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FROM TRASH TO TREASURE – GALLERY CELEBRATES MATARIKI

Matariki is an important time of the year for many in the Papakura community. To acknowledge this, the gallery has created two unique exhibitions, *Kete aronui* and *Trash n2 Fashion*.

Kete aronui showcases three outstanding artists: Rhys Manahi Lloyd, Vivienne Hohaia and Tim Peri whose work incorporates traditional and contemporary Maori perspectives.

Using muka (flax), rakau (wood) or kohatu (stone) the artists draw on art forms identified with Māori to celebrate Matariki 2009.

The exhibition has given the artists an opportunity to display their works for the first time.

Rhys Lloyd is a successful business owner. His passion for carving is evident in the intricate works he creates. The works he has chosen to submit were developed to explore his Maori and European heritages.

Tim Peri recently visited the gallery and showed staff samples of his carvings. He will be showing a range of work, but says the waka huia he is showing stand out because they are true family treasures.

Gallery Manager Emma Millynn says she has been trying to find an opportunity to exhibit his work for some time.

“When I met Tim and saw his artwork for the first time I was blown away! As soon as I saw the work I knew we had to find a space to show” says “I have been trying to fit Tim into an exhibition for some time as the community has to see his amazing work”.

Vivienne Hohaia is currently studying a Masters Degree in Visual Art at Massey University. Her career began at Papakura Art Gallery and the community has seen her work using muka develop over the years. In this exhibition she is exhibiting her Coin series exploring korowai (cloaks) and the use of redundant coins.



MEDIA RELEASE

The second exhibition, *Trash n2 Fashion*, is a new event for the district developing fashion items from trash. Local residents were given the opportunity to create garments from trash and recycle them around the theme of Matariki. The works will be shown in the gallery before being modeled in the Matariki Fashion and Entertainment show at the Hawkins Theatre – Papakura on July 10.

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