



Pa Hill from Kaiti Beach - Jean Loomis

## Exhibitions, News & Events

Quarterly newsletter of the Tairāwhiti Museum & Art Gallery  
 Te Whare Taonga o te Tairāwhiti  
 March 2026 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  
 Open during the holiday period. Closed on statutory holidays.



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)

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

Now that the school year has resumed the libraries regular programming for children and their whānau have also restarted for 2026.

There are activities for all ages and interests and the library team invite you to visit with your loved ones and to get involved.

**He Kākano**  
 Baby Time Sing-Along  
 10.30am Tuesdays  
 For under twos

**Te Pihinga**  
 Toddler Time  
 9.30am Thursdays during school terms  
 For ages 2 - 5 years

**Kids Lego Club**  
 3.30pm - 5pm Fridays  
 During school terms  
 For ages 5-17 years

**He Kākano - Baby Time Sing-Along**  
 Tuesdays weekly  
 10.30am - 11am  
 For under twos and their caregivers.

**Te Pihinga - Toddler Time**  
 Thursdays during the school terms  
 9.30am - 10am  
 For ages 2 - 5 and their caregivers.

**Kids Lego Club**  
 Fridays during the school terms  
 3.30pm - 5pm  
 For ages 5-17  
 Caregivers of children aged 8 and under must stay and play for these sessions. Caregivers of children aged 9 and over must stay within the Library during these sessions. Siblings under the age of 5 years are welcome but must be supervised one on one and are at no time to be left on their own around the Lego.

Adults and the young at heart are welcome to join our *Community Waiata* group. Come along and enjoy learning Māori waiata and action songs in this beginner friendly session. Lyrics and exemplary guitar accompaniment provided.

HB Williams Memorial Library Gisborne  
 Thursday fortnights during the school terms  
 10.30am – 11.30am

**NAU MAI HAERE MAI WAIATA MAI**

**COMMUNITY WAIATA**  
 10.30AM THURSDAYS  
**FORTNIGHTLY**  
 AT GIBBORNE LIBRARY

Term One Dates:  
 • 12 February  
 • 26 February  
 • 12 March  
 • 26 March  
 • 02 April

FREE - ALL WELCOME WAIATA SINGING GROUP - LYRICS PROVIDED  
[www.gpl.govt.nz](http://www.gpl.govt.nz)



Te Whiti Indigenous Arts Gathering visitors

Nga mihiri nui me nga manaakitanga  
 Tapunga Nepa

Hika – Hohou Te Rongo exhibition.  
 Including museum professionals, spent time with us and visited the Waenga-a-  
 January, we were pleased to host a visit from participants in the Te Whiti Indigenous  
 Arts Gathering, who were based at Toihoukura. A large group of Indigenous artists,  
 Our Whare Taonga experienced good visitor numbers over the holiday period. In  
 Tairāwhiti region. Arrangements are now underway for the permanent return of  
 Hinematioro. Tairāwhiti Museum is honoured to be collaborating with Te Aitanga  
 Hauri on the development of an accompanying exhibition that will reflect on the  
 journey, history and significance of Hinematioro.

This is a moment of great significance for Te Aitanga a Hauri and for our wider  
 a Hauri.  
 The Tūbingen University Museum — will be repatriated to the people of Te Aitanga  
 Bay — taken during Lieutenant James Cook's voyage in 1769 and currently held by  
 year, a formal announcement confirmed that the Hinematioro carving from Tolaga  
 23 October 2025 and closes on 29 March 2026 in Tūbingen, Germany. Earlier this  
 Last year, Tairāwhiti Museum supported Te Aitanga a Hauri with their exhibition *Te  
 Pū o Hinematioro – Celebrating Heritage, Culture and Connection*, which opened on

to the Friends of Tairāwhiti Museum for organising these events.  
 floor talk, sharing the background stories that shaped her artworks. We are grateful  
 Still Going – A Retrospective by Jean McGreal Loomis, who also delivered an engaging  
 Valentines Day floor talk. In the Main Gallery, we recently opened *1964–2026 and  
 the Concourse Gallery*. Elspeth also shared kōrero about her work during a special  
 were proud to present *Te Hā Roha* by our own artist and kaimahi, Elspeth Leggett. In  
 Tairāwhiti Museum supported Te Aitanga a Hauri with their exhibition *Te*

The year has also begun with two successful exhibition openings and floor talks. We  
 were proud to present *Te Hā Roha* by our own artist and kaimahi, Elspeth Leggett. In  
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 to the Friends of Tairāwhiti Museum for organising these events.

Our museum team has been working diligently to prepare for the Taonga Māori  
 roof works, ensuring the safety and care of taonga throughout the process.  
 Tairāwhiti Museum would like to acknowledge Gisborne District Council and the  
 contribution and support by Trust Tairāwhiti for this phase of the project. These  
 essential improvements ensure we can continue to serve as a valued resource for  
 our community.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

In conjunction with the Museums Asset Management Plan with Gisborne District  
 Council, we have recently commenced with our essential roof works. The roof is  
 being renewed in stages. Priority was given to two key areas, the Concourse and  
 Main Gallery, which were completed in February this year, and work on the Taonga  
 Māori storage roof starts in March.

**Uncover the History of Your Whānau** + Library

WITH GISBORNE FAMILY RESEARCH GROUP

**UPSTAIRS IN THE LIBRARY**  
**FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**1PM-3PM**

- Free access to Ancestry.com
- Birth, Deaths and Marriage index
- Historical Reference Collection
- NZ Government Publications

Though not vital we recommend you bring a laptop with you if you can for any online family database research.

If you can't make it to these times know that the library has plenty of resources to help get you connected with your whakapapa genealogy, such as Birth Death and Marriage index, a selection of Gisborne newspapers on Microfilm, as well as free access to databases like Ancestry.com.

For more info on the research area of the library you can also head to our website <https://gpl.govt.nz/research>

**Night Owls**

Library MONTHLY CRAFT CLUB  
 EVERY 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH  
 6PM-8PM  
 HENRIETTA MEMORIAL LIBRARY, GISBORNE

FREE CRAFTS

In addition, *Night Owls* a casual craft 'n' chat style social club has also restarted for the new year.

This free social club run by Tairāwhiti Social Crafters' meet every 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 6pm and pack up around 7.45pm. Find them in either in the Teens space by the Bright Street entrance or upstairs in the Mairerangi Scorpius space.

Quiet, portable, and dry crafts are recommended such as beading, crochet, cross stitch, digital art, embroidery, paper crafts, weaving, or writing. All of these events are free to attend with no booking required. Nau mai Haere mai.

Prepared by Lois Haddon – Library Service Leader

# EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS : March 2026 - May 2026

## Waaranga-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 tīpuna 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.

## Teleological Destination Heart Brain Coherence Expanding Consciousness Tish Scott

18 April 2026 – 26 July 2026  
Opens 5:30pm 17 April 2026

Morphic Resonance is the collective memory influences of form and behaviour via nonlocal fields where individual minds tap into shared patterns.

These fields provide blueprints not just of DNA but of mental fields - implying that consciousness isn't just internal but extends into subtle interconnected fields of 'patterns'.

"I explore these fields within my consciousness and in my works". Tish Scott

Biologist Rupert Sheldrake proposed that "morphic fields," hold a collective memory that influences development and behaviour across species through a non-local process called morphic resonance. These new forms that spread throughout nature, are not just related to genetics. Mainstream biology generally views morphogenetic fields as local cellular interactions, while Sheldrake's idea suggests broader, species-wide, non-genetic information transfer.

Once Consciousness is restored through the fundamentals, we are able, to understand what we are and that we exist and see through the illusion of existence by tapping into morphogenetic waves of frequency bands.



Disolving Identity

## 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

## 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 Hā Roha Elspeht Leggett

14 February 2026 – 12 April 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 - Elspeht Leggett

## 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.



## 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

## Friends of Tairāwhiti Museum

There is a sense of privilege in serving on the Friends of Tairāwhiti Museum committee and this was keenly felt at our last meeting. There, members unanimously agreed to fund Toihoukura's annual Ruanuku art prize, awarded to a final-year student to recognise excellence over the course of their studies.

The award has been presented for 30 years, 26 of which were funded by former patron Professor Jack Richards. As part of it, one of the winning student's works is purchased to go into the museum's permanent collection.

The Friends patronage starts retrospectively (from 2025) and we hope to see it go for three decades more.

That's a big commitment from our modest coffers but the value has been evident in the museum's recent show, Ruanuku Art Award Exhibition 1995-2025, which from December until early March showcased the works that have been cared for in the collection.

Its success is testament to the skill of not just the artists, but also those involved in selecting the works to be purchased, and we are thrilled to now be part of that journey.

Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu.

Kristine Walsh  
(Chair, FoTM)

## Conversations of the Soul Whakawhiti kōrero a te wairua Weaving and ceramics by Julia Gould and Gemeaux Riddell

14 March 2026 – 7 June 2026  
Opens 5:30pm 13 March 2026

Weaving runs alongside my life, warp and weft, whenu and aho, the over and under and interlacing of life's journey. Encompassing the inspirations, the challenges, the successes, the stumbling and the meditating on all of that. Harakeke, wool, cotton, wood and jute form the basis of my work, with the addition of the dye pot and the Opp shop, forever searching for that perfect blend of colour, pattern and texture.

Julia Gould

Ko au Te Taiao, Ko Te Taiao ko au. I am nature, nature is me. As a clay artist, Te Taiao or the natural environment provides both my raw materials and my inspiration. It is my happy place. Colours, shapes, textures abound and delight; all the life and stories held there are endlessly amazing. I "see" things that seem to illustrate my thinking or ideas; I find myself having conversations in my head that take me deeper into wonder and wondering.

Nāku noa, nā Gemeaux Riddell



Poutama



Uku

## Ā Mua Melanie Baldwin

3 April 2026 – 12 July 2026  
Opens 5:30pm 2 April 2026

This exhibition is the first showing of work that was made while I was resident at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park (UK) in November/December 2024.

The residency allowed me time to consider the history of the British class system, of colonialism, of material, of human labour and mineral extraction, of capitalism, of solidarity and mutual aid, of process and outcomes. It made me think about who gets to live in a world of follies and pleasure gardens... and what lies ahead.

In a time when I feel worried often and wonder how safe the world is and will be for my tamariki – I find peace in the skill and labour of hand stitching, of slowly bringing things together.

I would like this exhibition to provide space for peaceful contemplation.

In 2024 I had the honour of being kaitiaki of the handsewn kākahu collection of Ainu artist Akemi Shimada. Akemi passed away in 2025 and I want to acknowledge her influence on the way I think about about handsewing and the connections it can create.



Matekite 2 (detail)

## Rangatira Marae

The Rangatira Marae whareni and kāuta (cookhouse) were demolished between October and late November 2025 from the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023.

Key elements were extracted from the buildings for preservation with the intent to incorporate the elements into the marae rebuild.

On Saturday 13th December 2025, Rangatira Marae Trust held a karakia tanu taonga – a ceremony to interred treasured items, which included whānau photographs and materials from the old buildings.

The morning began with karakia led by the Ringatū and Anglican faiths at the spot of the entrance to the former marae. The karakia of the two key religious movements within Te Karakia, demonstrated the ability to mahitahi (work together) and kotahitanga (solidarity).

Whānau placed parekawakawa (greenery) on their taonga to signify their sadness and sorrow, but with much hope and excitement for the future. Thirty severely damaged photos were interred, along with a kākahu (cloak), a flag and timber samples of the old buildings.

Also, as part of the day, a pōhutukawa tree was planted in commemoration of the significant mahi achieved and relationships developed along the way with Tairāwhiti museum and Heritage New Zealand and other local and national authorities.

"Whakahoungia te rongopai i runga i te ngawari me te aroha"



Return of photographs. Photograph by Te Awariki Lardelli