

Art show ready to hit the road

Shannon Gillies

The first college is about to get a look at the Real Art Roadshow, featuring prominent New Zealand artists, after being set up at Mahara Gallery for the last two months.

The exhibition, featuring work by over 60 New Zealand artists, would travel around New Zealand for the next 10 years.

Horowhenua's Waiopahu College was its the first port of call, with the exhibition due to arrive today. It was expected to tour Kapiti's colleges in about a month's time.

Waiopahu College spokesman Edward Walton said the exhibition was a "terrific initiative".

"We're delighted, the democratic cross-section of art included in the show means there is something for everyone."

The travelling show provided easy access to contemporary New Zealand art, giving pupils the chance to see the scale of works, their colour, texture and detail. He said it was difficult providing students with access to "real art".



Youngsters had a chance to see the road show while it was static, on show in Waikanae's Mahara Gallery, now it is the turn of college students, as it hits the road.

Until the roadshow the only way they could see it was to travel to

Wellington once or twice a year, said Mr Walton.

For some students, Mr Walton believed the

travelling exhibition might be the only opportunity they got to access art of such quality.

Aimed at students in years 11, 12 and 13, the Real Art Roadshow including paintings and drawings by top New Zealand artists, including Dick Frizzell, Toss Woollaston, Gary Freemantle and Saskia Leck.

Raumati South artist and contributor Robyn Kahukiwa said she thought the show was a "wonderful idea".

"It's quite timely to have that idea and put it into production and taking it around to the schools. For some the Real Art Roadshow might be the only opportunity to come in to contact with art of this calibre."

Promoter Linda Nicol said the art and the touring plan were "worth millions of bucks. It's all for kids who don't have the opportunity otherwise."