

James Cook University - Media Release

Thousands of aluminium cans have been used to create and installation at the James Cook University Gallery. Artist-in-Residence Stephen Mulqueen, has installed a sculpture titled, 'Tinnie Waka' which derives its meaning from 'dug-out canoe'. The form is based on traditional models once used on rivers and lakes throughout New Zealand.

Mulqueen chose to create the sculpture using aluminium cans as an ongoing venture, which seeks to translate and give 3 dimensional representations to the place Tiwai. Tiwai is also the site of a Comalco run aluminium smelter in his home region of southern New Zealand.

The aluminium cans have been compressed into 90 recycled aluminium briquettes (slabs) to make up the walls of the waka. The aluminium briquettes have been kindly loaned by a local scrap metal merchant for the duration of the exhibition, as a work-in-progress during Mulqueen's residency.

Tinnie Waka is both an ancient and contemporary form, its shaped by it's own recycled cargo which is an outline of a regional and national consumer society.

Mulqueen is spending several months in Townsville and the northern Queensland region and is conducting research for further work. He has been working with visual arts students at the Vincent campus during the first semester and is running a small object workshop in mid-June.

07 –June 2005