

# TAIRĀWHITI MUSEUM EDUCATION 2026



East Cape Garden:  
Asleep beside the winter sea; furrows shining with frost  
John Hovell, 2010  
(15364) Collection of Tairāwhiti Museum

*Haramai rā aku nui, aku wehi, aku whakatiketike! Mauria mai ā tātau tamariki mokopuna ki te Whare Pupuri Taonga o Te Tairāwhiti, te waharoa ki ngā taonga ā kui mā, ā koro mā.*

## **Mission Statement**

To provide rich learning opportunities for students, who through the exploration of taonga and art, will gain a better understanding of our diverse histories, communities and cultures.

## **About Us**

Our programmes utilise the museum's collections, archives and exhibitions, linking to a range of curriculum areas. Workshops are designed to be informative, interactive hands-on experiences. Talk to us about how learning programmes can be shaped around your curriculum learning foci and adapted to suit your students. We cater for ECE and primary school students from New Entrant to Year 8 and secondary school students from years 9 to 13.

## **How To Book**

Contact the education team:

Email: [education@tairawhitimuseum.org.nz](mailto:education@tairawhitimuseum.org.nz)

Online Booking: [tairawhitimuseum.org.nz/education/bookings/](https://tairawhitimuseum.org.nz/education/bookings/)

Phone (06) 867 3832

Please provide the following information

- Programme
- Kaupapa/topic you are studying
- Preferred dates and times
- Year group and number of students
- Contact details
- Language for lesson delivery English and/or Māori

## **Cost**

FREE to all schools and ECE in the Tairāwhiti region. Schools groups and ECE outside the region are welcome, a koha/donation is appreciated.

## Duration

Museum Introductory Tour & Earlychildhood Education Programmes 45mins - 1hr  
Tour + Workshop 1.5hrs - 2hrs  
Education programmes run during Museum opening hours, 10am to 4pm, weekdays.

## Cancellations

Please let us know as soon as possible if your plans change, so that we can offer your booking to other schools.

## Self-guided groups

We welcome self-guided groups. Please register your visit for groups of ten or more. Contact the education team if you would like support planning your visit. Entry by koha appreciated for school groups outside the Tairāwhiti region.

## Outreach

A limited number of lessons (where stated), can be adapted and delivered at your school by negotiation and is dependant on staff availability.

## Early Childhood Education

We are pleased to offer the 'Museum Tour' and 'Ngā Kēmu' (Outreach) programmes to our ECE and Kōhanga Reo whānau. These programmes are aligned with Te Whāriki Early Childhood Curriculum and are designed to meet the children's current learning interests.

## Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories

Many of our programmes align with the Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories curriculum as we utilise the natural and cultural heritage resources of our region to help ākonga connect with their history. We place emphasis on a 'Te Ao Māori' approach to learning where ākonga gain a deeper experience and understanding of our local history through our taonga here at the museum, through access to the archives and exhibitions, and also through visiting significant local heritage sites. Talk to us about how we can create a learning experience for your ākonga based on your learning focus.

*Tairāwhiti Museum's learning programmes are supported by the Ministry of Education's initiative Enriching Local Curriculum (ELC).*

# PROGRAMME

# 2026



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• Women's Suffrage	
• Visual Art - Artist Models	

# Tō Tātau Wāhi/ Our Place



# Museum Tour

Explore the museum's treasures and works of art on display in our galleries. These treasures act as portals to different times and places through the stories they tell. Guided tours give a general overview of current exhibitions, including Wyllie Cottage and the Star of Canada.

LEARNING AREA: Te Whāriki, Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/  
Technology/Visual Art

Recommended Year levels: ECE to Yr 13

TIME 1hr

# Voyagers

Discover how early voyagers navigated their way over the Pacific Ocean to arrive at these shores and the knowledge and technologies they used to make the epic journey.

## MUSEUM BASED

Explore waka hourua related taonga from the museum's collections and examine the different types of materials used in their construction. This is followed by time in our planetarium finding the constellations that navigators used in the past and still use today to guide their ocean journeys. Ākonga will also learn the stories of our local tīpuna and how they navigated to Aotearoa including the story of the Horouta waka, the roles of key crew members and the naming of Tūranganui-a-Kiwa and surrounding landscape.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/Science/Technology

Recommended Year levels: NE to Yr 10

TIME 1.5hrs

## OUTREACH

We can bring the Voyagers programme to you. The inflatable planetarium requires a large space such as a hall or gymnasium. Minimum three classes.

Times 45mins-1.5hrs (negotiable)



# Monument Walk

Gisborne city is filled with monuments that commemorate some of the important people of Tairāwhiti or events that have shaped our region and left a lasting legacy in the community.

## 1.5 HOUR WALK

Starting at the museum, take a guided tour of the monuments on a walk that loops around the cenotaph.

## 2 HOUR WALK

A two hour guided walk begins at the museum, takes in all the monuments along the river bank and ends at Waikanae beach.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/Science/Technology

Recommended Year levels: Yr 3 to Yr 13

# Our Rivers

The rivers that run through the town of Tūranga/Gisborne are steeped in history. See how life on and around the river has changed over time, hear stories and legends, view old images from the museum's photographic collection and make comparisons to the life on the river today.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/Science

Recommended Year levels: Yr 3 to Yr 6

TIME 1.5hrs

# C Company/Kamupene C

## Partnership Programme

Learn about Te Kamupene C - Ngā Kaupoi, C Company of the 28th Māori Battalion and its significance to the community. Make connections with the Tairāwhiti people that served the country during times of war. An audio visual presentation and interactive activities help to bring alive the memories of those that served during war time.

Book through the museum. Sessions times are between 10am-12pm only. A koha on entry to C Company to the Ngā Tama Toa Trust is appreciated.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories

Recommended Year levels: Yr 4 to Yr 13

TIME 1.5hrs

# Eastwoodhill Arboretum

## Partnership Programme

We have a partnership with Eastwoodhill Arboretum to support your school to take part in on-location lessons at the nation's largest collection of exotic trees. Educators will meet you there to run lessons that include the history of the arboretum and a guided tour identifying native and exotic plants.

Choose your activity:

- Option one: Pot up and grow your own plant from seed.
- Option two: Planning a fun day out? We can organise games and relays amongst the trees.

Book through the museum. There is an entry fee of \$2 for school aged children, teachers and all accompanying adults. Under 5's are free. Schools are to organise their own transport. Bring a packed lunch, suitable clothing and shoes for a light tramp.

LEARNING AREA: Health and Physical Education/Science/Social Science

Recommended Year levels: NE to Yr 8

TIME 2-2.5hrs

TE KŌPURA 2026



# Pūrākau/ Stories



# First Meetings

Retrace the Endeavour's first journey from England to Tairāwhiti in 1769 and identify the key people on the voyage, their roles, responsibilities and interactions with different iwi on their journey. From Cook's journals we gain insight into the life and culture of the tangata whenua and the first interactions between Māori and Pākehā.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories

Recommended Year level: Yr 4 to Yr 13

TIME 1.5 hours

# New Zealand Land Wars

## East Coast Wars

In the 1800s, conflict over sovereignty and land led to battles between government forces and Māori tribes throughout New Zealand. Uncover the impact and consequences for the people of Tairāwhiti. This lesson includes an overview of the land wars, and investigates the turbulent times in which Te Kooti lived here in Tūranganui-ā-Kiwa. Students will investigate the significance and impact of the actions of both Māori and Pākehā.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories

Recommended Year level: Yr 7 to Yr 13

TIME 1.5 hours

# Tūranga To Gisborne

The early settlers to Tūranganui-ā-Kiwa contributed to forming the city of Gisborne as we know it today. Learn about key historical developments, events that shaped our town and prominent people of our community who influenced and shaped our identity.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories

Recommended Year level: Yr 3- Yr 8

Time 1.5 hours



# Nga-Taonga/ Treasures



# Retro Technology

Technology has changed drastically over the past one hundred years, and continues to develop exponentially. There was a time when a telephone had one job! Today smartphones perform multiple tasks. The museum has a collection of objects that students can investigate up close, such as clocks, phones, calculators, record players, typewriters, cameras and more old technologies that are today incorporated into modern day smartphones.

LEARNING AREA: Science/Social Science/Technology

Recommended Year levels: Yr 3 to Yr 8

TIME 1.5hrs

# Kiwiana

Kiwiana are icons from New Zealand's heritage, especially from around the middle of the 20th century. Collectively, simple items like gumboots, 'Buzzy Bee' toys, pavlova and marmite are elevated from quirky kitsch to kiwi icons, contributing to a sense of national identity of what makes us 'Kiwi'.

After a treasure hunt around the museum to find the hidden kiwiana items, students will make their own kiwiana inspired artwork to take home.

LEARNING AREA: Social Science/Visual Art

Recommended Year levels: NE to Yr 8

TIME 1.5hrs





# Te Marae

## MARAE BASED OUTREACH

If you have organised a local marae experience for your students, book the museum education team to run our Ngā Kēmu programme or a Māori arts workshop to enhance your visit. We can also facilitate learning about features of the Marae.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/Health and Physical Education/Visual Art

Recommended Year levels: NE to Yr 8

TIME 2hrs

# Ngā Kēmu/Games & Toys

## MUSEUM BASED / OUTREACH

Enjoy a fun immersive, non-digital experience, learning through playing a variety of traditional games. The museum has a wide variety of traditional Māori and early settlers games, many of which have become absent from New Zealand playgrounds. A brief discussion with students is around the importance of play to developing practical skills such as coordination, thinking and working collaboratively.

LEARNING AREA: Te Whāriki, Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/Health and Physical Education

Recommended Year levels: ECE to Yr 8

# Taonga Pūoro / Māori Musical Instruments

MUSEUM BASED / OUTREACH

See, hear and experience our collection of Māori musical instruments. Each taonga has a story and the voices of these singing treasures are being brought back to life at our museum. Ākonga will also explore waiata Māori from Te Tairāwhiti that tell the stories of our local tīpuna and history. In the workshop you'll make your own simple instrument to start learning how to play, along with learning waiata Māori.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/Technology/The Arts

Recommended Year levels: All Ages

TIME 1.5hrs



*Kōauau.*

Artist and date unknown.

E B Williams Artifact Collection

[7890] Collection of Tairāwhiti Museum.

# Ngā Toi/ Arts



*Whare Tangata.*  
Noelle Jakeman, 1998, Sculpture.  
[6471] Collection of Tairāwhiti Museum.



Through engaging in the visual arts, students learn how to discern, participate in, and celebrate their own and others' visual worlds. Visual arts learning begins with children's curiosity and delight in their senses and stories and extends to communication of complex ideas and concepts. An understanding of Māori visual culture is achieved through exploration of Māori contexts. The arts of European, Pasifika, Asian, and other cultures add significant dimensions to New Zealand visual culture.

## **Creatives**

Creative workshops give students the opportunity to engage with the museum's changing exhibitions throughout the year (see overview on pages 26 & 27). Workshops explore the artist/s motivation, techniques and art medium. Practical workshops are designed for primary age students, are inspired by the artist works and support students developing practical skills in visual art.

LEARNING AREA: Social Science/Technology/Visual Art

Recommended Year levels: NE to Yr 13

TIME 1hr to 1.5hrs

## **Enviro Art**

Examines the work of New Zealand artists who explore environmental themes or use recycled or found objects as the basis of their work: artists such as Joanna Langford, Michael Tuffery, Peter Maddan, Eve Armstrong and Neil Dawson. The basis of this workshop is student directed creativity. Students will create their own enviro art piece using natural and recycled materials.

LEARNING AREA: Social Science/Technology/Visual Art

Recommended Year levels: NE to Yr 8

TIME 1.5hrs



# Maori Arts

We have a variety of taonga on display representing the regional styles of local iwi, such as kōwhaiwhai (painted rafters), rāranga (weaving), tukutuku (woven panels), whāriki (woven mats) and whakairo (carving). After a guided tour and sketching through the museum, this practical workshop examines some of the main symbols and meanings behind kōwhaiwhai patterning. Students then apply their learning to create their own work.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/Technology/Visual Art

Recommended Year levels: NE to Yr 8

TIME 1.5hrs

# Pacific Tapa

In the Pacific region tapa is an important material with a rich history and is known by many names. In Aotearoa tapa is called aute and although it was grown here the climate did not suit it and it was overtaken by the use of harakeke/flax. In Tonga the art of making tapa (ngatu) is still widely practised. Students closely examine our beautiful large scale Tonga ngatu and learn the process of making tapa and design their tapa inspired art.

LEARNING AREA: Social Science/Technology/Visual Art

Recommended Year levels: NE to Yr 8

TIME 1.5hrs



*Pacific Magic.*  
Susan Holmes, 1997. Block print and stencils on ombre dyed  
silk. Recycled woven straw yoke with hand printed appliqué.  
[47017] Collection of Tairāwhiti Museum

# Taiao/ Environment



*Mt Hikurangi.*

Rei Hamon, 1968, Pen and ink: Mt Hikurangi in  
the background, native plants in foreground.

[14094] Collection of Tairāwhiti Museum

*"Toitū te marae a Tāne-Mahuta, toitū te marae a Tangaroa, toitū te tangata"*

*"If the land is well and the sea is well, the people will thrive"*



## Tangaroa: Our Oceans

Tangaroa is atua of our seas, river and lakes. Take a tour through the museum to discover the taonga and artefacts that demonstrate the interconnected relationship of the people of this region with the surrounding water. Discussion is around sustainability of our oceans.

LEARNING AREA: [Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/Science/Technology/Visual Art](#)

Recommended Year levels: NE to Yr 8

TIME 1.5hrs

## Tāne: Our Forests

Tāne-mahuta is the atua of forests and all within. Taking a Te Ao Māori view, we learn about the associated customs and tikanga of Tāne-mahuta and also how our forests are an integral part of our ecology. Through visual storytelling students will recognise the impact of people on the forest from the first arrivals to Aotearoa until now. This workshop focuses on native New Zealand trees, birds and insects specific to the Tairāwhiti region.

LEARNING AREA: [Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/Science/Technology/Visual Art](#)

Recommended Year levels: NE to Yr 8

TIME 1.5hrs



# Sustainable Past

We can learn so much from how all our ancestors lived in a time before plastic. A study of the museum's collection items reveals how sustainable living was integral to life for everyone in Aotearoa/New Zealand in the not so distant past. Discussion will be around the use of natural materials, food production and gathering to handmade clothing and upcycling.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/Science/Technology

Recommended Year levels: Yr 3 to Yr 8

TIME 1.5hrs

# Disasters

An introduction about the science behind naturally occurring disasters is followed by students working collaboratively to research some of the natural and human caused disasters specific to the region. Historic imagery held in the museum's collections supports their investigations.

Discussions are around disaster preparedness.

LEARNING AREA: Science/Social Science

Recommended Year levels: Yr 7 to Yr 13

TIME 1.5hrs

# Matariki

Students will be introduced to the Māori lunar calendar and recognise that Matariki marks the beginning of the Māori New Year. Take part in our interactive programme to learn kōrero about Matariki and its connections to whenua, whānau and kai. Plus, get up-close to taonga from our handling collection in order to understand the connection between people, environments and the stars.

LEARNING AREA: Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories/Science/Technology

Recommended Year levels: NE to Yr 8

TIME 1.5hrs



*Maumahara.*  
Taylor De'la'mere Robson, Ruanuku Art Award 2023,  
Graphite and charcoal artwork featuring stars and diamond motifs.  
[46952] Collection of Tairāwhiti Museum.

# Secondary Schools



*Waerenga-a-hika, After the Seige.*  
Bishop William L Williams, 1865-1866. Photograph.  
Landscape of destruction after the siege.  
[ 46954] Collection of Tairāwhiti Museum.

# Guided Research Sessions



The museum is a great resource for students to support their learning in the Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum and relevant Achievement Standards. While we do not teach the achievement standard, we are aiming to support high school students by tailoring some of our programmes to specific achievement standards.

Research sessions are available to year levels 11 – 13:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi
- The New Zealand Wars
- Women's Suffrage
- Visual Arts, artist models from the museum's collection.

The following Achievement Standards can be linked to these topics:

History:

- Level 1: AS 91001 AS 91002 AS 91004 AS 91005
- Level 2: AS 91229 AS 91230 AS 91232 AS 91233
- Level 3: AS 91434 AS 91435 AS 91436

Visual Arts

- All Visual Arts Achievement Standards, in particular  
Level 3: AS 91451

Booking Criteria

- All bookings through education: [education@tairawhitimuseum.org.nz](mailto:education@tairawhitimuseum.org.nz)
- A maximum number of 10 students per session.
- A three week minimum notice period is required and all sessions are subject to education staff availability.
- We recommend booking a term in advance to secure preferred dates.

# Exhibition Overview

# 2026

Book a **CREATIVES** workshop  
to connect with any of our  
upcoming exhibitions.

## **Jan Linklater, Colour Visions**

14 November 2025- 8 February 2026

## **Waerenga a Hika**

18 November 2025- 22 March 2026

## **Kia Ngawari**

6 December 2025-15 February 2026

## **Mel Tahata**

24 October 2025-15 February 2026

## **Te Ha Roha- Elspeth Leggett**

13 February- 12 April 2026

## **Jean Loomis 1964-2026 and still going**

20 February- 24 May 2026

A retrospective by Jean McGreal

## **Toihoukura**

12 December 2025- 8 March 2026

School of Māori Visual Arts and

Design. Ruanuku Art Award

Exhibition 1995-2025

## **Julia Gould, Gemeaux Riddle**

13 March-7 June 2026

Weaving & Ceramics

## **Melanie Tangaere Baldwin**

27 March- 12 July 2026

## **Ancestry- Portraits from Tairāwhiti Peter Ireland**

29 May- 16 August 2026

## **Prints**

12 June- 30 August 2026

## **Ngāire Tuhua**

17 July- 11 October 2026

## **Susan Holmes Paintings**

31 July-1 November 2026

## **Underdowns, Gary & Colin**

4 September- 29 November 2026

Pots, paintings & prints

## **Clayton Gibson**

Girls don't surf, growing up in 1970's

16 October 2026- January 17 2027

## **Julie Connolly**

Speaking with Intent Ceramics

6 November 2026

## **Jill Carlyle Photography**

20 November 2026

## **Toihoukura**

4 December 2026

## **Long-Term Exhibitions Up the Coast**

A look at some of the lesser known images in the Tairāwhiti Museum photographic collection.

## **Nga Wai Pupū**

A snapshot of the history of the Gisborne/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 the oldest European-style house in the Gisborne area, built in 1872.

## **New Old**

New Old is a cross section of some of the historic photographs the museum has had donated over the last five years.

## **Places and Faces**

Fred Foster Found a way to make a dollar. The exhibition displays the results of those whom posed for Foster in the early 1900s.

# Commemorative Dates

# 2026

## **Waitangi Day**

6 February

Our Treaty of Waitangi programme will be available all year. Suitable year levels 9-13.

## **Seaweek**

February 28th- March 8th

For Seaweek book a Tangaroa / Our Oceans workshop.

## **Top Art**

Term 2: Mid-June,

An exhibition of secondary school art student's NCEA portfolios, achieving Excellence. Suitable year levels 9 - 13.

## **Anzac Commemorations**

25 April

Book a guided visit to C Company house. Suitable year levels 4-13.



## **Matariki**

Friday 10 of July

Book in early to experience our interactive Matariki programme where you will learn about Matariki and its connections to whenua, whānau, kai and kōrero.

## **Waerenga-a-Hika**

17-22 November

Marks the anniversary of the siege of Waerenga-a-Hika 1865.

## **Kiwiana Christmas**

17 November – 20 December

A Christmas craft making workshop that celebrates the New Zealand perspective based on our Kiwiana workshops. Suitable year levels NE-Y6.

## **Conservation Week**

20-26th of April

Book any one of our Environmental programmes.

*Taku pōhiri e rere atu rā  
Nau mai e hika mā ki Te Whare Taonga o Te  
Tairāwhiti  
Nau mai, haere mai rā.*



We look forward to welcoming you to  
Tairāwhiti Museum and Art Gallery.







Tairāwhiti Museum

Stout St | PO Box 716 | Gisborne

Ph: 06 867 3832

Weekdays: 10am-4pm

Saturday: 10am-4pm, Sunday: 1.30pm-4pm

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

Email: [education@tairawhitimuseum.org.nz](mailto:education@tairawhitimuseum.org.nz)