



TE KURA KETE ARONUI

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Tribute to Niklas Werner (1976-2005) **PhD Student, Music, University of Waikato**

It was with deep regret that we learnt that **Niklas Werner**, our PhD student from Berlin working in interactive music systems, died in a climbing accident on Mt. Aspiring in January 2005. “It is a tragedy,” comments his supervisor Ian Whalley, “Niklas was an outstanding student and talented composer who loved the outdoor lifestyle that New Zealand offers.” At the memorial service held on March 9 2005, Ian noted that “he touched all our lives with his courage, energy, happiness, curiosity, and the sheer joy of just being alive.”

There are many people in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences that had the good fortune of being part of Niklas’ life. Postgraduates and staff very much miss Niklas. He was always a willing participant in our workshops and seminars, and his enthusiasm transformed our graduate culture in the Faculty. At the time he was the only PhD student in music and realised the potential and necessity of making contacts with postgraduates in other subject areas. One such Faculty event that he attended was the Society and Space Graduate Conference, held in November 2004 where he presented some of his research. Niklas’ PhD was at the cutting edge of music research and he was developing unique ways in which to use electronic media to create music and sound art. We continue to miss Niklas in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

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