

ARTS TODAY



Guest of the Maori

CAIRNS-based screen artist Jenny Fraser appeared as a special guest at the 2013 Wairoa Maori Film Festival in Aotearoa New Zealand from May 30 to June 3.

Her short film vignette *Everything Looks Beautiful* is edited to the song *Namesake* by Aboriginal musician Shellie Morris and illustrates ideas about place-based community filmmaking.

The film is set in the 1970s and features a visual narrative of a personal story about a kidnap by family members, an important oral history, along with an Australian environmental snapshot.

Self-funded, Ms Fraser (pictured) undertook the project as writer, director, camera operator and editor, and was supported with camera equipment by retired co-producer Chris Malseed. Ms Fraser said she couldn't have been happier with the trip.

"It was a great honour to be included in the festival and to be so warmly welcomed into the Maori Screen community," she said. "What a privilege to be able to present my work and stay in a Marae, a spiritual meeting house, and to also be able to have a healing soak in Morere Hot Springs. Maori really know how to host a festival gathering."