

Portrait reflects 'renaissance man'

by Tiana Miocevic

A young artist has painted a portrait of departing AUT Vice Chancellor Dr John Hinchcliff to commemorate his work at the university.

Kingsland artist John Appleton (27) completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at AUT in 2000.

Mr Appleton was commissioned to paint the portrait after winning an AUT portrait competition in 2002.

Mr Appleton spent a month painting the portrait and was given free rein in terms of subject matter.

"The painting is full of symbolism.

"I researched Dr Hinchcliff, and included a lot of things that are symbolic of what he has done."

The painting includes a second, transparent, image of Dr Hinchcliff which captures him at a time when he was involved in peace movements in the 1960s, says Mr Appleton.

Mr Appleton says the landscape of Nelson in the background

symbolises Dr Hinchcliff's hometown and three feathers at the bottom of the painting represent a book he wrote about Parihaka.

"I wanted to give the painting a renaissance feel because that's what he was – a renaissance man.

"He was a master of all trades, in an academic sense," says Mr Appleton.

Mr Appleton, a full-time artist, has previously worked for a company which specialised in murals, so had no trouble painting the large-scale work.

"I'm used to working on this scale.

"Most of my paintings are big, but not so big that you can't hang them on a wall," he says.

Mr Appleton is currently in negotiations to hold an exhibition of his artwork at AUT and says that exposure is a vital part of his job.

His appeal as an artist is that he is versatile, he says.

"I don't have a preference of style. I can paint realism or abstract art. I like painting everything."

"That's what he was - a renaissance man. He was a master of all trades, in an academic sense."



SYMBOLIC: John Appleton with the portrait of Dr John Hinchcliff.

PHOTO: TIANA MIOCEVIC

Council tries to air out stinky Shore beaches

by Josinta Tillett

Some North Shore residents are concerned that the winter rain will mean more sewage overflows, more beach closures and more hassle for beach lovers.

Eleven North Shore beaches were closed during the summer months, some for extended periods of time, due to sewage overflows.

Frances Hinlopen (50) is disgusted by beach pollution when going for early morning walks.

"It's bad enough that beaches are closed during the summer, but it's still a problem during winter," says the Mairangi Bay resident.

"I think it's disappointing that in a place like New Zealand, which is supposed to have such a clean green image, the beaches are in such a polluted state."

The two main sources of water pollution are stormwater and wet weather sewage overflows, especially during heavy rainfall.

North Shore City councillor Joel Cayford says the council is addressing the problem in the form of Project CARE.

The programme, which focuses on beach water quality, was initiated in 1998 in response to public concerns over wet weather sewage overflows and the constant closure of North Shore beaches.

Project CARE has a 20-year plan

"The problem isn't as noticeable during the winter but the smell is still disgusting."

and will cost around \$250 million.

This is expected to improve beach water quality by up to 65%.

The works are designed to reduce wet weather overflows from an average of 12 per year to two per year.

Swimming at beaches with polluted water can result in stomach and intestine illness, influenza and skin, eye and ear infections.

During the summer, test results showed that the enterococci levels were 500 per 100ml of water, 220 above the safe level.

Although not many people swim during the winter months, those fishermen, walkers and other beachgoers, are presented with an unpleasant smell.

A report by international professional services company GHD Ltd said that Project CARE was on track to meet its targets, last October.

Mr Cayford agrees and says that work cannot be done any faster because rates would have to go up.

"It's the community's ability to pay and the council doesn't want to spend ratepayers' money carelessly."

The worst areas were identified by the council and deliberately targeted first.

Problem areas such as Devonport, Takapuna and Milford now only overflow during very heavy rain.

Mr Cayford says: "Part of it is repairing it and the other part is containing it."

Murrays Bay resident Heath Hawkins (21) is pleased that the council is addressing this issue.

"It's annoying when I can't walk down to my local beach for a swim...during summer.

"The problem isn't as noticeable during the winter but the smell is still disgusting."

Project CARE is also designed to increase public knowledge of impacts on water quality in the urban environment.

Public sewers will be fixed as part of Project CARE, but private sewers are the property owner's responsibility.

Some beaches will still be a problem this winter but slowly these areas will be targeted and problems resolved with Project CARE.

New research shows change in gay attitudes

by Anna Barge

The queer population is ready to speak out, and one group of researchers is ready to listen.

The Lavender Islands project aims to get information on gay, lesbian and transgender communities' lifestyles, including family and relationship arrangements, income levels and personal habits.

It also seeks to identify a common name that all members of the community are comfortable with.

Currently rainbow, gay, queer and GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) are all used.

The project was launched last month by Dr Mark Hendrickson, of Massey University, and nearly 700 responses were received in the first four days.

"This is a truly remarkable response.

"I think it shows that the community is ready to be heard," he says.

He says that a lot of assumptions are made about the gay community, yet there is very little accurate knowledge of it.

He says policy such as the civil union bill is often based on people's personal experience rather than actual research.

He says this is not the way to form important legislation.

There is little available information on the gay community because many members live in situations where they do not feel safe to 'come out'.

He calls these groups New Zealand's "hidden communities".

He says New Zealand is currently quite tolerant.

"But I hope that this research will help to change tolerant to supportive."

James (not his real name) told his parents he was gay when he was 17.

Although his parents said they were fine with his sexuality, they took him to a psychiatrist the next day.

He said his parents have progressed and have become more tolerant of him.

His only complaint is that his mother keeps trying to set him up with every cute Maori boy she sees.

Sarah said her mother accepted her and her partner as part of the family.

Julie, a young transgender woman, says her experience was quite different.

She told her parents and close friends she was transgender when she was 13.

Her parents thought it was a joke. When word got around school, friends were quick to distance themselves from her.

The abuse was so bad that she was hospitalised from stoning.

Julie now visits schools with Rainbow Youth to educate high school students about issues facing the gay community.

"There's still a perception that it's about sex but that's changing," she says.

She says she often goes to schools where there are openly gay members of staff and the children are quite comfortable with it.

Dr Hendrickson agrees. "If you look at the world, change is beginning to take place."

Dr Hendrickson and his team aim to have the first lot of statistical data about the community ready in mid-July.



CLOSED: Warning sign on Mairangi Bay beach.

PHOTO: JOSINTA TILLETT