



Grant Tilly drawing courtesy Ruth Jeffery

The Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust (in formation)

Thank you for signing up for news and information on the Mirek Smíšek Arts Trust.

We appreciate your support and look forward to keeping you updated with progress in future newsletters.

The Lavender Creek Farm Fair hosted by Susi and Vaughan White in February was a huge success. The displays of ceramic art, flax weaving, carving and local arts and crafts were enjoyed by more than 2000 people, including Otaki MP Nathan Guy and Kapiti Mayor K Gurnathan and his wife Claire. Opened with a blessing from Te Waari Carkeek of Nga Hapu O Otaki, the Fair raised awareness of the Trust and its determination to celebrate the internationally acclaimed ceramic art of Mirek Smisek and the arts and crafts of Tangata Whenua.

Pamella Annsouth's display from her collection of Mirek's work and photographs attracted much interest. Rod Clifton's collection of restored vintage tractors were admired by many and clambered over by dozens of children.

The net proceeds of the Fair were \$18,000 which have been donated to the Trust by Susi and Vaughan White.

The Project

Mirek Smisek earned an international reputation for his designs and is recognised as one of the founders of the modern ceramic arts movement in New Zealand. For nearly 30 years he worked at Te Horo, firing his work in the two large beehive kilns he built, and which are now the surviving elements of his pottery.

The project aims to build on his legacy to create an arts centre around the kilns to celebrate ceramic arts and the arts and crafts of tangata whenua.

The immediate tasks are to secure the site and land required for the centre and develop a viable business plan as the basis for the extensive fund raising that will be needed. The indications from NZTA are that the Kilns will be moved from the route of the Otaki to Peka Peka Expressway (O2PP) later this year. Access to the site may be permitted sometime in 2021.

The Trust

The project has grown from a commitment by the NZ Transport Agency to conserve the kilns and has been given shape by a group of local residents who came together as The Kilns Working Group.

The Mirek Smisek Arts Trust is in the process of being formed as a charitable trust and should be formally registered later this year. The Kilns Working Group (and prospective trustees) comprises Tony Hartevelt (chair), Carla van Zon ONZM, Jenny Shearer, Susi White, Paul Greenaway and John Draper.

Your support

We are delighted to have your interest and support for this project which we believe will be significant not only for the region but potentially for the arts in New Zealand.

If you know of others who would be interested in receiving this newsletter, please forward it to them.

Kind regards

Tony Hartevelt
Chair