

## WELLINGTON SCULPTURE SERIES: Wellington Sculpture Trust

If you have been reading our Sculpture Series, you have no doubt seen many sculptures that only exist because of the Wellington Sculpture Trust.

The Wellington Sculpture Trust was established in 1982 by Henry Lang, Ian Prior and others, and is a voluntary and independent charitable trust dedicated to enriching Wellington by providing contemporary innovative public art for the city. The first sculpture installed by the trust was Tanya Ashken's Albatross in 1986 on Wellington's waterfront.

Most recently they have installed their 27<sup>th</sup> public sculpture in Wellington in the Cenotaph Precinct; Walk the Line, by Auckland based artist Joe Sheehan.

Works commissioned by the trust have been installed in the city centre, waterfront, along Cobham Drive near Wellington's airport and in the Botanic Garden. The large body of work that is now in these locations provides for three distinct sculpture walks enabling people to enjoy these works in each location.

The Trusts' aim is not only to commission public works of



*The first sculpture installed, Tanya Ashken's Albatross.*

art, but also to encourage and support sculptural practice in New Zealand. All of the sculptures, with one notable exception (Henry Moore's Bronze Form) are by prominent New Zealand sculptors. Their contribution to our cityscape is enduring and enriches the creative atmosphere of the city; making art accessible to everyone, and raising awareness, understanding and appreciation of contemporary public sculpture.

Ultimately these works make Wellington a better place to live and visit. Even more astonishing is the Trust, which in order to remain an independent body,

raises most of the funds for these projects on their own through partnerships and its membership, with only nine volunteer board members and a part time office administrator, and have to date installed over 7 million dollars of artwork around the city.

In more recent times the Wellington City Council has provided some funding through the Public Arts Fund and the Trust and Council have developed a unique relationship that has been built up over the years, through mutual trust underlined by the palpable difference the Trust has made to the city.