

WAIMANA



- **CRAFT/PROFESSION**

Ronan PROTAT makes everyday useful items such as cutting boards, cheese, charcuterie and breakfast platters, low tables, and coasters fashioned from local wood such as mahogany, red oak or blackwood, inlaid and embellished with coloured epoxy resin.



The first stage in Ronan's work is to carefully cut and carve out his chosen pieces of wood; he then places them in specially designed moulds into which he pours the epoxy resin. The final step involves planing and sanding to create a beautifully finished design.



- **BACKGROUND**

Ronan is a professional skipper with a training in shipbuilding and a captain's qualifications. Following 10 years roaming the oceans, he decided to settle in French Polynesia for a few years, then moved on to Fiji, where he began making his own underwater spearguns from local wood. And that was how he came to create his own brand - WAIMANA - which



means "Spirit who comes from the water".

Ronan recently settled in New Caledonia and decided to design items using local varieties of wood to extend and develop his collections.

- **INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS**

The focus in Ronan's designs is the essence of the wood - its veins, grain and knots, and he is a master at shaping it to reveal its inner beauty.

The shapes formed by darker veins swirling through a piece of wood, the shades and tints of different woods... these are all sources of inspiration for Ronan's inventive and unique creations.

They each appeal to the imagination and evoke images: the lagoon and its reefs seen from the sky, a little beach caressed by the waves, the vivid blue of the ocean or the sky...