



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: Corban Estate Arts Centre Eel

Tags; art, collaboration, Paskifica

A wonderful example of how art can inspire community collaboration, this involved the construction of a fabulous 10 metre long eel sculpture situated within the Pacific area at Corban Estate Arts Centre.

Detail

The story began when community groups decided to make an eel for the xmas parade, they, together with the coordinators then thought it be good to make something permanent. Particularly as they had already been inspired by the steel frame of an eel located at Corban Estate Arts Centre.

The project, which started in 2006, brought together a number of different groups: local high schools (Liston College, Henderson High School) community groups (Mother of Divine Mercy), alternative education organisations (Beautiful Daughters) and a pacific island cultural group- The Pacific Mamas.

Some made mosaic tiles, others planted.

Eventually the sculpture was covered in over 300 Maori and Pacific tiles which were all designed and made by the local groups.

The sculpture was given a formal blessing, with songs sung to celebrate its completion. At this time the eel story of Sina and Tuna was told from a Maori and a Pacific Island perspective.

Today this story is still told at Corban's Pacific Arts Centre as part of the 'Pacifica Experience' where children come to centre in bus loads to sit on eel and hear the traditional story and learn environmental aspects related to eels and stream life.

Not only does the installation illustrate the effective use of recycled materials in art but it also carries the message "healthy eels need healthy streams'. It also provides the focus for cultural education and school curriculum enhancement.