

# Festival draws wordsmiths

By GEORGE GARDNER

An event celebrating words and images has proved it's a winning combination.

The Waiheke Literacy Festival – Words on a Small Island held the audience captive from the opening at Waiheke Art Gallery on Friday to the closing brunch at Mudbrick on Sunday.

Poets Bob Orr, Sue Fitchett, Riemke Ensing and Pita Rikys charmed festival goers with their work.

A series of presentations by authors followed on Saturday.

On Sunday morning Mudbrick head chef Andreas Lindberg put his own slant on recipes by food writer Julie Le Clerc to create a delicious platter brunch.

The fascinating story of how Penguin – which is celebrating its 75th birthday – developed from a book distributor to a publisher in New Zealand was told by former managing director of Penguin New Zealand Graham Beattie.

First woman Governor-General Dame Cath Tizard brought the house down regaling her tales of political office



**Entertaining:** Waiheke Literacy Festival speaker Dame Cath Tizard with poet Pita Rikys and Tivoli bookshop owner Liz Eastmond. Inset: Taste translation: Mudbrick chef Andreas Lindberg's interpretation of food writer Julie Le Clerc's recipes.

and how she became "four times a dame".

Dame Cath admitted she had written her autobiography "mainly to get my version of it in first".

It is on sale in most book shops.

Organiser Geraldine O'Sullivan Beere puts the festival success down to the calibre of speakers and three months' "hard

work". "I envisaged a spring literary festival like the ones I've been to overseas.

"It was perfect," she says.

"And the icing on the

cake was our first international visitor – a young man from Sydney."

This was the second annual literary festival on Waiheke Island.

## Sweet treats pave way to New York

By GEORGE GARDNER

Selling chocolate has become a mantra for some business-minded teens.

A group of Waiheke High School students gave up part of their school holiday break to kick off a fundraising campaign for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to New York.

Fourteen-year-olds Sharnie Philcox and Ebony Page, and 15-year-old Mitchell Rayner "beat the feet" along Tahi Rd visiting businesses and selling chocolate, accompanied by their business teacher Jenny England.

The year 10

students buy boxes of the sweet treats at a trade price and sell them for \$2.50 a bar.

Around 15 students hope to make the New York trip in 2012.

They will visit Wall St and the headquarters of several corporations to get a first hand look at big business in action.

The trip is expected to cost up to \$70,000.

"There will be plenty more fundraisers over the next year or so," Ms England says.

"And if anyone has a business contact in New York they think could help, please give me a call at the school on 371-9000."



**Choc exchange:** Fourteen-year-old Waiheke High School business students Sharnie Philcox, Ebony