

Te Tohu a Toi

STATE OF THE ARTS

South Taranaki Arts Bulletin # 54

Autumn 2024

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Welcome to our Autumn edition of *State of the Arts*.



Our annual *Arts in the Park* event in early December kicked off the summer season, offering the stunning King Edward Park as a backdrop to local arts and craft stalls, music and performances. I hosted Jim & Brigette from REACT (Rangiwahia Environmental Arts Centre Trust) in the Arts Tipi, where we created woven wreaths with families and kids of all ages, from sustainable willow they grow. It was great to see them share their knowledge and passion with our community.

Two new public artworks were completed recently, both reflecting local stories and honouring our place in the world. *Te Pou Whenua Takinga I Te Mauri* is a carved pou, positioned at the entrance of Bridger Park in Arakamu Eltham. The intricate pou features traditional and contemporary elements carved in the unique Taranaki whakairo style, and an interpretive board describes the meaning of all the elements.

I was lucky to be able to watch the progress of the new mural in Pātea by artist Dan Mills, as the site is next door to my house on the main road. Seeing the daily progress was awesome, both for myself and the rest of the community who enjoyed meeting Dan and seeing the details of the design unfold. Thanks to everyone involved in making these projects happen, they really do have a positive impact and offer visual connections to our culture and heritage for both locals and visitors to our district.

Please continue to support our galleries, groups, projects and events. Thanks for your positivity, commitment and vision to keep the arts alive and thriving!

Feel free to get in touch with me via email if you need advice or support with funding applications or help to realise a creative project in your town or community.

Ngā mihi,

Michaela



Above: Dan Mills painting mural on State Highway 3, Pātea.

Top: Bridgette from REACT creating with 'Arts in the Park' family in the Arts Tipi, King Edward Park, Hāwera.

South Taranaki Creative Communities Funding

The South Taranaki Creative Communities Scheme provides funding assistance for community-based arts activities in South Taranaki that meet one or more of the following funding criteria:

- **Broad community involvement** - A project that will create opportunities for local communities to engage with and participate in arts activities.
- **Diversity** - A project that will support the diverse arts and cultural traditions of local communities, enriching and promoting their uniqueness and cultural diversity.
- **Young people** - A project that will enable and encourage young people (under 18 years) to engage with and actively participate in the arts.



The next South Taranaki District Creative Communities application round is now open, closing at 5.00 pm Thursday 7 March 2024. This is for creative projects that will take place between 4 April 2024 – 4 April 2025.

If you have an idea for a project or would like support with your application, you can email STDC Arts Coordinator Michaela for support – michaela.stoneman@stdc.govt.nz

For detailed information and forms, please visit the link [here](#)

Any enquiries to discuss an application, email funding@stdc.govt.nz or phone 0800 111 323 or 06 278 0555



Pou Project – Arakamu/Eltham

A Pou that symbolises moving forward together and celebrates Arakamu/Eltham, the town of firsts, was blessed and unveiled at the Bridger Park entrance on Sunday 5 December at daybreak.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says the Bridger Park entrance project, which has included contributions by local iwi, members of the Eltham Community Development Group, Eltham Lions, Fonterra, and the South Taranaki District Council, is a great example of the community working together.

“Te Pou Whenua Takinga I Te Mauri” includes traditional and contemporary elements carved in the unique Taranaki whakairo style. Designed by Philippa Turahui and carved by Shaun Taylor, it’s significant in recognising the whole Eltham community, past and present.

“The Pou reflects upon some of the unsung heroes who have made generous contributions to the Eltham community, pays tribute to those who have passed on as well as represents those who are here today continuing the legacy of those gone before. It pays homage to the growth and development of Eltham and most importantly moving forward into the future as one,” says Mayor Nixon. The idea for the project first began in 2016 when Eltham Kaponga Community Board members Maree Liddington and Steffy Mackay presented the idea of creating an entrance area at Eltham’s Bridger Park, to help beautify the town’s

CBD. The Eltham Lions came on board as a partner in 2018, and over the next 3 years, a lot of hard work was put in to reconstruct the Bridger Park entrance. Mosaic pavers representing Rotokare Scenic Reserve were also recently installed in the paved area. These were created by Fleur Le Bas and Steffy Mackay during a school holiday programme held at E-Town Youth Centre. “The Bridger Park entrance project has been a collaboration of creativity and hard work, from the Pou which stands sentinel at the entrance, to the colourful mosaic pavers, plantings, and the corten steel salute to Rotokare. A big thank you to all involved,” says Mayor Nixon. Acknowledgement is also given to Robert England, Jo Menzie, DMACK Engineering, the Turahui whanau, Dixon Motors, Fonterra, and the Taura Here Kohanga Reo for their role in this project.

Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards 2024

Free Adult Writing Workshops - Saturday 15 June 2024

Short Story: 9.00 am – 12 noon / Poetry: 1.00pm – 4.00 pm

Entries Open: Thursday 13 June 2024

Taranaki writers will benefit from the skills of leading contemporary writers for this year’s annual Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards. Save the date - judges and venue to be announced soon, keep an eye out on the STDC Facebook page for details over the next couple of months.

Website: [Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards - South Taranaki District Council](#)





Taranaki Arts Trail News

Taranaki Arts Trail 2024: Registrations are now open - Due 31 March 2024

2024 marks the eleventh year for the Taranaki Arts Trail. It's a great opportunity for Taranaki artists to get their work known, locally and nationally, through the trail's extensive promotions, website and the annual event every spring.

\$250 registration fee per artist. Registration is online through the event website. The step-by-step form is easy to fill in - don't forget to send your images and press submit at the end.

For more information, contact Niki – Email: taranakiartstrail@gmail.com
Website: www.taranakiartstrail.co.nz

Creative Taranaki News

Creative Taranaki is committed to creating connections, building strong relationships and extending knowledge of and involvement with the cultural and creative community. Catherine Anderson-Rhodes was recently elected to the role of Chairperson for the Creative Taranaki Trust. The Trust acknowledges the time and mahi Andy Bassett has committed to the role of Interim Chairperson over the past 16 months. Trustee Mikaela Nyman is the recipient of The Robert Burns Fellowship, a literary residency at Otago University. She will be based in Dunedin for the year but will remain as a trustee.



Funding Clinics and Workshops – with Valerie Barraclough

Providing application support and guidance. Free clinics have been well attended in New Plymouth, Ōpunakē and Hāwera prior to Creative Communities Scheme closing dates for NPDC and STDC.



Creative Communities Scheme - Funding Clinic

**11.00 am – 3.00 pm Tuesday 19 March 2024 (four sessions available)
& 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm (two sessions available)**

Fenton Street Arts Collective, 11 Fenton Street, Stratford

The Stratford District Council Creative Communities Scheme opens on 4 March and closes on 7 April 2024.

Please email megan@creativetaranaki.org for more information and to book. Also available via Zoom.

Valerie is available via Zoom to assist South Taranaki people with CCS applications on Tuesday 5 March, in the afternoon and evening. Please email Meg to book by Monday 5 March 2024.

Creative Taranaki Funding 101 Workshop

5.30 pm – 8.00 pm 9 April 2024

The Village Gallery, 166 High Street, Eltham

An interactive workshop where you can develop any ideas you have for creative projects, gather information on what funding streams are

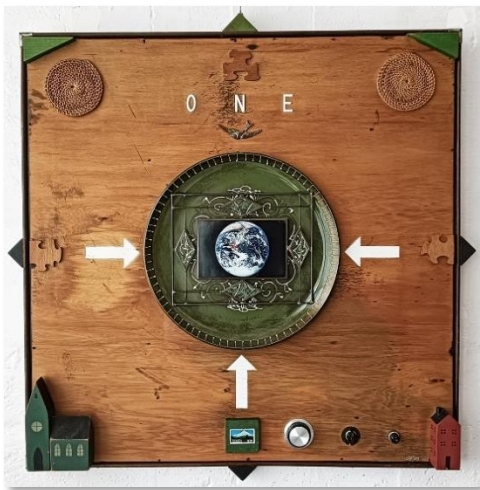
available and receive helpful advice on how to put together an application. Look out for the Humantix booking link and updated information late March. Cost is \$10 per person. Even if you are not ready to submit a funding application at this time, it is still worthwhile to take part in a workshop and begin the process, as an individual or a group.

Community Kōrero - Autumn 2024

Creative Taranaki took the lead from the creative community to establish Taranaki's Regional Arts Organisation via a series of hui around the region in November 2020. This will happen again in May and June 2024, to refresh these conversations, perspectives and directives. Creative Taranaki Arts Coordinator Megan Symons is keen to meet and hear your needs to see how CT can support creative and cultural enterprises. Arts-focused individuals, groups and organisations are invited to attend a hui in your town to connect and provide input on the role of Creative Taranaki. Locations and dates will be advertised soon, please contact Megan if you have a good spot to host. Creative Taranaki aims to increase capacity and connectivity and provide support and resources to enable the arts economy to prosper and thrive.

Megan will be based at Venture Taranaki, New Plymouth every Wednesday, from 9.30 am - 4.30 pm. She is also available to connect in Coastal, Central and Southern areas on Tuesdays & Thursdays - please send an email to organise a meeting. If you have any information you would like to share or contribute to the next CT newsletter at the end of April, please get in touch.

For more information and updates - Facebook: [Creative Taranaki](https://www.facebook.com/creativetaranaki) | Website: www.creativetaranaki.org
Email: trust@creativetaranaki.org | megan@creativetaranaki.org



South Taranaki Creative Space

South Taranaki Creative Space is a community-focused creative hub in the Hāwera CBD, providing a welcoming space to meet, interact, learn new skills and network with other creative people. The *Community Unity Gallery* has exhibitions changing monthly. Up to two artworks per artist, \$5 koha hanging fee, no commission taken on sales. All welcome - please get in touch to exhibit, join a class or book a workshop.

Creative After-School Kids Art Classes: Weekly, Monday - Thursday during school terms.

Classes cover a wide range of mediums to help young creatives with their artistic development by exploring different ideas and techniques. Designed for students who have a genuine interest in learning art and creativity and attend regularly.

Mondays: 12 - 15 years 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm
Tuesdays: 10 - 12 years 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm
Wednesdays: 8 - 10 years 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm
Thursdays: 5 - 7 years 3.45 pm - 5.00 pm
Creative Adults Art - Beginners: Thursdays 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm
Creative Adults Art - Experienced: Tuesdays 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm
Creative Holiday Programmes: For children and families during school holidays.

Facilitators: Carl Fairweather and Erryn Willcox | 41 Princes Street, Hāwera | Phone or text: 027 361 6930
Facebook: South Taranaki Creative Space | Email: southtaranakicreativespace@gmail.com

Upsewing Taranaki – Hāwera

Learn to sew, work on mending, upcycle materials to keep them out of landfill. All weekly sessions held at the South Taranaki Creative Space, 41 Princes Street, Hāwera.

March: Tuesday 12 March 9.30 am - 11.30 am
Wednesday 20 March 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm
April: Tuesday 9 April 9.30 am - 11.30 am
Wednesday 17 April 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm
May: Tuesday 14 May 9.30 am - 11.30 am
Wednesday 15 May 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm

WORKSHOP: Upsewing Ice-Dyeing
Saturday 16 March, 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Sunday 17 March 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Held at 21 Mcguire Street, Hāwera. Costs \$30 per person. Book with Meryl: Email seagullnz@live.com



For more information visit: www.taranakitimebank.org | Facebook: Taranaki Timebank



Taranaki Singer Songwriters Events 2024

Friday 5 April 2024: Singer Songwriters at Hāwera Repertory Theatre, Hāwera
Friday 3rd May 2024: Singer Songwriters at Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford
Friday 14th June 2024 - Singer-Songwriters at the Lakeside Playhouse, Ōpunakē

Taranaki singer-songwriters present events where local songwriters and musicians entertain local audiences. If you play music, write your own songs, want to become more confident on stage or meet up with other musicians then this event is for you. Come along and perform your original or favourite songs. All ages, genres and styles are welcome. If you like to listen to live original music we'd love you to come and join the audience. These events are free, in a safe, welcoming environment. Keep an eye out on the [Taranaki Singer Songwriters Facebook page](#) or check out our brand new [website](#) for more information and how to sign up and participate.

For more information contact manellaproductions@gmail.com | Facebook: [Singer Songwriters New Plymouth](#)

Pātea Mural Project

Mural Artist Dan Mills recently completed painting the large concrete wall on the side of the McCarty & Hungers building at the top of Bedford Street, Pātea. It depicts images from Pātea's ocean, landscape and industrial past, as well as Johnny Hunger at work at the forge hammering steel on an anvil. Dan has painted walls, bridges and more all-over New Zealand since the 1990's, including the RSA building in



Hāwera and the rail bridge at the southern entrance to Hāwera. The Pātea mural was facilitated and funded by the Pātea Historical Society with additional funding from the South Taranaki Creative Communities Scheme, the Pātea Community Board Discretionary Fund and support from the STDC Arts Coordinator. Some years back Dan moved from Whanganui to Eltham, but is currently living in Prague, Czech Republic. He will also paint the outside wall of the Eltham Village Gallery in March 2024, with a scene influenced by Rotokare Scenic Reserve.

Aotea Utanganui Museum of South Taranaki – Celebrating 50 Years

50 Years Celebration: 2.00 pm 25 April 2024

Aotea Utanganui, 127 Egmont Street, Pātea

2024 marks 50 years since the Aotea Utanganui Museum in Pātea was officially opened. The museum was established by the Pātea Historical Society and is now under the auspices of the South Taranaki District Museum Trust. Running costs and staff are provided with the generosity of the South Taranaki District Council.

Initially intended to be an early settler's museum, a 'Māori Court' was soon added with artifacts, carvings and tukutuku panels. Te Napi Waaka and his mother Mereana helped supervise this work.

Te Napi Waaka was then working locally as a Methodist District Supervisor. Over his life, he became well known as a teacher and leader in the revitalisation of Māori arts and culture in New Zealand. The inclusion of a Māori section to the museum was initiated by PHS and Museum Board member, Eva Ngakirikiri Kershaw. Sadly, she never got to see the opening of the museum as she passed away in 1973 before its completion.

The Māori Court was dedicated to her at the opening. Much of the planning,

development, and ongoing work in the early days of the museum was done by G

Livingston Baker, a grandson of early Hāwera settler, James Livingston. The museum initially featured the Pātea District but now includes the entire region of South Taranaki. It is kaitiaki of some notable collections including the ancient and unique Waitore Artifacts, the Hāwera Star collection and the Ellmore-Timms and Nicholson photographic studio collections. Recent large acquisitions include the collections of the Southern Rugby Club and the Hāwera High School. The museum is consistently working to make itself representative of its entire community and is strengthening relationships with South Taranaki iwi and hapū. A number of Māori memorabilia and artifacts have been added or repatriated to the care of the museum with others currently in the pipeline. Projects are not limited to exhibitions but have included a book and ongoing oral history and documentary film work. Initially a typical small-town museum, Aotea Utanganui Museum has grown in size and reputation over the years to become known as an innovative institution with high standards. Feedback from visitors is consistently good with many amazed by what can be found in the small town of Pātea.

The museum wouldn't be where it is today without the hard work and dedication over the years of many previous staff, volunteers, committee members and many others. All are welcome to join these special anniversary celebrations. A small exhibition on the history of the museum will be on display for a few months after the anniversary.



Matiu Rata, Minister of Māori Affairs gives the opening speech - Hawera Star, © Stuff Ltd

Aotea Utanganui - Museum of South Taranaki, 127 Egmont Street, Pātea | Phone: 06 273 8354

Facebook: [Aotea Utanganui](#) | www.museumofsouthtaranaki.wordpress.com

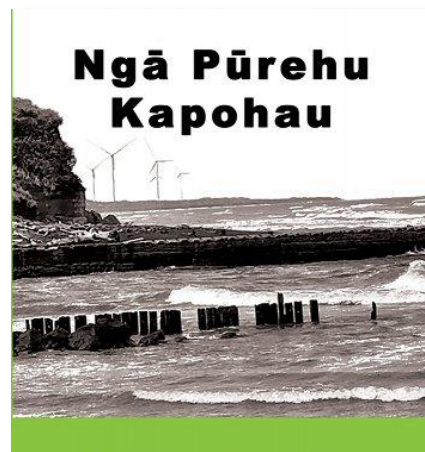
Email: museum@stdc.govt.nz | Open: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Monday – Saturday

Publication Launch – Ngā Pūrehu Kapohau

Book Launch Event: 1.00 pm Sunday 24 March 2024
Hunter Shaw Building, SH3, Pātea

Ngā Pūrehu Kapohau, an anthology of over 100 poems by 154 South Taranaki authors delves into the rich culture and history of the area. Writing was sought by authors from Pātea, Weraroa (Waverley), Waitōtara, and Ngāmatāpourī. This bilingual collection, featuring works in te reo Māori and English, celebrates the region's unique identity and will be launched in Pātea. The volume is co-edited by Dr Vaughan Rapatahana, Ngauru Rawiri and Trevor Landers.

All are invited and welcome at the launch
Please RSVP by email: matatuhitaranaki@gmx.com



Gallery Pātea – Autumn Exhibitions

Visiting potter, Fiona McLeod's ceramic exhibition during February drew attention with her beautiful glazes and Hundertwasser inspired light tower - some of her bowls and mugs are still available at the gallery. Fiona's studio is in Castlecliff in Whanganui, and the blues, greens and moody purple/greys in her works reflect the tones of our shared coastline. Willow Noir is a collage artist whose work makes a statement on a subject including war, society mores and global warming. Rosanne Oakes' latest prints make a trio of commentary also on aspects and effects of worldwide climate change.

Coming Together: 3 - 23 April 2024

Artists are invited to submit works of collage and/or construction. Works can be 2D or 3D, wearable, sculptural, or purely decorative, amusing or a serious statement. Open to anyone to contribute work, please enquire at Gallery or by email.

Echoes from TACO: 15 May - 8 June 2024

Hand-printed posters and other ephemera from a private collection form the base of this exhibition. In the 1980's the dynamic Taranaki artist collective 'TACO' were active in running a series of exhibitions, among them, the annual 'Renonsense' and setting up shared studio spaces that sometimes doubled as gallery spaces. Current works from some of the now mature artists give an indication of the continuity of the creative process.

Gallery Pātea, 56a Egmont Street, Pātea | Open: pm Wednesday – Saturday.

Summer hours (until 30 March) 11.00 am - 3.00pm. Winter Hours (from 3 April) 10.00 am - 2.00 pm or by appointment

For more information text Gabrielle Belz 021 0813 8355 | Facebook: Gallery Pātea | Email galleryPātea@gmail.com

Artist Open Studios - Whanganui

10.00 am – 4.00 pm 16/17 March & 23/24 March 2024

Artists Open Studios was founded in 2001 and has blossomed into the largest, longest running and most diverse arts trail event in New Zealand. Along the way it has seen countless volunteers, coordinators, trust members and participants alike, put their creativity, passion and commitment into this event.

This year, Waverley artist Jenni Corbett is exhibiting alongside three Whanganui artists, Pauline Handley, Celeste Ventura and Wally Franklin-Brown. The studio is called *Behind the Manor door* and is based at Manor House, Abingdon Retirement Village in St Johns Hill. Jenni will be exhibiting and selling original pastels and acrylics as well as reproductions, as well as her book "Living the Dream" available for sale. Featuring 100 artists and art groups in a wide variety of exciting studios, spaces and galleries, AOS also offers [workshops and events](#). Plan your trip to see [artist studios](#) today.



For more information visit: www.openstudios.co.nz

Hāwera Repertory News

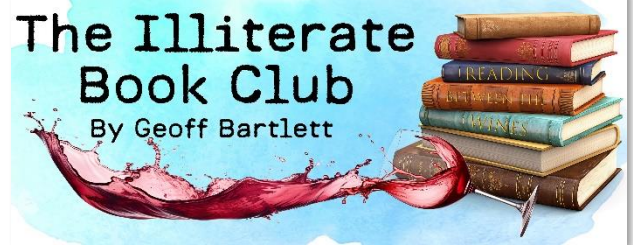
The Illiterate Book Club

11 - 20 April 2024

Repertory House, 59 Collins Street, Hāwera

A heart-warming, funny and at times bitter-sweet play about six passionate readers with no free time who have created novel ways to keep their love of books in their lives.

Introducing the cast of *The Illiterate Book Club* by Geoff Bartlett - Samantha Turner (Joy), Kristy Logan (Zoe), Cherol Filbee (Flora), Deborah Clough (Stephanie), Lorraine Wilkie (Ada), Ainslie Alexander (Maggie) and Hayden Baylis (Hamish).



Facebook: [Hawera Repertory Society](#) | Email: info@hawerarep.org



Theatre Director Workshops – Hāwera

Theatre Director Workshops – From the Beginning, with Russ Standing

Introduction Session: 9.30 am - 4.00 pm Sunday 28 April 2024

Repertory House, 59 Collins Street, Hāwera

Russ Standing shares his lifetime experience to anyone interested in directing theatre. Throughout the past 60 years Russ has been involved in the arts in Taranaki as an actor, director, designer, scenic painter, repertory committee member, artist and administrator in a number of arts organisations. He successfully challenged the boundaries of small rural town theatrical groups by staging and or directing and in some cases designing a number of the most popular block buster musicals of all time. In

addition, he re-established the South Taranaki Arts Council in the 1980s, formed the Grand Variety Trust in 1998 - funding applicants to study singing/acting and more recently established the highly successful Hāwera Memorial Theatre Friends Trust that has been instrumental in refurbishing and re-equipping the Hāwera Memorial Theatre. Until 2014 Russ managed the Theatre on a voluntary basis on behalf of the South Taranaki District Council. Russ is a former President and Life Member of the Hāwera Repertory Society, Paul Harris Fellow, and has a number of Community and Citizen's Awards and more recently received a Merit Award from Musical Theatre New Zealand.

These unique workshops will share his extensive skills and knowledge to enable participants to prepare and conduct rehearsals and apply directorial skills and techniques.

To register, contact Russ Standing – Email russellss@xtra.co.nz or Phone: 027 242 3904

Hāwera Memorial Theatre Trust – Fundraising Show

Stage & Screen

7.30 pm Saturday 23 March & 2.00 pm Sunday 24 March 2024

Hāwera Memorial Theatre, Albion Street, Hāwera

The Hāwera Memorial Theatre Trust presents a fundraising concert, directed by Trustee, Judy Brown. Including a cast of diverse local performers and featuring the Theatre Trust Singers - be entertained with familiar songs from favourite movies and stage musicals. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy live theatre performed by local artists and at the same time support your local theatre Trust.



Tickets are \$25 Adults, \$10 children. Book seats through iTICKET (www.iticket.co.nz) or visit the South Taranaki i-Site.

Taranaki
National
Art
Awards

Taranaki National Art Awards 2024

The Taranaki National Art Awards AGM was held in Ōpunakē on 29 February 2024.

The event celebrates 22 years in 2024, an iconic event hosted at Sinclairs Events Centre in spring each year, presenting over 300 artworks from all over New Zealand.

Volunteers are always welcome to get in touch to get involved in this fun, creative event.

Website: mwww.taranakiartawards.co.nz

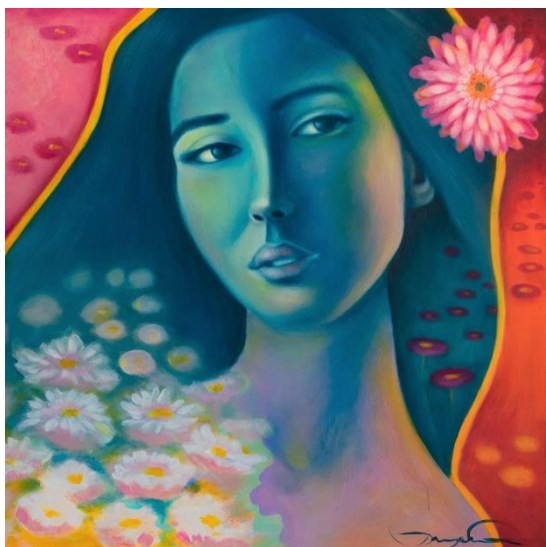
Email: contact@taranakiartawards.co.nz | Facebook: Taranaki National Art Awards

Lysaght Watt Gallery – Autumn Exhibitions

805°: Rosalind Fitz Patrick

Runs until 3 March 2024

Whanganui fused glass artist and Supreme winner of the Lysaght Watt Trust Art Award 2023.



Face to Face: Group Exhibition

4 - 30 March 2024

Portrait making by artists from well-known to first time exhibitors living in Taranaki and Manawatū-Whanganui, including oils, acrylics and photographic works. Gallery visitors can reflect upon each artist's interpretation and are invited to cast one vote for their favorite artwork – the People's Choice Award will be announced on 30 March, and the artist with highest gallery visitor vote count receives \$200 to honour their commitment to portraiture.

(pictured left, painting by Tanya Paton)

Malamalama: Suzan Kostanich, Theresa Tongi & Alison Leauanae

1 - 27 April 2024

Taranaki-based artists Suzan Kostanich and Theresa Tongi join with Te-Whanganui-a-Tara resident Alison Leauanae, to bring together a contemporary body of work that reflects their personal histories and shared Samoan heritage. Malamalama, a Samoan term that denotes

understanding, comprehending, insight, and enlightenment, speaks to the artists' exploration of that which holds meaning and provides context to life's challenges and triumphs beyond themselves. Their diverse practices, including painting, mixed media, fibre, and stitching, explore motif and pattern in both traditional and non-traditional representations.

Past and Present: Sarah Buist

29 April – 25 May 2024

This solo exhibition focuses on works from two distinct periods of Waitara artist Sarah Buist's life - life drawings produced in 1990's London juxtaposed against her more recent abstract fine-line drawings produced over the past 8 years in Aotearoa NZ. Sarah is guided by her imagination and utilises fine line pigments to create the desired effect.

Langkah: Krismarlianti

27 May – 22 June 2024

Contemporary abstract exhibition by award winning Indonesian artist now living in Manaia, South Taranaki. *Langkah* is the Indonesian word meaning 'steps', or 'to move' (physically and mentally). This retrospective exhibition will showcase Krismarlianti's ongoing artistic process, embracing the many challenges and rewards in her life and the transfer of ideas and emotions to the canvas. *'This exhibition is a reminder, self-reflection and motivation for me about myself and my art journey'*.

Lysaght Watt Gallery 4 - 6 Union Street, Hāwera

Website: www.lysaghtwattgallery.co.nz | Facebook: [Lysaght Watt Gallery](#)

Project Reef South Taranaki

Local environmental group Project Reef South Taranaki have created a large-scale art frame, featuring vibrant photography of ocean life from their research and protection of the rich and diverse reef environment offshore our coastline. This regionally and nationally recognised project aims to discover and document the subtidal rocky reef communities in the South Taranaki Bight. The frame is situated on the land of the Te Rangatapu Trust Land at Ōhawe beach and is a feature of a new carpark area which will be officially opened in early March.

This is the third art-focused project the group have realised, including a mural on the main road of Pātea and the Pātea Pou Project, which leads down to Mana Bay. These projects actively engage the wider community, incorporate all streams of learning to the wider project and help to raise awareness of the group and its activities. Other partners in the wider scope of the Project are: South Taranaki Underwater Club, Hāwera High School, Pātea Area School, Te Kaahui o Rauru and Te Runanga o Ngati Ruanui Trust. The colourful frame highlights many of the special and unique species photographed in the coastal environment, celebrating the diversity and abundance of ocean life in the area.



For more information visit: www.projectreefsouthtaranaki.org

The Village Gallery – Autumn Exhibitions

The Village Gallery celebrated the opening of the new gallery spaces and exhibition 11 February. The front Gallery space is now the Community Gallery Shop area where members can exhibit throughout the year. The aim is to keep it fresh, interesting, eclectic and inviting to the public, with a wide variety of mahi presented, including paintings, pottery, photographs, sculptures, handmade cards and prints, jewellery, knitting, felting and more. The back area is now the exhibition space, where established or emerging art groups and artists can exhibit. The year ahead is almost fully booked with only one or two spaces still available. Please get in touch to book your exhibition.

Taranaki group of PCANZ Printmakers (Print Council Aotearoa New Zealand) Until 9 March 2024

The word 'prints' may give you a wrong idea of what is presented here; they are not copies of originals, photographs or giclee prints. Original, hand-pulled art prints in a variety of styles and techniques created by eight printmakers representing the PCANZ Taranaki Printmakers: Jennifer Halli, Antonia O'Mahony, Gabrielle Fawcner, Dorothy Andrews, Lorna Davies, Mark Alister Raymer, Jenny Bielawski and Dimphy de Vaan.

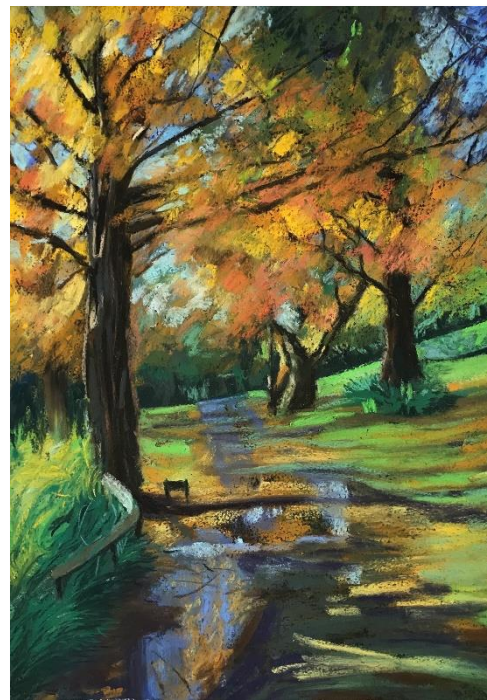
Ideas of March: Hāwera Art Club 13 March – 6 April 2024

Annual exhibition for this well-established art club; showcasing diverse works in a wide variety of subjects and mediums.

Muddy Thursdays 10 April – 4 May 2024

Featuring hand-built and wheel turned pottery by a group of potters who meet on Thursdays at the Potters Club building at the historic Te Henui Vicarage in New Plymouth.

Taranaki: a Painter's Perspective: Veronica Tee (Artwork pictured right) 8 May – 1 June 2024



**The Village Gallery, 166 High Street, Eltham | Open: Wednesday – Saturday 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Phone: 06 764 5443 | Facebook: Village Gallery Eltham NZ | Email: villagegalleryeltham@gmail.com**



Pop Up Studio - Mrs D Arts

A new pop-up studio gallery in Eltham created by artist Becky Dawson. Becky has over 20 years of photography experience and loves printmaking. She creates and sells her work from her studio in Arakamu Eltham, as well as running an online shop of her creations on Felt.

Every Saturday Becky is artist-in residence, open to the public to see her work processes and diverse portfolio of artworks.

On exhibition at the studio is *Reclaimed Archromia*. Selected pieces from this series are available for purchase, as well as recent lino prints and textile creations.

Payment options include EFTPOS and Afterpay. Visit Mrs D's social media platforms to see more of Becky's work, as well as videos and reels showing the process from drawing to completed artwork.

**Mrs D Arts – 96 Bridge Street, Eltham | Open: Saturdays 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Facebook: [MrsD.Arts](https://www.facebook.com/MrsD.Arts) | Instagram: [mrsd.arts](https://www.instagram.com/mrsd.arts) | [Mrs D Arts on Felt](https://www.felt.com.au/mrsdarts)**

**[Sugar Loafing Arts Cast » Access Radio Taranaki 104.4FM](#) – Local Arts Podcast
[Ōpunakē Open Studios & Galleries](#) – [click to follow link](#)
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from out of the blue studio gallery – Exhibitions

Sustainable Creativity - Stellar Quilt Group

Runs until 11 March 2024

Featuring works by members of The Stellar Quilters Group from the lower part of the North Island who have been gathering as a group for more than 20 years to support each other in their quilting practices. Members of the group included in the exhibition are: Kay Booth, Bobby Duncan, Merrilyn George, Jenny Hunter, Anna Prussing, Dianne Southey, Michelle Sutherland and Carol Walter.

Here I Am But Am I Here – Solo exhibition by Jeanette Vester

14 March – 22 April 2024

Vester won the Fibre Art Award at the Taranaki National Art Awards in 2023, sponsored by the Gallery – a section of this work is pictured, right.

“The juxtaposition of “here I am” and “but am I here” highlights the interplay between tangible and intangible aspects and complexities of our existence and identity. Similarly, “Are we there yet?” metaphorically permeates various aspect of life. It embodies the human inclination to seek closure but also suggests the transformative power of a journey. In this body of work there are representations of physical journeys and places as well as abstract works that are merely a part of an ongoing quest in the search for belonging and connection to the present. The use of a multitude of techniques and media embrace uncertainties and recognizes that a true destination is not a point on a map but a culmination of experiences gathered along the way.”



Touch: A curated collection highlighting the tactile nature of textiles

25 April - 3 June 2024

The gallery has invited a group of artists to create works that consider the sense of touch - either as a physical experience or an emotional one. The works will range over the varied of textile expressions. This will be a cash and carry collection.

Contact: Viv Davy. Phone: 021 407 424 | 18 Halse Place, Ōpunakē

Website: www.fromoutofthebluestudiogallery.com | Open: 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm Thursday – Monday or by appointment

Facebook: [from out of the blue studio gallery](https://www.facebook.com/fromoutofthebluestudiogallery) | Instagram: [threadthinker](https://www.instagram.com/threadthinker) | Email: silktangles@me.com



Everybody's Theatre - Ōpunakē

A historic theatre restored to its former glory. In addition to all the latest new releases, the theatre also hosts boutique nights, playing a selection of classic, foreign and fringe films. Check the website for screening and special events. Bookings can now be made online. The theatre can be hired for events.

Graeme James (pictured left) - Saturday 16 March 2024

www.graemejamesmusic.com

Boutique Movie Screenings

1.00 pm & 7.00 pm - First Sunday of the month - Cheese platters and beverages available

Sunday 14 March: Aotearoa Surf Film Festival - 12th Annual Celebration -

www.asff.co.nz

Everybody's Theatre, 72 Tasman Street, Ōpunakē | Phone: 027 383 7926

Website: www.everybodystheatre.co.nz | Email everybodystheatre@gmail.com

Quirky Fox – Art + Framing

Strange Dreamscapes: Open 13 March 2024

A group exhibition bringing together talent from across the world working strictly in black and white. This monotone themed exhibition features sculptures, charcoal, ink and graphite works ranging from goddesses to nature.

Quirky Fox, 205a High Street, Hāwera | Phone: 06 278 6909

Open: Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 4.30 pm Saturday 10.00 am - 12 noon

Facebook: [Quirky Fox: Art & Framing](https://www.facebook.com/quirkyfox) | Website: www.quirkyfox.co.nz





Percy Thomson Gallery – Autumn Exhibitions

Gathered Voices: Highlights from the Fletcher Trust Collection.

Runs until 24 March 2024

Curated by Francis McWhannell. A rare opportunity to view one of the most prestigious private art collections in Aotearoa. Twenty-two artworks of national significance by notable artists such as C. F. Goldie, Emily Karaka, Michael Smither, Rita Angus, Robyn Kahukiwa, Tony Fomison, Ian Scott, A. Lois White and more. Only tour stop in Taranaki.

Stratford Art Society Exhibition

30 March – 21 April 2024

Rita Angus: New Zealand Modernist

26 April – 23 June 2024

Rita Angus is one of New Zealand's most iconic artists. Over the course of her life, she produced a remarkable body of drawings, watercolours, and paintings. A committed feminist, and a pacifist, Angus' work was deeply entwined with her view of the world. In her portraits and landscape paintings,

with their distinctive clear colours and flat, graphic style, she created a unique image of 20th-century Aotearoa. This exhibition was developed in partnership by the Royal Academy of Arts, London and Te Papa.

Image credit: 'Cleopatra' (1938) by Rita Angus. Oil on canvas (Te Papa Tongarewa).

For gallery newsletters, member benefits, invitations to events and exhibition openings, sign up as a Friend of the Gallery.

Percy's Place is the gallery's boutique art shop, full of creations by local artists. The Gallery is seeking volunteers to assist with running the shop - please contact the Gallery if you are keen to help.

Percy Thomson Gallery, 56 Miranda Street, Stratford | Director: Laura Campbell | Phone 06 765 0917

Open: Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Saturday - Sunday 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Website: www.percythomsongallery.org.nz | Facebook: Percy Thomson Gallery

Puke Ariki – Autumn Exhibitions

Kount Five Plus Two – Pop Culture in Retro Taranaki 1966-1983

Runs until 8 June 2024 - Ground Floor, Puke Ariki Museum

Step into retro Taranaki and discover Stratford's own, Kount Five Plus Two, the iconic covers band of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

Our Words Festival 2024

20 - 27 March 2024

An enriching journey of self-publishing insights, the art of food photography, fiction crafting, short story magic, historical narratives, world-building wonders, scientific exploration, and beyond! *Our Words: A Festival of Local Writers and Storytellers* is the first of its kind brought to you by Puke Ariki and Community Libraries. More details on website.



Puke Ariki, 1 Ariki Street, New Plymouth | Phone: 06 759 6060 | Open: 10.00 am - 5.00 pm 7 days | Free Entry

Website: www.pukeariki.com | Facebook: Puke Ariki: Museum-Library-Visitor Information



Fenton Street Art Collective - Exhibitions

March: Soulmates – Bronwen Key - A new exhibition of cheeky characters from the animal world.

April: Shakespeare Month – Exhibitions linked to the Bard in conjunction with the Stratford Shakespeare festival, culminating on 13 April with Baldrick's Big Day Out at the Stratford Racecourse, free entry.

May: Ceramics – Patti & Brian Cocker - A new exhibition of cheeky characters from the animal world. Fenton Street will close for maintenance for two weeks, 13 May - 28 May 2024.

11 Fenton Street, Stratford | Facebook: Fenton Street Art Collective | Email: fentonartscollective@gmail.com

Open: 9.00 am – 2.00 pm Monday – Saturday, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm Sunday | Phone: 021 0299 2839



Gover Street Gallery News

Gover St Gallery had a re-jig and re-structure during the Christmas break and now houses three working studios with Brenda Cash, David Rogers and Heidi Griffin working there most days, making it a great way to see their work and connect with the artists. Each month the gallery holds multiple exhibitions and has a wonderful eclectic mix of work by Taranaki artists.

March and April Exhibitions:

Jan Leighton, Resin Designs by Candy, Tarnz Keenan, Rowena Komene, Melissa Lovegrove, Peter Gunn, Nick Plimmer, Katrina Cosgrove, Veronica Tee, Robyn Jacob, Gaye Atkinson, DAS, Paul Hutchinson, Dale Copeland,

Brenda Cash, Suzan Kostanich, David Rogers, Alby Carter, Jim Adams, Mariana Melo, Lynn Webb, Kaye Atkinson and an ongoing exhibition from Ans Westra's private collection as well as 'Peter's Dream' by John McLean on permanent display. Get in touch and book a wall to showcase your artwork. From March the Selection Gallery will open for those who cannot commit to a whole wall, so there are plenty of options and a lot to see.

WORKSHOP: Mandala Dotting Workshop with Mariana Melo - 6 April 2024

Bookings through <https://events.humanitix.com/mandala-dotting-workshop>

19 Gover Street, New Plymouth | To exhibit, register, enquire, contact Heidi on 06 757 4278

Open: Monday – Saturday 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. Sundays 12 noon – 4.00 pm

Facebook/Instagram: Gover Street Gallery | Email: goverstgallery@gmail.com

Creative New Zealand

Creative New Zealand is the national arts development agency developing, investing in and advocating for the arts. CNZ recently announced its new programmes for 2024. The eight new funding and support opportunities are tailored to three distinct groups: early career artists, artists and practitioners, and arts groups and organisations and will replace the existing contestable grants programme. Visit [Funding and support](#) for more information.

[Sign up](#) to receive news and updates via email.



For updates and information on all Creative NZ funding, visit the [website](#)



The Big Idea

The Big Idea is an online hub for artists of all genres. The Big Idea provides you with daily news updates, the latest jobs and opportunities and events as well as ideas and inspiration from across the creative industries to help you create your own success. The Big Idea is the largest, leading online resource for the arts in New Zealand.

Website: www.thebigidea.nz

Would you or your group like to have information included in the next edition of Te Tohu a Toi – STATE OF THE ARTS?

Please send text and photographs for the Winter Edition (June, July, August 2024) to:
Michaela Stoneman, Arts Co-ordinator: michaela.stoneman@stdc.govt.nz

Send information by:

Monday 20 May 2024

Publish date:

Saturday 1 June 2024

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