

News release 20 February 2009

TALENTED GRADUATES COME OUT ON TOP AT STONE AWARDS

Tai Poutini Polytechnic graduate students in the Certificate and Diploma in Jade and Hard Stone Carving have taken away major awards at the 12th biannual Pounamu/Jade and Hard Stone Competition.

Held in Greymouth at the Left Bank Art Gallery last week and organised by the West Coast Society of Arts, the Contemporary Stone Awards showcased extraordinary craftsmanship by all Tai Poutini students celebrating the completion of the 34 week certificate.

The high calibre pieces are on display at the West Coast Regional Art Gallery in Greymouth and are judged by highly respected artist John Edgar.

Tai Poutini Polytechnic student Mica Hubertus (Mick) won the final sculpture award for his stunning piece named 'A river of life flows through time and space', of which the judges honoured its "careful and sensual fitting together of five distinctive elements that rewards the audience with a very satisfying visual, special and tactile response".

2002 Diploma graduate, Rhys Hall took away the Adornment Award thanks to three pendants which judges described as 'magic' and represented ancient stone in the 21st century.

2002 Diploma graduate, Andy Ruskin won a merit award for his "impeccable craftsmanship" in contemporary Maori design. Andy is also a casual tutor on the Certificate and Diploma in Jade and Hard Stone Carving programmes.

Jade and Hard Stone Carving Programme co-ordinator Jayne Beaumont says the Tai Poutini Polytechnic students have been working for weeks on each piece.

"There is the design process which often takes the longest in the preparation process. For example in Mica's award winning work there were four stages including designing, a maquette or pilot copy and an experimental stage of carving before the work even began on the carving," Beaumont says.

“Many of our student’s achievements have come from a personal goal to create original design with the highest of skill. Our goal as an education provider is to grow these aims by offering the best learning environment and teaching with the best skills on offer,” Beaumont says.

Prizes for the awards range from \$500 to \$3000 and are sponsored by Solid Energy Ltd, Punakaiki Crafts, Pike River Coal Ltd and Diamond Edge and Cedar Industries.

Tai Poutini Polytechnic’s Certificate and Diploma in Jade and Hard Stone Carving provides students with an introduction to the technical and design aspects of carving jade and hard stones.

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Jayne Beaumont

Phone: 03 769 9445

Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Email: JayneB@tpp.ac.nz

www.tppweb.ac.nz

About Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) offers a range of exciting programmes including outdoor education, ski patrol, ecotourism, jade and hard stone carving, professional chef and civil construction. Tai Poutini Polytechnic has campuses in Auckland, Cambridge, Christchurch, Wanaka, Invercargill, Westport, Greymouth, Reefton and Hokitika. In 2009 TPP offers programmes at Greymouth, Reefton, Westport and Hokitika Campuses with no tuition fees* (* conditions apply).