

For immediate release:

Local artists weave technology and tradition

Aroha Timoti-Coxon a weaver from Hokitika and Vicki Smith an artist from Harihari, are presenting to Westland District Library the outcome of a media art collaboration funded through the Intercreate research centre in Taranaki. Called Pattern Recognition the artwork represents a digital object, the QR code, within traditional patterns of tukutuku and works with a smart phone or mobile device to open the home page of the Westland Library Website.

A QR code is a type of 2D bar code used to provide access to information through an internet enabled mobile device (a reader is required to decode them). QR codes can open files or perform an action such as lead to a website. The digital world is made up of the on/off binary code as is weaving so in proposing this work the artists were interested in how information held by a QR pattern can be seen as similar to the 'coded stories' told through the patterns of tukutuku.

The project also references the process of creating tukutuku as a conversation between two weavers who pass the ara (thread) backwards and forwards in order to construct the work. Pattern Recognition seeks to realise the exchange around art practices that include within them the space for discussion, idea generation and collective knowledge making through the shared process of construction.

The artists first met at a weaving workshop that Aroha co-taught through Karoro Learning in Greymouth and have since worked together on bringing weaving as art practice to schools in South Westland. "Aroha is incredibly generous and busy in her work for the community" says Vicki "So it has been great to access the Intercreate fund to provide us with the resources to work together. The creative problem solving and construction has been a really exciting process."

"Beginning with a good base is essential," adds Aroha "just like the gathering of the harakeke (flax) in weaving, through to thinking digitally with this project. There have been some highs and lows in developing the prototype and the finished work but lots of sharing and stories along the way"

The placement of Pattern Recognition also highlights the story of the library, which links to the world wide web as the biggest repository of 'woven information' (Tukutuku-Ao-Whanui). Westland District Library also provides the internet through the Aotearoa People's Network and with the Kete project are encouraging local people to share their stories online.

Visitors to the Library will be able to find out more about the work and the process of its construction by pointing their smart phones or device at it and accessing the Westland Library site and links.

The artwork will be presented to the District Librarian Sarah Thompson on Wednesday 22nd of October at 2pm and will include an artists talk for Westland High School Te Reo Art class, their teachers and any interested public who wish to come along.



Artists Aroha Timoti-Coxon and Vicki Smith with their work Pattern Recognition

Information for the Work

Pattern Recognition

Artists Aroha Timoti-Coxon and Vicki Smith

Materials; Dyed Harakeke (flax) on a frame of half round dowel and windthrown West Coast Matai (thanks to Cyclone Ita)