

The aratoi Newsletter

WINTER / TAKURUA 2017 - ISSUE 18



TE MARAE O
RONGOTAKETAKE

Redressing Our Kahungunu History





FROM THE DIRECTOR

Tēnā koutou katoa,

A warm welcome to our winter newsletter! Over the next while, we will be working on a new look for our newsletter. In the interim, we want to keep you informed (in a digital format) about what's been happening at Aratoi and the exciting exhibition programme we have in place for spring. I have recently been appointed permanent Director for Aratoi after acting in this role since November last year. I am excited about the prospect and I consider it a true privilege and honour to preserve and provide access to our tangible and intangible heritage. I look forward to making Aratoi the very best it can be for our community and visitors. Undoubtedly challenges lie ahead in terms of securing long-term funding. However, the best you can do to show your support is visit us regularly and spread the word about our beautiful museum. The immensely successful iwi exhibition Te Marae o Rongotaketake closes on 3 September. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the hard work and support from representatives of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa. It has been a very special project for Aratoi to be involved with. The highly anticipated publication for the exhibition is now available for sale at the Aratoi shop. Make sure to secure your copy!

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at Aratoi.

Ngā manaakitanga

Susanna Shadbolt

Aratoi Wairarapa Museum of Art and History is grateful for the continuing support of





DAWN CEREMONY TE MARAE O RONGOTAKETAKE



At dawn on Saturday, 8 April over 300 hundred people gathered outside Aratoi to attend an emotional pōwhiri - the traditional Māori welcome and opening ceremony - for Te Marae o Rongotaketake, the largest exhibition of Ngāti Kahungunu taonga ever on display. With over 200 historical items from the Collection of Aratoi and sourced from national and international collections, the exhibition took over two years to develop in partnership with Ngāti Kahungunu. The exhibition-as-marae is interspersed with key Kahungunu narratives and uses the pōwhiri process to guide the visitor

through the museum experience, complete with Karanga, Whaikorero, Te o Ha - the coming together - and a kitchen as a place of learning and socialising.

Te Marae o Rongotaketake is as much about the future as the past; it is about harmony rather than conflict and considers how the Wairarapa community can move forward together. The exhibition corresponds with the Treaty settlement between Ngāti Kahungunu and the Crown, and Aratoi Museum is honoured that, after a 30-year process, the initialing of the Deed will occur at the museum later this year.



Inside the gallery space.



Crowds gather outside Aratoi for the 5am start.



ARATOI EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Te Marae o Rongotaketake



A vital component of our iwi exhibition is to provide access to the history, the stories, the taonga for our tamariki. Recognising the historical significance of the exhibition, it is our goal for every student from Early Childhood to Secondary in the entire Wairarapa/ Ngati Kahungunu region to visit the exhibition Te Marae o Rongotaketake at least once. Our expert Museum Educator and registered teacher Diana 'Dee' Cruse is engaging the young and the more mature in a stimulating programme. Dee guides through the exhibition and students can make poi, design masks, weave with harakeke (flax), paint hoe (oars), listen to Kahungunu stories and more. The programme was offered three days per week, but the demand has exceeded expectations and we now offer a five-day programme. So far over 800 students have visited. The programme is fully booked until the exhibition closes on 3 September, but we now have a waiting list in place and will be engaging a second educator to counter the high demand.

The education programme is offering for free, recognising the importance of the narratives for our communities. Bus transport, if required, is available for only \$2 from anywhere in the Kahungunu region and free for South Wairarapa students thanks to the generous support of the Friends of Aratoi and South Wairarapa Rotary. We would like to acknowledge the support of Lands Trust Masterton and Transit NZ with the education programme.

FROM THE FRIENDS OF ARATOI



A warm welcome to all our Friends of Aratoi who help make Aratoi the wonderful place it is - the throbbing centre of our Wairarapa Art Community! We have a number of exciting events coming up, from August through to the end of the year.

We start in August with two amazing films. These will be screened at the Regent 3 theatre on the last two Sundays in August.

First up on Sunday 20 August is "I, Claude Monet" from award winning director Phil Grabsk. This movie provides a new insight into Claude Monet as the artist who gave birth to impressionism. It is shot on location throughout Europe at the very places Monet painted.

The second movie on Sunday 27 August will be "Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse". Many famous artists feature in this innovative and extensive exhibition from the Royal Academy of Arts London.

The cost of these is \$20.00 per movie. Tickets can be purchased at Aratoi. I know you will want to support these two fundraisers.

On 16 October we will be staging a Fantastic Fashion Show featuring clothes from Hebe Designer Boutique and Churchfield Shoes.

On 15 December there will be the Opening Night of the Wairarapa Arts Review, which

offers a wonderful opportunity to catch up with what is happening in the local arts scene

A big thank you must go to Megan Slight who organised the successful School Holidays Art Programme. This was run by Dee Cruse and her very talented team. Earlier this year the Friends Committee and the Aratoi Board met informally and shared a very enjoyable lunch. This was a great opportunity to get to know each other and to share our aspirations, goals and ideas. It is a pleasure to be able to work with such a great Board and also welcome our wonderful new director Susanna Shadbolt. Our combined enthusiasm and commitment to promote Aratoi as the centre of our Wairarapa Arts Community will ensure it is The Place we all want to visit

A huge "Thank you" to all the Friends who volunteer their time! Without you Aratoi would not be able to operate as smoothly and efficiently as it does. It is your welcome that creates that first and lasting impression when visitors first arrive and encourages people to keep coming back. Your welcome also promotes the retail area. Thank you all once again.

Looking forward to meeting you at all the future Friends fundraisers.

Sandra Debney
Chair,
Friends of Aratoi



HAAMI TE WHAITI CURATOR MAORI



Te Marae o Rongotaketake Redressing our Kahungunu History currently on display at Aratoi until Sunday 3 September, tells us why there is a treaty settlement in 2017 for Ngāti Kahungunu of this area. In particular the exhibition traverses the early European settlement of the area in the 1840's and how Ngāti Kahungunu, not having seen or signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi), opened their lands to these new settlers to farm whilst maintaining ownership under a leasing system defined by Māori as *tukuwhenua*. Under pressure from the Crown to sell their land Ngāti Kahungunu eventually succumbed on the promise of several social and economic benefits including the retention of ample lands for their needs.

The Crown acquired the land at breakneck speed and did not fulfil much of what was promised and when they did, it was often inadequate. Within 6 months from mid-1853 the Crown had purchased 40% of the area and 90% by 1900, at which time the Crown has acknowledged that many Ngāti Kahungunu were left landless.

Today just 1.5% of lands within the district are retained by Ngāti Kahungunu and many are landlocked making it difficult for owners to exercise their rights of ownership or maintain their cultural obligations as *kaitiaki* (guardian). As well as relating this critical story of economic dispossession, we also wanted the exhibition to be visually strong to celebrate the artistry of the material culture of Ngāti Kahungunu *tīpuna* (ancestors). This was only possible with the co-operation and generosity of several museums and art galleries throughout the country for which we are most thankful.



Irihapeti Whakamairu, Gottfried Lindauer oil on canvas, 1877, Private Collection.



Hoani Rangitakaiwaho, Gottfried Lindauer oil on canvas, Collection of Aratoi Regional Trust.



Ngātuere Tāwhirimātea Tāwhao, c 1880. Oil on canvas, Collection of Aratoi Regional Trust.

ROGER BLACKLEY

On June 24, 2017 Associate Professor Roger Blackley from Victoria University gave a well-attended talk on the Gottfried Lindauer portraits in the iwi exhibition Te Marae o Rongotaketake: Redressing our Kahungunu History. Aratoi is showing 12 Lindauer portraits of Kahungunu rangatira, and a number of descendants were present at the talk. Roger began by talking about the recent theft of two rare portraits by Lindauer from the International Art Centre in Parnell on 1 April, 2017. The portraits, of Chieftainess Ngātai-Raure and Chief Ngātai-Raure of Tauranga, were probably stolen for their market value (purportedly \$350,000-400,000) and illustrate the demand for these colonial portraits of Māori. Roger said the demand for such portraits has created an opportunity for forgeries. He has been involved in detecting several Lindauer forgeries, including the portrait bought by the Alexander Turnbull Library in 2013, where his original diagnosis was supported by chemical testing showing the paint used in the portrait had not existed in Lindauer's time.

Roger then discussed the portraits at Aratoi and the characteristics of Lindauer's painting techniques. He said that Lindauer typically painted from photographs which were projected on to the canvas, a technique that made him very avant garde at the time but came to be despised by later curators and art historians as a form of copying. He said that one of Lindauer's real strengths lies in communicating the 'artefactual' properties of depicted items, such as the woven edges of a cloak, or the texture of polished greenstone, and there are marvellous examples of this in the Aratoi portraits.

Lindauer firmly maintained a distinction between ground and figure—the way the subject stands firmly separate from the background—which you also see in the Aratoi examples. Roger said the portrait of Irihapeti Whakamairu is a particularly fine example of Lindauer's skill. The work is still in marvellous condition (and is still in the possession of the family) and remains in its original gilded frame. Roger revealed that Ihaia and Irihapeti Whakamairu commissioned their portraits in

WHAT ARE THESE THINGS CALLED LINDAUERS?

Wellington in 1877, which places them among the earliest of Lindauer's Māori portraits. Roger said that Lindauer portraits now hold an invincible place in the collective consciousness of our country, partly because they illustrate complex relationships between the artist and his Māori clients. Māori clearly felt that being painted by Lindauer affirmed their mana, and the results are treasured within whānau to this day. The exhibition includes loans from private families, Auckland Art Gallery, Whanganui Regional Museum, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Te Papa and the Alexander Turnbull Library; four come from Aratoi's own collection. He congratulated Aratoi on their impressive show.

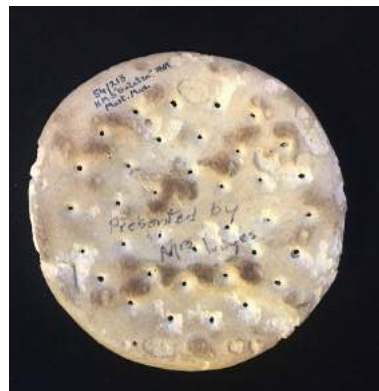


Roger Blackley, speaking about Gottfried Lindauer paintings.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE COLLECTION TAKING THE BISCUIT

One of the more intriguing items in the Masterton Museum Collection (recently returned to Aratoi from Te Papa, where it had been stored since the closure of the museum in 1954) is an 1869 ship's biscuit.

Also known as hardtack, the biscuits were a vital part of a ship's provisions in the days of long and arduous voyages without many opportunities to restock food supplies. Made of flour, salt and water, they were baked and left to harden and dry, to remove all moisture and ensure longevity. They were usually softened before eating. Hardtack was guaranteed to outlast any voyage, and its only enemies were weevils and seawater. This particular biscuit has its history written on it in a 19th century hand: it is from the HMS Galatea in 1869. A significant ship and date – the HMS Galatea was captained by the Duke of Edinburgh, Alfred, Queen Victoria's second son, on the first royal visit to far flung parts of the Empire, as part of a world tour begun in 1867. His arrival created huge excitement up and down the land, with enticing treats organised for the prince: race meetings, banquets, pig hunts, balls, picnics, and pigeon (kereru) and pukeko shoots. Royal visits were more extensive then – he visited three times in 1869 and 1870, taking in Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch and Dunedin. On his last visit, he penetrated the interior as far as Rotorua, where he met with Maori chiefs. He finally departed in January 1871. The biscuit was donated to the Masterton Museum by a Mrs Boyes, who acquired it from the ship while it was in Nelson. We can only speculate on how she came to have such a souvenir, as that part of the story has not been recorded on the biscuit.



The dashing Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh c 1869.

FROM THE CHAIR

New Zealand is coming of age with Arts and Culture. Tourists can find excellent galleries in many towns that tell the stories of its people and its region and look after their taonga in safe secure conditions. Many are experiencing huge increases in visitor numbers. The Govett Brewster with the new Len Lye Centre in New Plymouth, the Suter in Nelson, the Dowse in Lower Hutt to name a few. Aratoi Museum of Art and History has an amazing venue for exhibitions and events. We have an exceptional collection of taonga Maori, historic objects and art works housed in our purpose built collection store. The collection is available for tours for small groups, work groups, out of town visitors to view. But...

As I am sure you are aware Aratoi has been having a difficult financial time lately due to general pressures on funding bodies like Masterton Trust Lands Trust and the Councils who provide our core funding. We are reliant on this funding but recognise that we need to find other sources. Therefore the Board will set up Patrons Fund to attract new endowments to Aratoi. To signal a new beginning we will also refresh our logo and signage to make the museum more visible to visitors passing through Masterton. 'New Look Aratoi' has been generously designed by Geoff Francis of Good Eye Design as a pro bono contribution to the museum. We are now looking for a small amount of funding to implement his designs. The New Look will be launched when we have established a core group of patrons. How can you help Aratoi?

We need a little help from our friends at this point to get it underway. Visit as often as you can, tell your friends, bring out-of-towners.

Join as a Friend of Aratoi for \$30 per year. Become a volunteer on the front of house. Become a Patron or sponsor when the APT is set up.

Encourage anyone to help us raise our profile and visibility by making the New Look Aratoi a reality.

Barb Roydhouse



COMING UP AT ARATOI EXHIBITIONS

Hélène Carroll – Recent Works

Windows Gallery: From 9 September

Hélène Carroll's art practice is informed by a sense of loss. Being the only child of parents who were survivors of the Holocaust has had a significant influence on her life. Her recent work is about memory, remembering and about how the past shapes our future.

Opening: Friday, 8 Sept, 5pm

Artist talk: Saturday, 9 Sept, 11am

Breadcraft Wairarapa Schools Art 2017

Wesley Wing: From 9 Sept – 8 Oct

The annual exhibition gives us a chance to enjoy the fresh vision and no-holes-barred approach of students from schools throughout Wairarapa. Be prepared for multiple colour explosions and untrammelled creativity!

Opening: Saturday, 9 Sept, 2pm

Boundless – Printmaking beyond the Frame

Main Gallery: From 16 Sept

Members of the Print Council Aotearoa NZ have liberated their prints from 2D picture frames and created interdisciplinary sculptures and installations, printing onto unexpected materials such as textiles, metals, ceramics, or glass.

Opening: Friday, 15 Sept, 5:30pm

Gifted - Recent Acquisitions

Main Gallery: From 23 September

What do beer bottles, a microscope and a 1920s Cricket Shield have in common? All — along with much more — are among scores of items on display in a new exhibition of recent acquisitions donated to the Collection of Aratoi.

An Ornament to the Town: The Band Rotunda in New Zealand

Social History Gallery: From 30 September

Popular enthusiasm for brass band music led to over 100 rotundas being built from the 1890s to the 1930s. This exhibition from the Alexander Turnbull Library collection, offers fascinating insights into New Zealand's central town fixture: the band rotunda.

Kokomai – Creative Festival Wairarapa

13 – 22 Oct

Every second year, the Kokomai Creative Festival brings dozens of world-class events to the Wairarapa - from music, film and visual arts to theatre and comedy....and Aratoi is part of it.

Aratoi Retail NEW IN



Sue Dasler ceramics.



Kete by Jo Walker.



Ceramic vessels by Jenny Shearer.

PHOTO GALLERY

LYNDA FERINGA



The last Lindauer to arrive at Aratoi for the *Te Marae o Rongotaketake*



Susanna Shadbolt greets Shane James from Te Papa.



Ian Perry and Marama Tuutu with the last Lindauer to arrive at Aratoi



Brian Lochore introduces *The Peter Bush Rugby Trail*.



Hadlow School pupils visit Aratoi



Carterton district councillors visit the Aratoi collection store



Susanna Shadbolt, Graham McClymont, Ron Mark at the opening of *The Peter Bush Rugby Trail*.

CONTACT & HOURS

Corner Bruce and Dixon Streets, PO
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Phone: +64-6-370 0001
Email: info@aratoi.co.nz
Hours: 10am-4.30pm. Closed Christ-
mas Day, Boxing Day,
New Year's Day and Good Friday, AN-
ZAC Day 1.00-4.30pm
Admission by gold coin donation.
www.aratoi.co.nz

ARATOI STAFF

Director: Susanna Shadbolt
Collection Manager: Bronwyn Reid
Curator Māori: Haami Te Whaiti
Finance Manager: Carol Parkinson
Exhibitions Coordinator: Adrian Jack-
man
Visitor Services: Anthea Birch (Tues-
Fri)
Adam West-Watson (Sat-Mon)

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Aratoi is very grateful to the sponsors:
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BECOME A FRIEND

Join the Friends of Aratoi and sup-
port the arts, extend your knowledge
and meet like-minded people. Enjoy
exhibition openings, events, shows,
floor talks and functions.

Membership is a great gift.
Ideal for art-loving family and friends,
it's the present that lasts the whole
year.

INDIVIDUAL \$30 • DOUBLE \$50 •
BUSINESS \$150

Membership forms at Aratoi

LEAVE A LEGACY: MAKING A BEQUEST TO ARATOI WAIRARAPA MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY

You are invited to make a lasting
contribution to the arts of Wairarapa
by making a bequest to Aratoi Wair-
arapa Museum of Art and History.
Funds are required to enable Aratoi
Wairarapa Museum of Art and History
to develop an endowment fund for the
museum's sustainable future, in-
cluding permanent collection and
to subsidise major exhibitions.
Should you wish to leave a bequest
to Aratoi, please contact the Director.
Contributions are also welcome of
artefacts or artwork and funding for
the general purposes of the museum.

aratoi

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