutory holidays.

EXHIBIT CAFE
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

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS : December 2025 - February 2026

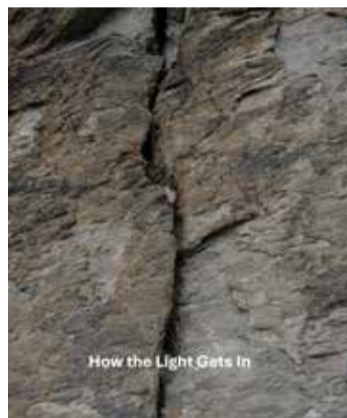
How the Light Gets In John Pennington

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

1964 – 2026 and still going A retrospective by Jean McGreal Loomis

20 February 2026 – 24 May 2026

Ko wai tō tūrangawaewae?

Jean McGreal discovered her passion for art at an early age, beginning lessons with a nun named Sister Ligouri in Auckland at the age of nine.

After leaving Elam School of Art, Loomis was invited to teach art in the Catholic schools in Apia, Samoa, presenting an opportunity to experience Polynesian culture first-hand. Returning to New Zealand two years later, she held several exhibitions exploring Auckland's volcanic landscape and Auckland's west coast.

In 1967 Loomis travelled to the US where she became involved in a community development project called 5th City on Chicago's West Side. Working with black community members, she designed and executed a three-story mural and a sculpture called the Iron Man which still stands as a symbol of people overcoming past inequities and shaping their future.

Loomis returned to New Zealand in 1976 and began a distinguished secondary art teaching career, serving on the national art marking panel for several years. While teaching, she held several major exhibitions exploring the environments, histories and issues impacting the communities where she lived.



Pa Hill from Kaiti Beach - Jean Loomis

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

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.

Waerenga-a-Hika: Hohou te Rongo

19 November 2025 – 22 March 2026

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 over 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 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.

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.



Kia Ngāwari

6 December 2025 – 15 February 2026
Opens 5:30pm 5 December 2025

Kia Ngāwari is a group exhibition featuring works by Steve Gibbs, Ihipera Monowai Whakataka, Maia Gibbs, Jean Johnston, Gary Underdown, Michelle Kerr, Teresa Matthews, Rina Kerekere, Torri Stewart, Rangituhia Hollis, Tai Kerekere and Melanie Tahata.

Calling in all the favours, Melanie Tahata gathers together eleven working artists for an easy and gentle end to the calendar year. *Kia Ngāwari* is a group exhibition that prepares for the eventual arrival of Hineraumati and the busy summer season on the East Coast.

Some of the artists are connected through whakapapa and toi, some through art practices and specifically, printmaking. Similar themes across all thirteen artists resonate with whānau, taiao and kaitiakitanga.



Iwi Atua - zinc plate etching

UNESCO Memory of the World

The William Fitzgerald Crawford photographic collection at Tairāwhiti Museum in Gisborne has been recognised on the national UNESCO Memory of the World Register. It is the first entry from Gisborne and the East Coast region.

An official presentation of an acknowledgement certificate was made by UNESCO Board Chair, Seán McMahon. The depth and value of the Crawford Collection held at the Tairāwhiti Museum has long been known by locals, but this year has received the utmost recognition by being included in the register of the UNESCO Memory of The World Aotearoa New Zealand Ngā Mahara o te Ao.

The collection of 5,000 glass plate negatives created by William Fitzgerald Crawford (1844–1915) is an unparalleled record of the development of Gisborne and the district between 1874 and 1912.

You can see the UNESCO entry here;

<https://unescomoworld.org/inscription/william-f-crawford-collection>

You can browse images made by W F Crawford here;

<https://collection.tairāwhitimuseum.org.nz/explore>



Seán McMahon, right, presents the certificate to Dudley Meadows.

Ruanuku Art Award Exhibition 1995 - 2025

12 December 2025 – 8 March 2026

The Ruanuku Art Award was introduced in 1995 under a policy initiated by Tairāwhiti Museum, in collaboration with Toihoukura, School of Māori Visual Arts.

This award, sponsored by the museum, was drawn up for a student in their final year in recognition of their achieved excellence over the course of their studies. As an integral part of the sponsorship the museum would select and purchase a work produced by the award recipient and acquire it for the museum's fine arts collection.

From 1997 to 2022, the sponsorship of the award passed into the hands of Professor Jack Richards who had expressed an interest in assuming patronage after viewing an exhibition by the students at the museum. As part of this agreement the museum would continue to select a Ruanuku artwork for the collection while Professor Jack Richards would provide the funding.

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Ruanuku Art Award and many students who have received this financial support and recognition are still cognisant within the realm of the arts. Whether practicing within their chosen medium or passing on their knowledge to receptive minds within the education system, contemporary Māori art has and will continue to flourish as visual language is a significant key in learning and retaining indigenous identity.



Tiki Kauae 2009, Bernice Williams Ruanuku Art Award 2009

FOM Friends of the Museum

'Tis the season

The Friends Of Tairāwhiti Museum were so stoked with the response to our trio of Spring Artist Talks we're keen to book another series for summer.

In the spring series, photographer Mike Spedding spoke about his focus on heritage and landscapes; John Pennington (also a photographer) discussed his community-based portraiture; and furniture maker Andrew Ellmers talked about the art of finding value in reclaimed timbers. We're grateful to the artists for taking part, and to the audiences who turned up and responded with some intriguing questions and insights of their own.

As we roll into the holiday period we'd like to thank all members for their ongoing support, and encourage those looking for gift ideas to give the gift of culture by supporting your Tairāwhiti Museum and the incredible team that drives it.

Renew your Friends subscription; purchase from the museum shop; or even pick up a piece of art. It's a gift for us all.

Ngā mihi o te wā from your Friends Of Tairāwhiti Museum.



John Pennington talks about the art of community photography.

Te Hā Roha Elspeth Leggett

14 February 2026 – 12 April 2026
Opens 5:30pm 13 February 2026

Arohā is love and love is arohā, right? When the translation is this simple, we miss what is actually being said, the depth and what is actually embedded in the kupu.

To break arohā down to aro and hā. Aro is to focus on, to direct attention and to face. Hā is the breath of life, an essence or energy. To combine them is "To turn one's attention and presence towards the breath of another".

Through my own reo journey I would always ask "He aha te whakamāoritanga 'I love you'? I would always be upset when people would answer and say that there isn't one direct way to say it. But through my reo journey, I have learnt so much about myself. That there isn't one direct way to communicate through societies and worlds. That some languages are more possessive and some are just plainly poetic. This exhibition focuses on the comparison between Arohā and Love. Nau mai haere mai e te whānau!



Te Pumanawa - Elspeth Leggett

Te Pou o Hinematiore exhibition in Hohentübingen Castle

Te Pou o Hinematiore exhibition was successfully installed and opened at Hohentübingen Castle, at the Tübingen University Museum, in Germany on 23 October 2025. The co-designed exhibition was the culmination of two years of wānanga between Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti and Tübingen University. Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Tairāwhiti Museum, and Tübingen University Museum staff met online every month. The exhibition is a testament to what can be achieved between countries and cultures when they come together to recognise a dual heritage and a shared future.

A delegation from Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, including kaiako and taura from Tolaga Bay Area School and Kahukuranui travelled to Tübingen to support the exhibition opening and celebrate an enduring relationship with their tipuna and the people of Germany. Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti opened the exhibition with very close whanaunga from Rongowhakaata who had travelled from Munich.

The exhibition highlights Te Pou o Hinematiore that was acquired by the crew of the *Endeavour* when they visited Ūawa in 1769. The pou travelled to England and then through Europe before residing in the Museum in the University of Tübingen in 1937. Te Aitanga a Hauiti are grateful to former curator Professor Volker Hams for his meticulous research, which led to the validation and authentication of the pou.



Te Pou o Hinematiore in the exhibition in Hohentübingen Castle.