

Acting General Manager's Annual Report

January – December 2016

Personnel

Lena Kovac, General Manager (Jan-May) & (Sept-Oct)

Christine Currey, Acting General Manager (Jun-Aug & Nov-Dec), Administrator (Jan-May & Sept-Oct)

Ulrike Huetter, Temporary Administrator (May-Aug)

Jane Christie, Temporary Administrator (Nov-Dec)

Michelle Male, Arts Facilitator

Bronwyn O'Connell, Gallery Sunday (Jan-Oct), Temporary Administrator (Nov-Dec)

Leah Noonan, Gallery Saturday (Jan-Oct)

Lisa McKimmon, Gallery Saturday (July-Dec)

Laura McNeish, Graphic Designer (Jan-Dec)

Lesley Hale, Contractor, Financial Services

Our Education Programme

Mairangi Arts Centre's main strength continues to be our art class programme that we offer to adults and to children/young people aged 5-17 years old. In 2016 we continued with our successful format of four nine week terms and four school holiday programmes for children during the breaks. Enrolments for adult term classes are holding steady compared with 2015 but our most pleasing result is the outstanding response to our children's term programme. We have experienced an 18% increase in enrolments compared with 2015. This is the greatest number of enrolments received since we started to keep such statistics in 2006. To cope with this demand we have four classes now taking place in the Arthouse building adjacent to the centre. Our reputation with new migrants is extremely good with many of our enrolments being as a result of personal recommendation from parents of current students. Places in children's term classes are hotly contested with many classes becoming full during the preferential booking period for current students prior to bookings opening to the general public.

We continued to advertise our programmes through such channels as our own members and students, art retailers, local newspapers and magazines, libraries, community centres and other community outlets throughout the region. We also advertised online through our website, Facebook page and other websites such as Eventfinda, the Big Idea and Our Auckland.

Our Exhibition Programme

Mairangi Arts Centre's exhibition programme aims to be inclusive, extending exhibition opportunities to as wide a range of artists as possible. We held a total of 19 exhibitions during 2016 featuring a variety of cultures and ages working in a multitude of art media. A unique experience for the centre was when Touch Compass Dance Company gave a series of performances in the Main Gallery while their art exhibition was on display. The group consists of disabled and able-bodied dancers and their motto 'Dance Beyond Difference' was certainly in evidence during their performances. A particular highlight was the interaction between the dancers and groups of kindergarten children

and elderly rest home residents who came to enjoy the shows. Insideout exhibition, a collaboration between Mairangi Arts Centre and the Department of Corrections, took place for the seventh consecutive year. The exhibition showcases artworks by artists from Ngawha Prison created in through the 'Art in Prisons Programme'. Other well-established exhibitions such as our Members & Students exhibition, Tutors' Showcase and Artspaces continued to gain in popularity. The centre celebrated its 25th Birthday by acknowledging the past, recognising the efforts of individuals who have given their time voluntarily in a variety of ways, by announcing life memberships. These will be officially conferred at the 2017 AGM. The celebrations also focussed on the future with an installation entitled 'Growth' by artist Tiffany Singh. The installation incorporated prayer flags created by members, students and the general public.

Our exhibition programme achieved a balance between exhibitions by MAC's own members and students and those by a variety of groups external to the centre.

Our Students/Our Community

Mairangi Arts Centre gratefully acknowledges the continuing support and loyalty of the many hundreds of students who each year attend our art classes and/or display work in our many exhibition programmes. We counted 32,054 visitors to the facility and had 5,344 participants in all our programmes which is a very pleasing result.

Staff/Volunteers

General Manager Lena Kovac was away in Germany on extended leave from June to August and then left the centre for another position at the end of October 2016. As a result Christine Currey took over as Acting Manager for these periods of time with other support staff filling in her Administration role (Bronwyn O'Connell, Ulrike Huetter & Jane Christie). All staff transitions were smooth, without impact on the centre's operation.

Mairangi Arts Centre would not be able to function as effectively as it does without the help of its volunteers. We are extremely grateful for the many hours' help in the office, on the gallery team, in the garden, on working bees and in a variety of ways during exhibition openings. Our heartfelt thanks go to all who give their time so generously to the centre.

Publicity/Promotion

We have continued with our current avenues of advertising through various community notice boards, social media, newspapers and magazines, libraries and art retailers. We will continue to seek out new avenues to raise awareness of the centre.

Art Walkway

We are very fortunate to have this initiative funded by Hibiscus and Bays Local Board and we acknowledge their generous support. Plans for an official opening for the walkway have been delayed due to problems with the coating on the asphalt and subsequently inclement weather meaning the recoating took place much later than intended.

Website/Online Booking System

Again, our thanks go to Hibiscus and Bays Local Board for their generous funding of our new website with online booking system.

The launch of the website proved to be particularly taxing for staff due to unexpected issues with website functionality. Problems associated with this have persisted and will need to be worked on in conjunction with the website company in 2017.

Centre Gardens

The gardens surrounding Mairangi Arts Centre continue to be well maintained by our gardener Nanette Randall. These areas around the centre are enjoyed by students having their tea and lunch breaks as well as children during the school holiday programmes.

Administration/Financial

The centre continues to be financially stable due to prudent management however without the funding from the Local Board and other key funders listed below we would not be able to operate in the extent we do. Our class income continues to be our main revenue stream and we are constantly building on this success to become more financially independent from outside funders.

Funding & Sponsorship

MAC is grateful for the ongoing support from the following organisations:

- Hibiscus & Bays Local Board, Auckland Council
- Strengthening Communities, Auckland Council
- Foundation North (former ASB Community Trust)
- Pub Charity
- Lion Foundation
- Creative Communities
- NZ Community Post
- Southern Trust

We have also received sponsorship in kind from our fabulous supporters Gordon Harris, Takapuna Art Supplies, Factory Frames, French Art Shop, OKI, Bayleys Mairangi Bay, Babich Wines, Frames by Daniel, Ike's Emporium and Browns Bay Picture Framers.

Position Performance Measures

- Visitor and participant numbers continue their upward trend
- Relationships have been maintained with relevant council officers
- Reports for the Auckland Council were compiled and submitted as per contractual expectations
- Improved and extended community awareness, partnerships and relationships

Objectives under Consideration for 2017

- Build on an exciting and varied exhibition schedule
- Continue to source new tutors and offer a variety of classes
- Aim to attract 20-40 year olds for evening and weekend classes
- Grow intergenerational links
- Ongoing student and membership drive
- Continue marketing of MAC's image and profile
- Integrate performing arts into our activities
- Continue to take part in community events
- Improve community awareness, relationships and partnerships
- Make more use of the gardens surrounding the centre, in particular the sculpture garden

It has been another successful year for Mairangi Arts Centre, building on the considerable achievements of previous years. The centre is well-positioned to continue these positive trends in 2017 and beyond.

Christine Currey

Acting General Manager

Mairangi Arts Centre