

Buzzing with creative workshops

Katee Shanks

This Saturday and Sunday Taneatua will be alive with creativity as the Tuhoe Gallery presents the Art and Activism Workshop.

For artists and community

activists and run by mōumou movement, the workshop includes five sessions over the two days and a number of guest speakers including Tame Iri, Tamati Kruger, Maria Steens, Ati Teepa and Arno Kura.

"I see art as a way of provoking people into thinking," Tame Iri told the *Whakatane News*.

"Artists become storytellers within their communities and can let people know what has gone before through art. They also have the ability to change people's views and perceptions of events."

The weekend's workshops includes:

- Te Urupatu — an historical overview of Tuhoe activism.

Projecting forward from the 1860s, the korero will show the progression from early encounters to more recent activism and action.

- Hikoi — visiting sites of struggle in the Ruatoki Valley. From the confiscation line, early sites of the Tuhoe Embassy and modern actions.

- Noho — how land occupations have reignited the ahi kaa. Using three modern land occupations in Tuhoe, Taiaarhia, Waikaremoana and Hatupere, participants explore how collaboration and cooperation is key.
- Toi — hands-on collaborative workshop to create a large scale artwork.

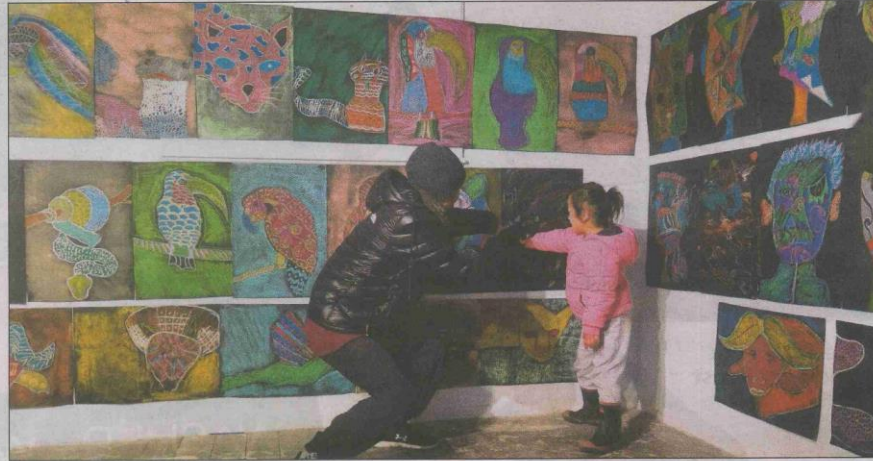
Children's pastels on display at art gallery

Since opening its doors early last year, the Taneatua Gallery has hosted a number of exhibitions and welcomed hundreds of visitors through the doors.

Last weekend an exhibition showcased work by youngsters from throughout the Eastern Bay who took part in a free pastel workshop during the school holidays.

The workshops were run by local artist Joanne Black with funding from Creative Whakatane Communities.

Pictured is six-year-old Te Iri Pounamu "Hunny Bun" Peyroux pointing out her pastel drawing to a friend.



OPINION

This activist, fighter, artist, campaigner of Tuhoe

Katee Shanks

Tame Iri is Tuhoe.

He's a father, a grandfather, a fighter, an artist and a public speaker. I am fortunate to be able to call him a friend.

He's been a social worker, an athlete, a chef and a campaigner.

For a brief moment of madness he was an alleged terrorist.

He is Tuhoe.

I can't recall the first time I met Tame. It may have been outside the Whakatane District Court a decade ago. There were cameras, microphones, notebooks and people. There was a case against him involving flag on a Tuhoe marae area and a gun.

It may have been before this. But even before I met him I knew who he was. I'd seen him through the lens. I didn't understand him.

I've watched a passionate Tame at the confiscation line, I've seen him protesting, seen him wearing lycra, witnessed him in the dock, I've heard him campaigning. There are always cameras, always microphones, always notebooks, always people.

I've seen him accepting the koha, accepting the rautapu during a wero and I've listened to him speaking.

He is Tuhoe.

He has spent a lifetime showing Tuhoe, teaching Tuhoe — the place, the people, the injustices — to the rest of the nation, the rest of the world. He has taught me.



Granted, in the early days he may have shocked, but his actions served their purpose. People saw.

They may have seen with scorn, with contempt, with fear and even with understanding — but they saw

and they learned a new word — Tuhoe. And they learned Tame Iri.

Tame has not changed. With age he may have slowed, he may have taken another approach, a more subtle approach. But his being of Tuhoe has never faltered.

I believe the people's perception of Tame has.

I see people of all hues, of all ages and of all backgrounds staring. At the gallery he and two friends have created — their labour of love, at Te Uru Tamatua, on the street. I see people buying his art. I see people hanging on to his word. I know he is wanted as a public speaker. I see people asking to have "selfies" with the man. I see awe.

I don't see fear like I used to see. I see understanding. I see newfound knowledge. I see Tuhoe

through different eyes and so do they.

Tame is Tuhoe. And he has done his job. He is achieving his goal.

Now he talks of partnerships. His words are "we" and "together" and "progress".

Now people are looking. Tame wants to show the beauty. He is working hard to show the beauty.

He also wants to make sure the ugly never returns.

Not long ago I was at the Taneatua Gallery at night. Shona Hammond-Boyes talked about Tame. She said he was more than a kaumatua, she called him a true leader. An inspiration. She said his legacy would go on and on long after he was gone.

Tame Iri is Tuhoe. That says it all.