

FRIENDS OF

PĀTAKA

porirua city

December 2020

Welcome to the Friends of Pātaka newsletter (corrected version)

This very strange, disrupted year is nearly over. It has certainly been challenging for Pātaka staff and support. All scheduled exhibitions had to be pushed forwards, guest speakers were unable to attend, etc. etc. BUT, we all made it and of course our country is in a luckier space than many.

The Friends have, over the last two years solicited the help of Whitireia students in setting ourselves up with a cloud storage system. The students have been amazing and each year the three who worked on our project (a different group each year) have won the first place award for their year.

We wish them every success in their future.

2021 Friends of Pātaka Arts Trail

Planning for the **2021 Arts Trail** is well underway. This is of course; a biennial event with twice as many artist participants committed to it this time.

There will be eight hubs and sixteen studios open with work from the many cultures we are fortunate to have in the Porirua area. Painting, ceramics, textiles, 3D work, raranga, screen printing are just some of the wonderful work that will be on display over the two days **13th and 14th March**.

Life Member

We have three life members of Friends of Pātaka; Rhys Richards, June Penman and Barbara Marshall, so we would like to share a profile of each of these in this and the next two newsletters.

Rhys Richards joined the Friends committee in about 2001 and stayed until 2013.
To quote Rhys:-

“The main achievement (of Friends) was to help the staff develop a local, national and international reputation for successful community involvement. Porirua came first but exhibitions etc. were done so well as to extend far beyond. This requires good work, not just fine art but also New Zealand, Pacific and local arts.” Whilst on the committee Rhys organised (with staff and committee help) an exhibition of Solomon Island Arts and artefacts, named “Spirit of Solomons” and later, separately a two week long workshop of paper making and printing by four Solomon Island artists. Later still he facilitated an exhibition “Baskets of Melanesia”.

The committee always worked very closely with staff. Rhys says that being on the committee was great fun and he is very glad to have had a role supporting Pātaka.

Toi Store Artist Profile

Our Toi Store Artist for this newsletter is **Mars Kirifi**.

Mars is of Tokelauan descent and has lived most of his life in Porirua. He creates jewellery with natural ocean shell such as Mother of Pearl shell and paua. His Tokelauan heritage has always been forefront with many of his designs inspired by the Pacific – both modern and traditional. For instance the 'Pa' pieces are based on the traditional Tokelauan fishing lure and often gifted to females at their wedding as it symbolises love, their beauty and their grace. It is seen as a blessing to possess a 'Pa'.

Mars will be one of our signature artists showing his work in the Pātaka Spine over the arts trail days

Mars Kirifi jewellery

Staff Member Profile

We like to share a little about a member of our Pātaka staff, all of whom work away mostly unseen.

Stuart Forsyth

Stuart has been Pātaka's Design and Marketing Coordinator since around 2014. A role that sees him responsible for the management, design and delivery of Pātaka's branding and promotional material. Day to day this takes the form of designing artist catalogues, exhibition design and installation (branding, information panels, signage) through to advertising and website updating. Stuart co-ordinates with various suppliers and contractors, as well as Pātaka staff, to ensure the timely delivery of any design collateral needed for a project.

Stuart holds an MFA from Ilam School of Fine Arts, Canterbury University, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art from Massey University, Wellington, and enjoys working on his own art-practice when he is not helping to promote the work of other artists.

Stuart was reluctant to mention that he earned a Merit in both the 2020 Molly Morpeth Canaday Award 3D and in 2020 Parkin Drawing Prize. He semi-jokingly states that these awards have given him a reason not to take on a "Mr Green" franchise run just yet, even though his partner and children think his art is a little odd!

Stuart Forsyth

Members' Trip to Parliament

A group of eighteen Friends of Pātaka visited Parliament for a guided tour of the art works on display on 30th November. This one and a half hour experience was enthusiastically delivered by Kim. Of course works on display do change from time to time and will do so now with a new set of Parliamentarians coming in to the house, so a future trip is thoroughly recommended.

Opening of the next exhibitions 6th December, 2.00 p.m.

The Committee of the Friends of Pātaka wish you all a very happy festive season.

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