



ARTSEATS in HOKITIKA

WAI (Westland Arts Inc.) is a voluntary group whose aim is to increase the awareness, enjoyment of, and participation in the arts in our region.

One of our major projects is the annual Take-a-Seat Public Art Project, where we invite artists to submit designs to build an artseat in Hokitika - in essence, a sittable sculpture.

The finalists produce scale models that are assessed by judges and exhibited for public voting. The winning designer is awarded a commission of up to \$8000 to create and install the seat in the given location, opened at the end of January each year. Fundraising and sponsorship pays for the seat.

We have five artseats in town already; one is in the lane that links the town to the beach, three are along the central beachfront, and one is near the heritage area alongside the river promenade. Our next proposed site for 2010 is on a grassy area overlooking the river mouth. Our aim is to have a number of these unique sculptures within the CBD that lead people out to the trail of artseats along the beach and the river, and along the Heritage Walkway on the periphery of town.

All artseats have been well received by locals and provide a special point of interest and photo opportunity for visitors. A positive spin-off has been the interest for other Artseats, such as the Teichelmann seat at the Carnegie Building commissioned by Heritage Hokitika in 2006. The Take-a-Seat project contributes to the cultural identity of Hokitika by providing a new piece of functional art for the town every year.



Armchair

Artist: Veronika Maser, 2005

Sponsored by The Pierson Family and the Rotary Club
Located on the central foreshore
Sculpted concrete



Waves of Humanity

Artist: Sue Asplin, 2006

Sponsored by The Atkinson Family and the Lions Club
Located on Gibson Quay near the rivermouth
Concrete and totara



Awe Rongomau (Feathers of Peace)

Artist: Rob Nelson, 2007

Commemorating: 2006,
The Year of the Veteran
Sponsored by the Soroptimists and the RSA
Located on the foreshore at the northern end of Beach Street
Carved totara



Nudibranch Recliner

Artist: Jamie Pickernell (Rotorua) 2008

Sponsored by Monteith's Brewery and The Olson Family
Located on the foreshore south of Weld Lane
Macrocarpa and beach stones



Westland Women

Artist: Richard Brett 2009

Sponsored by Monteith's Brewery and donations from local women and their families
Located in Weld Lane
Hand forged steel



Teichelmann Seat

Artists: Donald Buglass & Rory McDougall, 2006

Commissioned by Heritage Hokitika:
Located outside the Carnegie Building