



# THE CREATIVE WEST

WEST AUCKLAND HERITAGE CONFERENCE

7 OCTOBER 2018

## Sunday 7 October 2018 Titirangi

9am-5pm

Whau  
Local Board

Waitākere Ranges  
Local Board

Auckland Council





Welcome to The Creative West, the third edition of the West Auckland Heritage Conference. The Waitākere Ranges were an inspiration for many artists, from famous painters like Colin McCahon to groups like the Oratia Swing Kings. At today's conference, with more talks on offer than ever before, you'll have the opportunity to discover the stories of many of these artists, musicians, architects and performers.

While this conference still celebrates the unique heritage of the West, this year we've included more of a focus on contemporary artists, and how they were influenced by the great West Auckland artists of last century. Several talks feature heritage projects or groups that started last century, but are still going strong, so in a way, we could say heritage is being made as we speak.

This event is organised by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board with support from the Whau Local Board. The conference is a collaborative effort by many in the community and council.

The board thanks all those involved in putting the conference together, and hopes everyone has a great weekend. Enjoy!

Sandra Coney, Heritage portfolio, Waitākere Ranges Local Board

## Schedule

- 9.00am Mihi and welcome
- 9.15am Key note presentation by Linda Tyler - Looking Westward: Visual Artists and Craftspeople of West Auckland
- 10.00am George Taua and the gift of the Matariki kapa haka
- 10.30am Morning tea + walk to locations
- 11.00am Morning sessions start
- 12.30pm Lunch
- 1.15pm Key note presentation by Bill McKay - Far Pavilions: The Modern Architecture of West Auckland
- 2.15pm Afternoon sessions start
- 4.00pm Key note presentation by Helen Schamroth - Bravado and a Love of Crafting
- 4.40pm Riki Bennett, Kingsley Melhuish and Pita Turei: The Sounds of Our Stories
- 5.30pm Blessing and closing with wine and nibbles

## Morning Keynote Presentations

### Location: Titirangi War Memorial Hall

9.15am

#### *Looking Westward: Visual Artists and Craftspeople of West Auckland*

Linda Tyler

For artists, the west has always been a notion to conjure with. It means spectacular sunsets and cascading waterfalls glimpsed when negotiating an abrupt and challenging landscape. It is forever untamed, its winds and surf as wild now as when first timidly encountered by the nineteenth century's earliest photographers and painters.

Home to generations of craftspeople who work its clays or pull inspiration from its elemental qualities for their jewellery, glass or carving, it has also whispered rhythms to printmakers and sculptors who have found it a haven for uninterrupted making. This talk will be packed with images and give an overview of artists and craftspeople who have been inspired by West Auckland.

10am

#### *George Taua and the Gift of the Matariki Kapa Haka*

George Taua

Te Kawerau ā Maki kaumatua George Taua will tell the story of the Matariki kapa haka, written by first-time composer Tyler Rakataura Taua-Gordon, which was made to celebrate the history of Te Kawerau ā Maki.

The old haka was first performed by Taua-Gordon's great-grandfather in 1935 for an Australian woman who visited the country in search of a Māori husband. With the help of students from his kura, Taua-Gordon has spent the past few months teaching the new haka to primary and intermediate-aged children at seven West Auckland schools.

Cover image: View of a scene from a theatre production by the Prospect Players showing Gladys Prior and Dr. Roberts in 'Sinbad the Sailor'. J.T. Diamond Collection, JTD-12K-02023-1. West Auckland Research Centre



## Morning sessions (11am to 12.30pm)

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Please note: the four themed sessions listed below all run at the same time in four different locations. Please choose one theme (11am-12.30pm) to attend.

### Location: Community House

#### Theme 1: Documenting Our Heritage

11am

##### *Four Photographers*

Raewynn Robertson

Heritage Librarian Raewynn Robertson will talk briefly about the J.T. Diamond Collection held at the West Auckland Research Centre and will highlight four photographers in that collection: Louis Marusich, Isobel Hooker, Charlie Spearpoint and Percy Trenwith.

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11.30am

##### *How to Share Your Story*

Sandra Coney, Kriselle Baker and Jenny Wheeler

There are many ways to publish your research. Author Sandra Coney publishes her own books, renowned journalist Jenny Wheeler is deeply involved with indie publishing with four novels on the go, and Kriselle Baker from Baker Douglas works mainly with New Zealand artists, on beautiful physical books as well as e-books. The panel will answer questions and share tips on finding the best method for you.

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12pm

##### *The Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre*

Janet Clews

Janet Clews has been part of the history of what we now know as the "Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre" for a long time. She will share some of the story of how and why it came to be and mention some of the occupants over past decades.

## Location: Te Uru Learning Centre

### Theme 2: Stories of the Land

11am

##### *Voices From the Stream*

Anna Fomison

Anna Fomison produced and directed the 60-minute documentary on Project Twin Streams with videography by Davian Lorson. They will show highlights of this documentary which has just been launched to mark the 15-year anniversary of Project Twin Streams, a large-scale environmental restoration initiative that restored 56km of West Auckland stream banks over ten years with an integrated community development approach.

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11.30am

##### *Archaeological Textile Fragments from Te Wao Nui a Tiriwa*

Lisa McKendry

The archaeological textile fragments from Te Wao Nui a Tiriwa represent rare examples of past Māori weaving practices and include a broad and complex range of textiles, such as cords, fishing lines and nets, bags, belts, mats and cloaks. They reveal an extensive knowledge of plant materials and the mastery of a range of fibre working. Variations in cloak fragment structures may reflect various weavers or hapū practices.

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12pm

##### *Through the Artist's Eyes...and Ears*

Michelle Edge

Immerse artists in the wilderness for eight weeks and they will create. These creations have impact...they inspire, educate and influence others. This is the premise of the Auckland Regional Parks Artist in Residence programme. Michelle Edge, the manager of this residency, will show the work of three artists who embedded themselves in the Waitākere Ranges and became 'creative westies' and environmental interpreters.



## Location: Lopdell House Seminar Room

### Theme 3: Colours of the West

11am

#### *Kakano Youth Arts Collective*

Mandy Patmore

Mandy Patmore is the Creative Director of Kakano Youth Arts Collective: a unique visual arts project based at Corban Estate Arts Centre. The project developed as an attempt to recognise the needs of some of the most vulnerable young people in West Auckland who have been excluded from mainstream education, and many have a long history of offending. Under the guidance of experienced artists, these young people are given the opportunity to develop their art practice, their confidence and their self-worth. This important work is having a transformative effect on the streets of West Auckland.

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11.30am

#### *Head for the Hills*

Judy Millar

During August of this year Judy Millar presented a solo exhibition of small works on paper from 1989 and 2017 at Gow Langsford Gallery in Auckland. The works from 1989 showed Millar's immediate response to the wild landscape of Auckland's West Coast when she first moved there soon after leaving art school. The recent works track her newfound reflection on the importance of place; place not only considered as a location but more importantly as a set of determining circumstances. Taking cues from European Romanticism Millar will question her own desire to head for the hills and live for more than 30 years on a windswept cliff.

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12pm

#### *Don Binney's West Coast*

Hamish Coney

Hamish Coney explores Don Binney's connection to Auckland's West Coast and his ongoing legacy. Binney (1940-2012) lived at different times at Piha and Te Henga and is noted for his West Coast landscapes and paintings of native birds. Hamish Coney is the managing director of Art + Object and had a close relationship with the artist in his final years.

## Location: Titirangi Library

### Theme 4: Art is Where You Find It

11am

#### *Beethoven in the Family Car - The Fantasy World of Peter Sauerbier*

Fiona Drummond

A recycling ethic and a varied career from steel construction at Marsden Point, repairing jewellery and making metalwork ornaments and fittings for fancy restaurants, bars and hotels honed the skills and creativity that saw the sculptor Peter Sauerbier emerge. He began to create in his Massey workshop fanciful creations from his treasure hunts in secondhand markets, building sites and scrap metal yards. A collection of 100 of his works valued at over a million dollars were gifted by him in 2006 to Waitākere City. Share Fiona Drummond's exploration into the life and work of this fascinating man.

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11.30am

#### *Who was Ivan Cuba?*

Gai Bishop

Painter? Writer/historian? Political commentator? Strongly independent thinker and philosopher? Typical Westie? This presentation is a warm and respectful discussion about how an engaging, eclectic and somewhat eccentric artist strode across the broad spectrum of conventional labels with total disregard for them and ticked off his own 'boxes'...and took a bit of a tilt at other peoples'. Some of Ivan's work donated to the West Auckland Historical Society and the West Auckland Research Centre will be displayed to be enjoyed along with the talk.

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12pm

#### *The Creative Mind - Back to the Source of Regeneration*

Caroline Robinson

Caroline Robinson founded Cabal in 1990 as a vehicle to explore the changing role of human creativity and business. Nearly 30 years on, Cabal, based in Titirangi, is now co-leading the advancement of regenerative practices of Aotearoa, partnering locally as well as internationally to develop the emerging field of Regenerative Development. Cabal's creative practice began in textile and wearable arts. Over time the work evolved from the individual human scale to community and city scale. Cabal has been awarded numerous public art commissions which have been taken up as opportunities to co-create spaces of connection and belonging.





Image: Brake House, Titirangi. Photograph by Simon Devitt.



## Lunch Keynote Presentation

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### Location: Titirangi War Memorial Hall

1.15pm

#### *Far Pavilions: The Modern Architecture of West Auckland*

Bill McKay

West Auckland in the post-war period, Titirangi in particular, was quite a hot bed of modernist artistic activity with a large number of artists, writers and academics living in the area. Many of these people commissioned architects to design them houses in the same modern vein. This talk looks at a number of those houses, several of them large flat roofed pavilions in the International Style - most are still with us today and of national significance in the development of New Zealand architecture and new ways of living.



Image: Atkinson House by Tibor Donner, 1947.

## Afternoon sessions (2.15pm-3.45pm)

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Please note: the four themed sessions listed below all run at the same time in four different locations. Please choose one theme (2.15pm - 3.45pm) to attend.

### Location: Community House

#### Theme 1: West On Stage

2.15pm

#### *Titirangi Folk Music Club - Over 50 Years of Music in West Auckland*

Tricia Lee

Titirangi Folk Music Club has been contributing to the West Auckland music scene for over 50 years. Current secretary and long-time committee member, Tricia Lee, will attempt to answer the oft times controversial question, "what is folk music?" She will talk about the founding of the club, its history and some of the many highlights over the years.

2.45pm

#### *Once Upon a Time in the West*

John Parker

John Parker has had a long association with the West, since he bought some land in Waiatarua in 1969. Parker will discuss what it means to have lived and worked here, since 1980, in the house he had built. In 1983 he began working as a stage designer at Theatre Corporate. Since then his life has been project based, juggling between working in clay and theatre design. He began as a potter in 1966 and in 2016 celebrated 50 years of working in clay with a major retrospective "Cause and Effect" at Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery.

3.15pm

#### *History of the Glen Eden Theatre Company*

Pauline Vella

Background and highlights of the Glen Eden Theatre Company, the Playhouse Theatre Incorporated, at the Glen Eden Theatre building. Since 1972 the Playhouse Theatre has staged hundreds of plays and events in this building, as well as coordinated the rebuild, the venue hire of the theatre and many other commercial opportunities to keep the building as well as the group alive and current in the 21st century.



## Location: Te Uru Learning Centre

### Theme 2: Reimagining History

2.15pm

#### *Cameron Johnson: First Artist of the West Coast of Auckland*

Sandra Coney

The return of a painting to the Gibbon's old homestead at Whatipu, set the presenter on a journey of discovery to find out who the artist was, revealing his dedication to painting the West Coast, and his colourful, bohemian lifestyle.

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2.45pm

#### *A New Vision in the West*

Andrew Clifford

Titirangi and the surrounding Waitākere Ranges have long been an important hub and source of inspiration for artists. Even abstract painters have made a home here and found inspiration from their surroundings and from each other. In advance of the forthcoming exhibition and book *Parallel Universe*, which surveys the career of painter-designer Roy Good, Te Uru Director Andrew Clifford positions Good amongst a group of pioneering mid-century artists and gallerists who helped lead the development of abstraction in Aotearoa-New Zealand from the forests of the West Coast.

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3.15pm

#### *Headforemost*

Stephen Ellis

On 26 November 1841 the small boat containing William Cornwallis Symonds and four other passengers sank "headforemost" in the Manukau Harbour. Symonds was the impetuous deputy to Governor William Hobson. His Manukau Land Company was a private scheme instigated by Symonds, to entice Scottish emigrants to his proposed capital city on land that he had not yet negotiated the purchase of at Cornwallis. Artist Stephen Ellis has just finished his exhibition "Headforemost" at Te Uru, in which he reimagines the settling of Symonds' unbuilt city at Cornwallis.

## Location: Lopdell House Seminar Room

### Theme 3: Material Heritage

2.15pm

#### *Harry Turbott – the Journey of a West Coast Environmental Designer*

Garth Falconer

Architect Harry Turbott (1930-2016) returned from studying landscape architecture at Harvard in 1960. He taught and worked as a consultant and chose to base his family at Karekare, from where he tirelessly defended the Waitākere and West Coast from inappropriate development. Perhaps his greatest design was for the Arataki Visitor Centre where he sought to channel the energies and stories of Te Kawerau ā Maki and the Waitākere Ranges for the people of Auckland.

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2.45pm

#### *New Pioneers in Titirangi: The Modern Houses*

Anthony Barnes

Anthony Barnes, writer and researcher, formerly Principal Heritage Advisor North at Auckland Council, is currently researching the Post-War Modern houses of Titirangi for the Waitākere Ranges Local Board. He will share the images and the history of what he found from a multitude of sources up to this point. This will be followed by a discussion with the audience and the opportunity for them to add new information to his search.

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3.15pm

#### *Living in a Tibor Donner House*

Tanya Wilkinson

Tanya Wilkinson lives in the Atkinson House, built in 1946-7 in Titirangi, designed by Tibor Donner. From the late 1960s to the early 2000s the house was owned by the Waitākere City Council and from the late 1970s operated as the Titirangi Community House. In this talk she will give a brief introduction to Tibor Donner and the history of the Atkinson House. She will also talk about what it is like to live in a house designed by Tibor Donner, and one that has had a former life as a community house.



**Location: Titirangi Library**  
**Theme 4: Art is Everywhere**

**2.15pm**

***The heART of This Place***

**Naomi McCleary**

For a brief but golden period from 1995 to 2010, Waitākere led New Zealand in placing artists at the heart of the building of a city. Design teams for buildings and bridges, parks and playgrounds all included artists and iwi. Architects were interviewed and assessed on their willingness to embrace arts/design collaboration. The result is a legacy of unique creative intervention - both functional and decorative. As arts manager for Waitākere during those years, McCleary will take a walk through the best of the west.

**2.45pm**

***Colin McCahon House in the 21st Century***

**Vivienne Stone**

How does a single artist house museum of the 20th century stay relevant to 21st century audiences?

In 2019 the McCahon House will celebrate Colin McCahon's 100th birthday with an upgrade to the visitor experience at the house museum where Colin McCahon and his family lived in the 1950s, and where he produced some of the nation's greatest art treasures. Director Vivienne Stone will share how other single artist museum houses of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries engage with their audiences.

**3.15pm**

***The Burgeoning of Corban Estate Arts Centre***

**Martin Sutcliffe**

Naomi McCleary (Board Trustee) and Martin Sutcliffe (Director) talk about how the Corban Estate Arts Centre has developed from its earliest days in 2002 to the present time. They will discuss the reasons for it being established, how it has aimed to make itself relevant to its surrounding communities, what it's contributing to the West and where it is heading in the future.

**Afternoon Keynote Presentation**

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**Location: Titirangi War Memorial Hall**

**4pm**

***Bravado and a Love of Crafting***

**Helen Schamroth**

What makes a place creative? Who are some of the people who have given west Auckland its creative identity? Helen Schamroth draws on over 30 years of writing about, and engaging with craft, art and design, a significant amount originating in west Auckland. There were riches to discover beyond the suburbs of the west, by the beaches and tucked away in the bush. She shares some of the research that revealed the lifestyle, the bravado and the love of crafting which characterised the makers of some of New Zealand's finest and most imaginative works of craft and design.

**Performance**

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**Location: Titirangi War Memorial Hall**

**4.40pm**

***The Sounds of our Stories***

**Riki Bennett, Kingsley Melhuish and Pita Turei**

Ending the day on a high note as we celebrate the stories of Te Waonui a Tiriwa (The great forest of Tiriwa – Waitākere Ranges) as told by Pita Turei and brought to life by the electrifying taonga puoro fusion of Riki Bennet and Kingsley Melhuish. After a sold-out performance at Arataki during last Matariki Festival, this is your chance to be enchanted.



## Displays

### *Isabel Hooker*

These images from the J.T. Diamond Collection are all taken by Isabel Hooker, an amateur photographer who took photos on Auckland Tramping Club outings particularly in the Waitākere Ranges and on the West Coast of Auckland. Her images are mainly from the early 1940s and generally feature landscape views or women, as most of the men were involved in the war. Isabel died in her late 30s of breast cancer.

### *Photographing the West*

Complementing the talk by Raewynn Robertson from the West Auckland Research Centre, a rolling display of images from four of the photographers whose photos are held in the J.T. Diamond Collection: Louis Marusich, Isobel Hooker, Charlie Spearpoint and Percy Trenwith.

### *Artists Presenting*

At various locations in the Titirangi War Memorial Hall the works of West Auckland Artists can be seen during the conference, amongst them a presentation of Forum - a celebration of graffiti writing in Avondale in 2017.

### *Bookstall*

Take some time to check out our bookstall, run by the West Auckland Historical Society. On display are books by today's presenters and/or on West Auckland Heritage topics.

## Heritage resources

### **Archives New Zealand**

Auckland office, 95 Richard Pearse Drive, Manukau, PO Box 201103, Manukau

**09 270 1100**

[auckland.archives@dia.govt.nz](mailto:auckland.archives@dia.govt.nz)  
[archives.govt.nz](http://archives.govt.nz)

### **Arataki Visitor Centre**

300 Scenic Drive, Titirangi

**09 817 0077**

[regionalparks.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/aratakivisitorcentre](http://regionalparks.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/aratakivisitorcentre)

### **Auckland Council Archives**

GPT Building, 4 Waipareira Ave, Henderson

**09 892 4870**

[archives@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:archives@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)  
[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### **Auckland Libraries**

#### **Central Auckland Research Centre**

Central City Library, Level 2, 44-46 Lorne Street, Auckland Central

**09 307 7771**

[Library.CentralHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Library.CentralHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)  
[aucklandlibraries.govt.nz](http://aucklandlibraries.govt.nz)

#### **North Auckland Research Centre**

Takapuna Library, The Strand, Takapuna

**09 486 8460**

[Library.NorthHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Library.NorthHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### **Sir George Grey Special Collections**

Central City Library, Level 2, 44-46 Lorne Street, Auckland Central

**09 377 0209**

[Specialcollections@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Specialcollections@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### **South Auckland Research Centre**

Manukau Library and Research Centre, Level 1, 3 Osterley Way, Manukau

**09 261 8637**

[Library.SouthHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Library.SouthHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### **West Auckland Research Centre**

Waitākere Central Library, Level 2, 3 Ratanui Street, Henderson

**09 839 2260**

[Library.WestHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Library.WestHeritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### **Auckland War Memorial Museum Library**

Auckland War Memorial Museum

**09 306 7070 ext 7084**

[library@aucklandmuseum.com](mailto:library@aucklandmuseum.com)  
[aucklandmuseum.com/discover/library](http://aucklandmuseum.com/discover/library)

### **Avondale/Waterview Historical Society**

c/- 19 Methuen Road, Avondale

**09 828 8494**

[historian@avondale.org.nz](mailto:historian@avondale.org.nz)  
[avondale.org.nz](http://avondale.org.nz)



### Huia Settlers Museum

1251 Huia Road, Huia

09 811 8971

info@huiamuseum.org.nz

huiamuseum.org.nz

### Oratia Folk Museum

527 West Coast Road, Oratia

09 813 3884 or 09 818 7816

ianmolyneux@clear.net.nz

oratia.org.nz/oratia-folk-museum/

### Protect Piha Heritage Society

CM Box 3, Piha

021 660 275

protectpihaheritage@gmail.com

### Te Toi Uku Clayworks Museum

8 Ambrico Place, New Lynn

09 827 7349

info@portageceramictrust.org.nz

portageceramictrust.org.nz

### West Auckland Historical Society

Mill Cottage, 35 Sel Peacock Drive,  
Henderson

09 836 5917

info@westaucklandhistory.org.nz

## Heritage conference advisory group

Mark Allen - MC

Annalily van den Broeke - Event Organiser, Art Ants

Gai Bishop - West Auckland Historical Society

Amy Cameron - Auckland Council Specialist Local Communications

Andrew Clifford - Director Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery

Sandra Coney - Heritage portfolio, Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Sharon Davies - PA to Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Robyn Mason - West Auckland Historical Society

Raewynn Robertson - Auckland Council Senior Librarian Local History

Lisa Truttman - Historian

Mica Plowman - Auckland Council Principal Heritage Advisor West

...and all the presenters who generously shared their research and stories with us



## Venue locations

- 1 Titirangi War Memorial Hall - Registration, key note speakers and lunch. 500 South Titirangi Road
- 2 Lopdell House Seminar Room – level 1 (downstairs, via stairs or elevator)
- 3 Titirangi Library
- 4 Te Uru Learning Centre – level 3 (downstairs, via stairs or elevator)
- 5 Titirangi Community House

**P** Parking  
— Entrance





Image: McCahon House museum

**Whau  
Local Board**

**Waitākere Ranges  
Local Board**



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