

MAC Board Report to Members on 2015

Members of the Mairangi Art Centre can take heart that their organisation is in good hands as it services the needs of its members, its community and the funders, particularly Auckland Council.

Members continue to have the opportunities to display their talents and creativity through exhibitions and classes. It has been particularly heartening to see the passion and enthusiasm of the children and younger members with classes especially over the holidays full or near capacity. Our teachers generate this keen interest and must be credited with the outcome.

Other stakeholders and supporters of the MAC enjoy the opportunity to see the high quality art our members, tutors and guest exhibitors display, the fellowship of the opening events and the varied nature of our exhibitions. The range is significant in painting, drawing, glassworks, clay models, carvings, abstract models all of which are admired and stimulate the imagination for other creative artists.

While our classes contribute in no small way to our income, we could not provide the community art support we do without the generous support of the Auckland Council through the close financial engagement of the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board. Their positive encouragement and advocacy for the MAC is much more than financial. It is the sense they are right behind us that is so appreciated. So too are our other benefactors and supporters including Foundation North, Lion Foundation, Pub Charity, Creative Communities, OKI, Gordon Harris, Factory Frames, French Art Shop, Takapuna Art Supplies, Mairangi Bay Business Association, Bayleys Mairangi Bay, CCG, New Worlds Browns Bay, Babich Wines and Haydn Bruce.

As you all know we are very fortunate in having talented staff. Lena as General Manager had an interrupted year taking time out to produce her son, but throughout has planned for her absence and then smoothly phased back into her role, which is now four days a week. We were very grateful that Christine picked up the responsibilities of leading the team while Lena was away and found Gail to take over her administration and marketing responsibilities in the interim. Michelle has been our key front person working with our Graphic Designer, Gina, to ensure service was provided. What a great team, responsive, friendly and knowledgeable on all that happens. We give them our grateful thanks, for on them rests the successful functioning of the MAC.

Our Trustees have continued to support the MAC in many ways, not only in bringing guidance and governance to our staff. The board felt after the last Annual Meeting that we did not have enough board members (we are allowed up to nine). We brought onto the Board two new Trustees. Chris Berthelsen brought experience in art, teaching, international art (Japan) and a keen interest in computing and our young people. Ulrike Huetter, a Volunteer with a keen interest in the MAC and who covered for Christine in June before Lena returned, was also appointed a Trustee by the Board. Their continuation as Trustees needs the support of members at this AGM. Unfortunately Nick Edginton undertook new, demanding business initiatives and had to resign from the Board. We were sorry to lose his energy and passion both as Trustee and as a Volunteer. We were fortunate in Maria Waterhouse, Chartered Accountant, offering her services as Trustee and Treasurer bringing her needed financial expertise. However her unplanned relocation to Northland last month means we are looking for another Trustee to fill the Treasurer role again.

Our Trustees also had to make a major decision in 2015. Our computer system was no longer being supported technically and is outdated. The Board had to decide what level of investment we needed to make to interface our website with our database and overall membership management system. Much time has been spent in reloading information from one part of our system to another. After looking at a number of alternative proposals we decided that through the generous support of the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board and another sponsor we contracted Communica to deliver a new system which should be commissioned over the next few months. This investment will be key for the MAC over the next five or more years and was essential for running an effective and efficient organisation and cease the duplication of data entry that has consumed valuable staff time.

This will be my last report as Chair of the MAC as although I will complete my second three-year term of appointment at the end of the next financial year I decided to step down from the Chair for the last year and support the new Chair.

Maurice Ellett

Chairman