

Tai Poutini Polytechnic Media Release

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Polytechnic gifts sculptures to community at exhibition opening

The gifting of three student-carved limestone sculptures to the community at tonight's opening of the Tai Poutini Polytechnic Jade Exhibition is symbolic of the institute's growing partnership with the region, says Chief Executive Alex Cabrera.

The sculptures were created by Jade and Hard Stone Carving students and all reflect the special nature of the West Coast through the artists' work. They are: Totem; Aoraki, The Cloud Piercer; and Essence, and will be gifted to the Grey District, Westland District and the Ngati Waewae Marae in Arahura. It follows last year's gifting of sculptures to the Buller District and will see the work of TPP students on display right across the region.

TPP will gift the sculptures at tonight's opening of the annual Jade Exhibition at the Westland Recreation Centre. The exhibition is open until 30 November 2018, from 6am-9pm Monday to Friday and 7am-7pm Saturday and Sunday.

Mr Cabrera says the exhibition showcases the real talent of this year's students. "We invite everyone in the community to come along to the exhibition and take a look at some of what we do here at the Polytechnic. TPP is here to support and deliver for the community, so we are looking forward to seeing West Coasters at the exhibition."

As well as showcasing the work of carving students, tonight's opening event is also an opportunity for TPP hospitality and cookery students to get real-life experience. The students will be both back- and front-of-house, cooking and serving the food for the event. It is a great chance to put their skills to work, and the event will also be used for assessment purposes.

THE SCULPTURES

Totem – carved by Lindsay Cooke, Matt Potaka-Osborne and Te Aroha Te Rangi

Inspired by Native American Indian totem-poles, with a Maori influence. The carvings are based on the four elements – earth, fire, wind and water. Water is represented by a hammerhead (mangopare) design and represents Tangaroa; fire is represented by flames signifying Hinenui te Po; wind is represented by a double koru on the tongue (Tawhiri-Matea); earth is represented in the entire sculpture which is made of stone.

Aoraki, The Cloud Piercer – carved by Jacinda Moran, Grant Cameron, Anaru Millar and Cat Van Der Geest

The sculpture is based on Te Tai Poutini and the four natural elements. It was created for the people and generates wellbeing in the environment and ourselves. Mount Aoraki is the form of the pyramid; the clouds, ocean, volcano and glacier are all selected for their natural powerful strengths which define the creation of the West Coast. The Koru unifies the sculpture to the land and the land to all people.

Essence – carved by Connie Duell, Sarah Harvey, Nathan Rakels

The four essential elements are reflected within the form of this piece. The Kereru as the wind/air merges into the waka for water. Fire is represented by Tamanui-te-Ra on the breast of the Kereru, and the Kawakawa leaf within represents the Earth.

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