

# HBMAG

HAWKE'S BAY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY NAPIER

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Staff at the Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery are looking forward to an exciting year in 2009. We have a dynamic programme ahead, one that gives strong emphasis to local artists – Ben Pearce, Michael Hawksworth and Clare Plug. At the same time exhibitions such as *Long Live The Modern* maintain the broader

reach that visitors have come to expect of Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery. There are two new exhibitions coming focussed on the needs of those audiences seeking additional Art Deco experiences to those they might find on the streets of Napier. And as always there is also room for the weird and quirky – this year in the form of the eclectic Bren collection of miniatures that arrived in New Zealand after the Second World War.

Yet the big issue on everybody's mind is the new building. With the working drawings complete (and looking fantastic), the time has come to start working on fund raising – no easy call in the current economic climate. Yet with our eyes fixed on the future, and some expert assistance, we proceed in the knowledge that there can be no greater form of economic stimulus and development than that that a new Art Gallery & Museum building would bring to Napier and Hawke's Bay.

Douglas Lloyd Jenkins



## FARADAY CENTRE

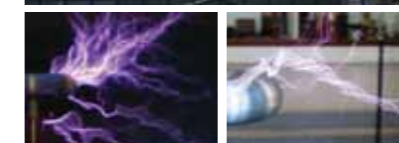
Nikola Tesla should be more famous than he is.

The Faraday Centre has recently acquired a Tesla coil that was purchased with funds from the estate of H R Matthews (Ray), a former Napier City electrical engineer which were donated by the Matthews family in his memory.

The Tesla coil was invented by **Nikola Tesla** (1856 –1943) who was widely respected as one of the greatest electrical engineers who worked in America and used as part of his experimental equipment. Tesla has been described as "The man who invented the twentieth century". His patents and theoretical work formed the basis of modern alternating current electric power (AC) systems, including the three phase power distribution systems and the AC motor. Aside from his work on electromagnetism and electromechanical engineering, Tesla has contributed in varying degrees to the establishment of robotics, remote control, radar and computer science, and to the expansion of ballistics, nuclear physics, and theoretical physics. In 1943, the Supreme Court of the United States credited him as being the inventor of the radio.



The Tesla coil has proved to be a very popular and exciting exhibit and will be operated in future during school holidays at specified times.



The Tesla coil at The Faraday Centre

## BERRY HISTORICAL LIBRARY @ HBMAG

The Berry Historical Library is a research facility at the HBMAG which houses an extensive collection of photographs, books and other archival material pertaining to Hawke's Bay. In conjunction with the exhibition *Somebody's Darling* we are very keen to collect information about people buried in the Napier Cemetery. Please contact Gail Pope, Curator of Archives, 06 835 7781 x 708. The library is open from Monday to Friday, 1pm - 4.30pm.

## EDUCATION PROGRAMME @ HBMAG

The HBMAG schools education programme provides a fun, hands-on educational experience that draws on the diverse range of temporary and permanent exhibitions, and the wonderful collections held at the Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery, and the Faraday Centre. The programmes are designed to supplement a variety of curricular areas and can be tailored to individual needs.

**Highlights in Term 1:** *Power: How We Generate Electricity to Power our World* at the Faraday Centre and at the HBMAG *The Surreal World of Felix Kelly*, and *A Celebration of Napier's Past* – The Napier Cemetery.

**Highlights in Term 2:** *Give Me Strength* – Levers/Pulleys/Gears at the Faraday Centre and *An Antarctic Experience* - Textiles by Clare Plug at the HBMAG.

Copies of the programme are available on [www.hbmag.co.nz](http://www.hbmag.co.nz) For more information or bookings phone Gaynor Comley 06 835 7781 x 721 or [gcomley@hbmag.co.nz](mailto:gcomley@hbmag.co.nz)



Students explore *The Surreal World of Felix Kelly*

## CENTURY CINEMA AND THEATRE @ HBMAG

The Century Cinema screens an excellent range of art house films, generally from Wednesday to Sunday. Watch out for the **Children Classic Film** screenings taking place each school holidays, and the monthly **Classic Film Nights**.

Sign up to receive the weekly email so that you can keep up with what's on (go to [www.centurycinema.co.nz](http://www.centurycinema.co.nz)) or check the local papers, phone 'Infone' 06 834 0404/5823, or pick up a current flier from the HBMAG reception.

The Century Theatre is also available for hire and hosts a wide range of events.

## THE SHOP @ HBMAG

The Museum Shop has a fantastic range of New Zealand art and design related merchandise, including books, cards, calendars, textiles and homewares, and jewellery. For that special gift or memento, the Museum Shop is the ideal place to visit.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMMES

### Empire Costume and Textile Symposium

Saturday 30 May - Monday 1 June 2009

The theme of this years Costume and Textile Symposium, held in association with the *Costume and Textile Association of New Zealand* is 'Empire'. Join us for a stimulating weekend of presentations by speakers from around the country and a series of associated events. Cost: \$95 (C&T Association members), \$145 (Non members). Includes lunch and morning/afternoon tea. Single sessions \$10, discounts available for students and unwaged. Please see our website for more information.

### HBMAG School Holiday Theatre Art Workshop

Wednesday 15 April – Wednesday 22 April 2009

HBMAG will be bubbling with wonderfully wacky ideas and energy when two groups of young people, aged 8-12 & 13-18 years, work with visiting American performing artist Charlie Oates to create original theatre pieces inspired by the most fabulous works of art on display. For further information, phone 835 7781 x 727. This project has been supported by Creative Communities.

Wednesday 22 April 2009 at 6pm

### Theatre Art Performance

Century Theatre, Gold coin entry, all welcome

## COLLECTION NEWS

In December members of the Access Team completed a project to re-house and catalogue the Napier Port archives. This project was kindly funded by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC). Since August 2007 Sharon Smith and Emma Knowles have worked through 305 boxes of port correspondence, 17 Harbour Board ledger books and 50 newspapers and pamphlets associated with the port archives. These are now catalogued on our Vernon database and are re housed in acid free boxes.

Having these archives catalogued on Vernon means they are accessible, making searching for information easy for researchers. The Napier Port archives are a very important resource for genealogists, historians and local Maori. They provide a comprehensive view of the development of Napier's social, economic and cultural life. They also include records of many associated businesses and prominent Hawke's Bay names. The archives can be accessed via the Berry Historical Library.

We are about to begin another exciting project to catalogue our collection of *Daily Telegraph* negatives which covers the years 1960 to 1996. This project is also funded by the HBRC.



Wharf Port Ahuriri, c.1890s. Collection of the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust.

## FRIENDS



The *friends* bid farewell to Jenny Vierkotten as their long-serving secretary/treasurer at the final event of 2008. Jenny, who has given tireless service, will still be around and, after a well-deserved rest, will assist the Committee with specific projects. Jenny's replacement has been confirmed as Angie Piper, who was Assistant to Seddon Bennington, the Chief Executive of Te Papa, and since moving from Wellington a couple of years ago is farming out on the Taihape Road and was one of the organisers of the November Wildflower Sculpture Exhibition in Hawke's Bay. You will all be hearing lots more from Angie in the months to come!

2009 will see the continuation of the *Adopt a Painting* scheme, building on the exciting programme of renewal already underway. Three paintings – *A Gully at Walter Peak, St Augustine's Chapel, and View of Port of Napier* - have been welcomed back from the conservator and will be displayed at an upcoming *friends* evening.

The *friends* have been instrumental in the purchase of three bound volumes of *Te Waka Maori* dating from 1871 to 1876, which now means that the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust have one of the few complete collections of this important 19<sup>th</sup> Century journal so thanks to everyone for your support. *Te Waka Maori* was founded and edited by James Steven Grindell who was an interpreter for the New Zealand Government of the day.

The Faraday Centre looks set for a busy 2009 with this term's focus being 'Power'. On display and in operation during the school holidays is the wonderful *Tesla coil* - a type of resonant transformer circuit invented by Serbian-American scientist Nikola Tesla around 1891, and purchased for the Museum by Ray Matthews, an Electrical Engineer in Hawke's Bay from 1958 – 1978. In operation, the coil apparently throws huge sparks and flashes of lights and is really something not to be missed!



Finally, thanks to those who have renewed your membership already, if you haven't yet please do so to help support our valuable work. The committee is always looking at ways to improve the experience you have, please contact Angie Piper the new *friends* secretary if you have any feedback or suggestions.

The *friends* evening *Somebody's Darling* walk at the Napier Cemetery

## ONGOING EXHIBITIONS

### LIVING ON THE EDGE: HAWKE'S BAY EARTHQUAKE, 1931



The 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake had a significant impact on both Hawke's Bay and New Zealand society and it remains the nation's greatest natural disaster. Measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale, and taking 261 lives, this three minute event dramatically changed the local landscape and the lives of the people living here.

This exhibition tells the story of the earthquake both from the perspective of the people involved through to scientific information about the cause and effect of seismic activity using interactive displays, audio visuals, text panels, memorabilia and the film *Survivors* Stories by renowned filmmaker Gaylene Preston.

### NGA TUKEMATA - THE AWAKENING

This exhibition is a celebration of the mana of the local iwi Ngati Kahungunu. It is an attempt to raise the awareness of the mauri (the life essence), the ihi (the power) and the wehi (the awe) which Ngati Kahungunu feel for their taonga (treasures) and is a celebration of their tipuna (ancestors).

### ART DECO STYLE

Art Deco was a twentieth century design revolution that influenced everything from architecture and transport, to domestic living and fashion. The spirit of modernism and forward thinking inspired people around the world in the wake of war and depression. In New Zealand Art Deco style was embraced by many communities, and none less than by the people of Hawke's Bay, rebuilding after the devastating 1931 earthquake.

*Art Deco Style* is an exhibition which uses objects from our collection to look at the themes and influences of Art Deco. Plans are underway for an exciting revamp of this exhibition, which is sure to delight those interested in the heritage and glamour of Hawke's Bay's Art Deco style.

### TWENTIETH CENTURY DESIGN IN THE HOME

This exhibition uses the technology found within the New Zealand home as a starting point from which to look at the development of twentieth century design. It is the intriguing story of our local design history, and many of the iconic objects on display will be recognisable to New Zealanders from their own childhood and family homes.

Clare Plug *Ice Crack 2* (detail), discharge-dyed cotton 2008 photographer David Evans

## LOOK SOUTH TEXTILES BY CLARE PLUG

Friday 8 May – Sunday 1 November 2009  
**Exhibition Opening: Thursday 7 May 2009 at 5.30pm**

Clare Plug is one of New Zealand's leading applied artists. She approaches her quilts in a way that responds to the world of contemporary art, rather than to traditional quilting or embroidery.

In 2006 Clare's innovations were recognised through the award of an important residency - the Antarctica New Zealand / Creative New Zealand Artists in Antarctica programme. This saw Clare travel to Antarctica, returning to New Zealand to create new work engaged with the experience. Clare has described Antarctica as 'a time capsule, an ark and an early warning station', themes which find resonance amid the typically dark, sombre and poetic handling of surface and texture in her works. *Look South* is Clare's response to Antarctica, presenting a series of around 15 quilts which tease out the different relationships between human culture and this continent.

*Look South* has been supported by Antarctica New Zealand, Creative New Zealand and the Mary Vigor Brown Trust.

### Friday 8 May 2009 at 11am Gallery Floor Talk with Clare Plug and Ursula Ryan

Join Ursula Ryan, from the Antarctic Foundation and artist Clare Plug who will discuss the *Artists in Antarctic* programme, and the exhibition. Free entry

### Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 October 2009, 9.30am – 4pm

**Demystifying the Design Process**  
**A Textile Design Workshop with Clare Plug**  
This is an opportunity to spend a weekend with leading textile artist Clare Plug to explore a range of interesting, quick techniques and fun exercises that will give you the tools necessary to create new and exciting textile designs. Without using a scrap of fabric Clare will demystify the design process for you and help free-up your approach to quilt making, and other textile arts. Bookings essential, places limited. For more information: Ph 06 835 7781 or see our website.



Clare Plug  
Banner (detail)  
discharge-dyed cotton, 2008  
photographer David Frost

## LIKE: AN EXPERIMENT IN INTERPRETATION

Runs until Sunday 22 March 2009

*LIKE*, curated by Nelson's Stella Chrysostomou, continues at HB MAG. The exhibition presents a series of objects created by nine prominent jewellers, each of which was asked to create an object interpreting a poem written by leading poet Bill Manhire. Manhire's poem was itself a description of an original geometric object, which is displayed in the gallery alongside the nine new works. This exhibition is an intriguing display that encourages viewers to closely examine the creative process of object making.



*LIKE* has been generously supported by Creative New Zealand.

Gavin Hitchings  
silver, 2008  
photographer Stella Chrysostomou

## FELIX KELLY – A KIWI AT BRIDESHEAD

Runs until Sunday 26 April 2009

Felix Kelly (1914-1994) fled New Zealand as a young man for the bright lights of London. He never returned, but unlike other New Zealand expatriate painters who quickly removed their homeland from their subject matter, Kelly kept painting an increasingly misremembered New Zealand.

Kelly worked as a graphic designer in 1930s London, and by the 1950s had moved into stage and interior design. Also he established himself as a painter of note, exhibiting alongside Lucian Freud, Julian Trevelyan, and on one occasion Frances Hodgkins. Kelly developed a romantic, surreal style, and cultivated an upper-class clientele whom he supplied with house portraits, straight or strange as they preferred.



Felix Kelly  
Page from Harper's Bazaar 42, 1950  
Private Collection, Auckland

## UTTERANCE

Ben Pearce

Saturday 7 March – Sunday 17 May 2009  
Exhibition Opening: Friday 6 March 2009 at 5.30pm

Ben Pearce's exhibition of new work creates a world of the childhood imagination where a myriad of fantastic creatures are discovered living within the relics and discarded objects of modern life. These works teeter between the whimsical and nightmarish as gently curving lines morph into more menacing forms, bringing to mind the moments when shadows lengthen, darkness falls and everything is not quite what it seems.

Pearce relocated to Hawke's Bay in 2003 attracted to the region by the Cicada Studios design incubator, located alongside designer David Trubridge's workshop. Pearce exhibits nationally and his distinct combination of formal, conceptual and technical skills have become recognised as the signature of his work.

This exhibition has been supported by the Mary Vigor Brown Trust and Creative New Zealand.

Saturday 7 March 2009 at 2pm  
Gallery Floor Talk with Ben Pearce  
Free entry



Ben Pearce  
Deadline (detail),  
English black walnut and  
European beech, 2008  
photographer Peter Tang



Michael Hawksworth  
a disaster area,  
collage on paper, 2008  
photographer David Frost, courtesy of the artist  
and Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery

## A DISASTER AREA

Michael Hawksworth

Saturday 7 March – Sunday 17 May 2009  
Exhibition Opening: Friday 6 March 2009 at 5.30pm

In a *disaster area* artist Michael Hawksworth presents a series of abstract portraits which use the painstakingly detailed drawing and collage which have come to define Michael's work. While these are not portraits in the conventional sense, each work picks up on the nuances of personality; revealing, hiding and complicating the idea of capturing an individual's likeness through art.

The way modern art provided ways into alternate realities was what initially appealed to Michael as a teenager; although his focus shifted and he studied literature and art history at Victoria University in the mid 1980s. A renewed interest in contemporary art led Michael back to study Visual Art at EIT, Napier, which he followed with a Masters Degree in Fine Arts from Elam, University of Auckland. Michael lives in Napier, where he tutors in drawing and studio practice at EIT while continuing to pursue his own work.

*a disaster area* has been supported by the Mary Vigor Brown Trust, Gilded Leaf Picture Framers and Creative Communities.

Thursday 19 March 2009 at 6pm  
Gallery Floor Talk with Michael Hawksworth  
Free entry

## SOMEBODY'S DARLING Stories from the Napier Cemetery

Runs until Sunday 21 June 2009

Poignant stories of those buried at the historic Napier Cemetery on Hospital Hill (1855 – 1915) are uncovered in this exhibition jointly curated by Gail Pope, the HB MAG archivist, and well known filmmaker and writer Peter Wells.

This fascinating exhibition showcases contemporary and historic photographic images as well as objects from the collection, focussing not only on the well known local identities buried in this historic landmark, but also the 'everyday' people who also have extraordinary stories associated with their lives, and their deaths.

Somebody's Darling has been supported by the Napier City Council Parks and Reserves Department, Dunstons Funeral Services, Hawke's Bay Monumentalists (Headstone World), Television Hawke's Bay, Hawke's Bay Independents Breweries, Tametea Greenworld Garden Centre, Mitre Ten Mega Napier and Red Stag Gates & Fences.

### Napier Cemetery Guided Walks

These are being run regularly on Sundays at 2pm. Adult \$5, Children Free. Bookings essential. Ph 06 835 7781



Napier Cemetery, 2008  
photographer David Frost

## ORNATUS MULIEBRIS ANGLICANUS

*The Several Habits of English Women, from the Nobilitie to the Contry Woman, as they are in these times, 1640*

Etchings by Wenceslaus Hollar

Runs from Saturday 4 April 2009

In 1936 the Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery received a bequest from the estate of Miss Agnes Elizabeth Atkins of twenty- six charming etchings produced in 1640 by the Bohemian artist Wenceslaus Hollar (1607 – 1677).

These etchings depict English gentlewomen in the dress of the day – from the "nobilitie to the contry woman" [sic]. Hollar is well known for his documentation of a wide variety of subjects from everyday life, and was particularly concerned with material, texture and detail.

This is the first time these rare works from the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust collection have been exhibited in total and offer a fascinating insight into the fashions of this period in English history.

## LAST LONELIEST LOVELIEST: NEW ZEALAND & THE EMPIRE

Saturday 30 May – Sunday 13 September 2009  
Exhibition Opening: Friday 29 May 2009 at 5.30pm

When, in 1891, the poet Rudyard Kipling referred to New Zealand as 'last, loneliest, loveliest,' he was locating this distant colony within the sprawling expanse of the British Empire. *New Zealand & the Empire* draws on the collections of the Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust and some of the finest private collections in the country, to revisit the British Empire – an organisation that was, at its peak, the largest formal empire that the world had ever known.

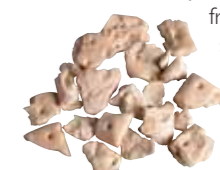
Covering the approximate period 1876 – 1947, this exhibition uses a range of items to examine just what the term British Empire meant to those generations of New Zealanders who lived and served under its mantle. It investigates the way in which objects employing a distinctive Empire style were used as strategic and highly effective reminders of 'Britishness'.

This McLean Gallery exhibition is supported by an Octagon Gallery display of Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust collection holdings from India, the inclusion and eventual independence of which defined the duration of the British Empire.

## THE PETER LE QUESNE ANTARCTIC COLLECTION

Friday 20 February – Monday 26 October 2009

Napier resident Peter Le Quesne had the unique experience of taking part in a scientific research expedition to Antarctica fifty years ago this year. He spent the summer of 1958/59 working as an electronics technician and husky dog handler in what was the second season of New Zealand's Antarctic program. Mr Le Quesne donated a number of items to the collection from his trip which will be on display in the museum's stairwell cabinet.



Huntly and Palmers Cream Cracker Biscuits.  
Found in the Discovery Hut, Scott Base, Antarctica, 1959  
Collection of Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust, gift of Mr Peter Le Quesne, 1968

Coronation Day  
Ribbon, 1902  
Collection of Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust,  
gift from unknown donor

