

## **FAIRHOLME GALLERY**

Fairholme Gallery is a fine art gallery set in one of the oldest settler homesteads of Golden Bay up the beautiful farmland of East Takaka Road. The gallery opened in 1990 and originally ran as a community based art space, showing work by local artists and craftspeople in conjunction with events and sculpture symposiums in the region. It closed for a number of years but reopened in 2012 and is once again offering an array of changing exhibitions including the in-house work of owners, photographer Murray Hedwig and mixed discipline artist Anita Peters. The historic homestead, built in 1868 is set in 4 acres of heritage gardens and woodlands and bounded by the infamous Gorge Creek, and is a destination that not only offers quality New Zealand artworks but heritage gardens amidst a uniquely historic rural setting. It draws visitors for not only the artwork showcasing group and solo shows from within and outside the region but also for the rambling gardens full of botanical surprises and the fascinating history. Bookings can be made for Devonshire teas or photographs in the garden, and garden and gallery tours.

The gardens are also a perfect venue for formal photography such as weddings, complemented by studio portraits by appointment or for other creatively inspired functions. Also on offer are individual mentoring sessions, photographic tours and workshops for those keen to up-skill their photographic knowledge. Weekend workshops are offered with accommodation included.

The East Takaka Community was one of the first to be developed during early NZ settlement, remnants of which can be visited en route; the Takaka church and graveyard are host to many early settlers, and the school which is now the local Hall, both built in the 1870's are still in use today. The 10 km drive from Takaka Township (turnoff at the Golden Bay Hospital from the main Highway and follow the signs) draws tourists through lush green rural countryside along the edge of the towering Pīkikiruna ranges. Fairholme is sandwiched between two national parks, the Kahurangi to the West and the Able Tasman at the rear including Gorge Creek on the South Boundary. This in itself is an attraction for adventurous walkers who trek the dried out creek bed a reasonable distance upriver in summer. It is inadvisable for novice trampers to go beyond where the water begins as the rocks are very dangerous when wet.

Fairholme Gallery is attempting in a humble way to fill a gap while there is no local public gallery by providing a venue for small and group shows. It offers not only top New Zealand art but also a heritage location with a fascinating history.