



Pattern Recognition

A media art work for Westland District Library created by; Aroha Timoti and Vicki Smith
Funded by the Intercreate research centre - <http://www.intercreate.org/>

What is it?

The artwork is a weaving created in the style of Tukutuku, which are panels that tell 'coded' stories of cross stitch design (these are most often vertical rather than horizontal). The process of construction is for two weavers to work on either side of the panel, passing the ara (thread) backwards and forwards through the panel. The end result is a QR code pattern with borders of Whakaiwi o te Tuna (the backbone of the long finned eel).

A QR code is a type of 2D bar code used to provide access to information through an internet enabled mobile phone or tablet device (a reader is required to decode them). QR codes can open files or perform an action such as lead to a website this one leads to the Westland District Library Website – <http://www.westlib.co.nz>

QR scanners can be downloaded for free from the App store (if you have an iPhone, iPod or iPad) or from the Play store for Android or Windows phones and devices.

What is it made of?

The cross bars are round and half round dowel nailed to a frame is made of Matai from a tree blown down in Cyclone Ita. The QR code and the tukutuku patterns down the side are woven from Harakeke (flax) gathered locally and dyed using Terri Dyes.

Why make it?

Pattern Recognition is the result of collaboration between two artists who proposed to make a work, that is a QR code created through the woven art of tukutuku. The project proposal referenced the process of creating tukutuku as a conversation between two weavers. It describes the 'binary code' of weaving and the information held by a QR image as similar to the codification of stories told through the patterns of tukutuku. Its placement in the library also highlights the link the library has to the *World Wide Web* as the biggest repository of 'woven information' [Tukutuku-Ao-Whanui].

How long did it take?

This is the second version of the work, the first was an experiment that did not work but allowed us to work out the parameters for constructing the final work. Intercreate funded us to spend some time working together to refine our process and ensure the completed piece worked as we expected. Overall the project took about 6 days.

For further reading - <http://www.intercreate.org/2012/06/pattern-recognition/>

Use the QR code to go to the Library website and find further links there!