

The Learning Connexion  
**Frank Davis Scholarship**

0800 278 769 | [tlc.ac.nz](http://tlc.ac.nz)

THE LEARNING  
CONNEXION  
*School of Creativity and Art*

## About the Frank Davis Scholarship

Frank Davis was Head of the Art Department at Palmerston North Teachers College (now Massey College of Education) from 1963 until his death in 1983.

Frank Davis' work was said to be outside the mainstream, often challenging contemporary ideas about New Zealand society. He had a close interest in things Maori and was fluent in Te Reo.

During the 1960s Frank Davis was writing the history of contemporary Maori art as part of the school curriculum. (His widow Waana Davis is the current chairperson of the Maori Arts organisation 'Toi Maori Aotearoa'.)

He supported and wrote stories about upcoming Maori artists who were then unknown, including Darcy Nicholas, Ross Hemera, Robert Jahnke, Albert McCarthy and John Walsh, at a time when the Maori art movement was ignored by the art gallery establishment.

Frank's influence has been of lasting importance to three senior people at The Learning Connexion – Managing Director, Jonathan Milne, Director, Alice Wilson Milne and Peter Adsett, The Learning Connexion's Advanced Diploma tutor. All studied art with Frank Davis during their time at Teachers College.

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### Jonathan:

It was easy to do art in Frank's classes because he was so supportive of us being ourselves. If we had something to say through art he would help us make it happen. For me this was a big contrast with university art where there always seemed to be an invisible set of rules known only to the anointed masters. Frank liberated us to find our own voices. Once we found our voice he helped us polish our skills and connect with the world.

### Alice:

Frank encouraged me to find 'a voice.' His confidence in me bolstered my desire to contribute what I could to the New Zealand world I lived in. Frank and his wife Waana were very generous in their hospitality.

I remember his paintings for their raw expression, passion and honesty and the way he stripped an issue bare to expose reality. They were BIG, intelligent and forceful statements.

### Peter:

In the 1970s Frank and Cliff Whiting were developing the Marae. I would sit with him and question what it is to be Maori and what it meant to be a New Zealander. I said I was a European as that is where my people came from but Frank said 'No...you are a Kiwi.' I went onto several Marae with them and they both told me to stop worrying about it and to, 'Think in Maori.'

Frank was a very serious man who was interested in who we were. He had a big presence and a deep conviction, a strong belief that we must engage with the Maori way of being in the world. I always think of Frank and Cliff together. It was incredibly important to me that there was no distinction made for me as a European; for them there was no difference between Maori and Pakeha.

He supported my painting 150%. I don't know what he saw but he told me I had what it takes to make a good artist and he wrote it down – that I would be a prominent artist. He and Cliff Whiting both suggested that I should leave New Zealand to do my own independent work.

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### What Does the Scholarship Cover?

The Frank Davis Scholarship is awarded to cover tuition fees. It is awarded to several students annually and may be given to cover all or part of a student's fees.

### Applicants Will Ideally Be

- People who show commitment and potential.
- Show engagement with their local community.

### Entry Requirements

- Successful applicants must be eligible for enrolment – see Admission requirements for more details.
- Applicants must be 16 years or older at the time of enrolment.
- Successful applicants must be able to take up enrolment at any start time in the year following the application.

### How to Apply

- Make sure you have read the Rules and Conditions below.
- Submit a short statement that explains:
  1. How you will take your study further in your life
  2. What you enjoy in life so far, your hobbies, interests and passions
  3. Academically – do you have an area of study or interest and where do you want to take it?
- 1. Community – how will you use your study in your community?
- 2. What community involvement do you currently have and do you have any leadership skills?
- Submit three examples of recent work.
- Include two letters of support from referees.
- Fill out and submit the online application form. If you are unable to do this please speak to the Admissions Department.

## Rules and Conditions

- The Frank Davis Scholarship can be used for enrolments into any of the following: Certificate of Art & Creativity, Diploma of Art & Creativity, Diploma of Art & Creativity (Honours) or Diploma of Art & Creativity (Advanced).
- Submissions must be your own original work.
- By applying for the scholarship each applicant represents and warrants that his/her entry does not infringe or violate the rights of any third party.
- Work done in an art class is acceptable.
- It is permissible to submit material that has been used in other contexts (such as an exam, exhibition or competition).
- The Learning Connexion Ltd (hereinafter 'TLC') may make use of the work in submissions for promotional purposes without compensation to the artist and without any requirement to seek approval for such use.
- TLC undertakes to look after submissions with all due care but takes no responsibility for loss or damage. Insurance, if required, is the responsibility of the applicant.
- Awards are not redeemable for cash.
- Awards may be taken up either by enrolling for distance delivery study or by attending TLC onsite at our Taita Campus situated at 182 Eastern Hutt Road, Taita, Lower Hutt.
- Successful applicants will be advised by mail by the end of the year in which they apply.
- Scholarships must be taken up during the year following their successful application, although the programme of study may extend up to two years for part time study.
- Scholarships are open to permanent residents of New Zealand who meet Ministry of Education funding criteria.
- TLC reserves the right to issue more or fewer scholarships than the number advertised.
- To be eligible, submissions must be received by the due date.
- Submissions will be assessed by TLC staff and awards will be made at the discretion of the Managing Director whose decision will be final.

**Late submissions will not be accepted.**