

Te Tohu a Toi

STATE OF THE ARTS

South Taranaki Arts Bulletin # 64

Spring 2026

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



This winter we had the privilege of hosting renowned Aotearoa textile artist Ron Te Kawa (Ngāti Porou) in South Taranaki. His larger-than-life wall hangings celebrate his love for Te Ao Māori and our precious environment. Thirty local creatives, aged 9 years to 70+ gathered at Normanby Hall over two days in July to be inspired and guided by Ron and his incredible creations. Ron says 'Running wananga/workshops is the fun side of my art practice, holding space for people to play and make in a fun, non-judgemental safe space. We learn together, everyone brings something special into the room.'

All participants brought a wide range of interpretations and energy to the kaupapa, culminating in a vibrant exhibition at Lysaght Watt Gallery/Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga. Titled 'Born Under a Lucky Star' the show is a reflection of the wealth of creativity, authentic community connection and engagement of this project. It was a real buzz for me that some artists were first time exhibitors – thanks to the gallery team and to everyone involved for your trust, bravery and enthusiasm. *Above image from the opening event at Lysaght Watt Gallery – Photo by Steven Boothe.*

An exciting new initiative launched recently in Tokaora, just south of Hāwera, enabling toi Māori wananga, creative business development and connection opportunities in South Taranaki. Toi Rarau has been established to offer programmes for our creative community to learn traditional and contemporary skills and awhi/support one another.

Two amazing live theatre experiences are coming to our region in Spring. The Friends of Hāwera Parks are bringing free live theatre to Hāwera's Naumai Park in October, as part of their 100 year celebrations. *The Barden Party* are an award-winning New Zealand theatre company, blending myth, live music and a 1940's Hollywood aesthetic. Performed in the open-air stage in the park on two afternoons, these shows are not to be missed! Arts on Tour NZ and STDC are bringing *The Tempestuous* to Kakaramaea Hall, just north of Pātea in spring – another low-cost opportunity to experience brilliant, quality live theatre within our rural communities.

Our regional arts agency, Creative Taranaki, are launching some new features on their website in October. They are reaching out to the arts community to help to make it function well, while also offering the opportunity to promote your art practice, service, event or group. Check the details in this newsletter to get involved.

Hāwera Repertory continues with their 80 year celebrations with a string of events this spring. Community support plays such an important role in keeping local theatre thriving, so thanks to all the local business sponsors, audiences can experience the magic, music, laughter and heart that make live theatre so special.

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

Ngā mihi,

Michaela

Michaela Stoneman | Arts Co-ordinator | South Taranaki District Council |
0800 111 323 | michaela.stoneman@stdc.govt.nz | www.southtaranaki.com



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 current South Taranaki District Creative Communities application round opened on **7 August 2026** and closes on **11 September 2026**. This is for creative projects that will take place between late October 2026 and late September 2027. There are two CCS application rounds per year. If you have an idea for a project, or would like support with your application, you can email STDC Arts Coordinator Michaela for support and guidance – michaela.stoneman@stdc.govt.nz

For detailed information and forms, please visit the link [here](#)
Email funding@stdc.govt.nz or phone 0800 111 323 or 06 278 0555

Arts in the Park 2026

10.00 am – 3.00 pm Saturday 5 December 2026

King Edward Park, High Street, Hāwera

Registrations open on 1 October for artists and groups to take part in Taranaki's premier outdoor arts and crafts festival. Enjoy the large, pleasant, open environment of King Edward Park to exhibit, demonstrate, and sell your arts or crafts - stalls are free. A walk through the park is a voyage of discovery, including local musicians, food stalls, hands-on art activities for kids in the *Art Tipi* and much more. *Arts in the Park* is an entertaining day for the whole whānau, offering an opportunity to support local artists and craftspeople by purchasing handmade goods to kick-start your Christmas shopping. Check STDC's Facebook page or website for updates.



Registration forms available in late September 2026: www.southtaranaki.com/artsinthepark

For more information contact South Taranaki District Events on 0800 111 323 or email events@stdc.govt.nz

Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards 2026



Awards Evening: Thursday 22 October 2026

Doors open 6.45pm, 7.00 pm start

Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, Te Hāwera

Entries have closed for this year's Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards. With over 170 entries, judges will be busy over the next month compiling the shortlist, announced in early October. All are welcome at the Awards evening, where judges and sponsors will present awards and read winning entries. Please RSVP to the awards night by email: entries@stdc.govt.nz

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

Te Marama o te Reo Māori 2026 – South Taranaki LibraryPlus

Celebrate *Te Marama o te Reo Māori* with South Taranaki District Libraries this September. Offering a full month of fun, creativity and connection with activities including poi making, toi Māori workshops and wherehouse bingo. There's something for everyone to enjoy while exploring and celebrating te reo Māori.

Check the full District-wide programme at any **South Taranaki LibraryPlus**



Kapa Kōrero – Hāwera

A relaxed space to grow and celebrate te reo Māori, held in three locations in the Hāwera CBD each month. All levels welcome, bring what reo you have and give it a go! Kōrerotia te reo Māori!

1st Wednesday of the month - 10.00 am: Caffeinate, 46 Union Street, Hāwera

2nd Wednesday of the month - 10.00 am: Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, Hāwera LibraryPlus, 121 High Street

4th Wednesday of the month – 12 noon: Tika Restaurant, 30 Nelson Street, Hāwera

For further information contact: Puhi@ngaruahine.iwi.nz or Charlotte.stark@stdc.govt.nz

Arts on Tour – The Tempestuous: A Shrew'd New Comedy

The Tempestuous – by Will Shakespeare and Penny Ashton

Wednesday 4 November 2026

Kakarama Hall, 2192 Main South Road, SH3, Kakarama

Award winning comedian Penny Ashton returns to South Taranaki, and this time is skewering the Bard Himself. The brains behind *Promise & Promiscuity*, *Olive Copperbottom* and *Austen Found*, Ashton is heading out on her sixth Arts on Tour odyssey this spring, sparking 13 characters into life in this Elizabethan tale of magic, meddling and puffed bull's puzzles. Sicily's beloved King Enzo is dead. Now Princess Rosa, a stropky spinster, must navigate the tempestuous waters of belching step-fathers, lusty suitors, popping cod pieces and menopausal witches, to face her destiny. Supported by South Taranaki District Council.

Penny Ashton has been touring the world for over 20 years, performing over 1000 solo shows. She has sold out from Edinburgh to Edmonton to Mosgiel and has represented New Zealand in Theatresports and performed Slam Poetry at The Glastonbury Festival. Her award-winning solo musicals *Promise and Promiscuity*, *Olive Copperbottom* and *The Tempestuous* have gathered sparkling reviews and happy fans wherever they've been performed.

Theatre presented Ashton's adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility* to great acclaim, and she went on to direct it in Wellington in 2024, attracting over 5500 people. Ashton is also an improviser, performance poet, voice over artist, social commentator (including on RNZ's The Panel), Wedding Celebrant, menopause podcaster with Showy Ovaries, and all-round jazz hand enthusiast.

"Incredibly clever, the script is just so smart." Radio NZ

"Masterful 'shrewd comedy' a tempestuous triumph...a phenomenal play." The Post

"Surely at some point we get to call Penny Ashton a national treasure?" Flat City Field Notes

"Phenomenal energy, vivacity, versatility, inventiveness and humour." Theatreview



Tickets on sale from 1 October: \$10 from Pātea LibraryPlus or call Michelle Dwyer – phone: 027 477 0646

Naumai Park 100 Years Events - Te Hāwera

Poetry in the Park

6.00pm, Tuesday 20 October 2026

Immerse yourself in the beauty of Naumai Park with live poetry readings nestled among native vegetation. Wander through the tranquil spots and listen as the words flow with nature. Meet at the main entrance gates on the corner of High Street and Gladstone Street.



Barden Party Theatre - Celebrating 100 years of Naumai Park

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm, Saturday 31 October & Sunday 1 November 2026

Magnolia Stage Dell, Naumai Park. FREE

Wet weather venue, Repertory House, 59 Collins Street, Hāwera

An amazing opportunity to enjoy live theatre in Hāwera's 100 year old park. The Barden Party Theatre Group presents *Heracles*, an original folk musical that reimagines the Greek hero's story, exploring his fraught relationship with Hera, Queen of the Gods, and his own inner battles. Performed by an award-winning New Zealand theatre company, these two free shows blend myth, live music and a 1940's Hollywood aesthetic. Supported by the South Taranaki Creative Communities Scheme and STDC.

For further info and full schedule of 100 Year Events, visit [Website](#) | Facebook: [Friends of Hawera Parks](#)



Toi Rarau – Te Whare Pora

Angela Kerehoma (pictured left) has established Toi Rarau as a space where mahi toi, taonga and the people who create them can be seen, shared and celebrated. Toi Rarau is located within a rural school site 7 minutes from Hāwera and 5 minutes from Ōhawe Beach. The site was returned to Ōkahu Inuāwai hapū in 2025. It is a place that has a deep running history with many of the ringatoi and the surrounding community.

Tō Mātou Kaupapa: Rooted in creativity and connection.

Toi Rarau brings together the work of ringatoi o Ngāruahine me Taranaki across a range of practices - from raranga and whakairo to wearable taonga, contemporary works and everything in between. “Each piece carries a whakapapa, the whakaaro, pūkenga and kōrero of the person who created it. Toi Rarau exists

to make it easier for people to discover, experience and support the work of our artists and makers while also creating space for the kōrero, process and people that sit behind each piece. This includes the whānau and community. Some works are one of a kind, others are part of an ongoing practice. Together, they reflect the many forms that toi can take. The gallery is underpinned by a social enterprise model and fosters collectivised pūkenga (skill) and tautoko (support) from artists and creators into community learning”.

Ngā Akoranga me ngā wānanga (Adult Community Learning): Kia puawai ngā ringatoi.

“Our artists and makers are at the heart of what we do. And so are those wanting to learn traditional Toi Māori. Toi Rarau offers ACE programmes in Raranga (weaving) and delivery of workshops in partnership with our artists, makers and practitioners. As Toi Rarau grows, so too will the range of learning programmes delivered and within this learning environment the discovery of emerging practitioners and artists”. *Angela Kerehoma*

Toi Rarau - Te Tapuae Pae Pātūtū, 466B South Road, Tokaora, Hāwera
Email: kiaora@toirarau.co.nz | Website: tautoko@toirarau.co.nz

Hapori Hub – Hāwera Community Hub

Hapori Hub strives to cultivate a space that unites our community, creating a valuable resource for our region that helps everyone thrive. Hapori Hub can promote your event on the community digital notice board, help with photocopying, group administration or funding needs. Spaces are available to hire for workshops or group meetings.

Beginners Watercolour Classes: Watercolour at Twilight

Begins Thursday 15 October, 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm

This class will run for seven weeks. Cost is \$80 per person, with all materials provided.

Monday Art Sessions: Fun with Watercolours

10.00am – 12 noon, weekly

A weekly low-intensity watercolour session, using this creative medium to support people in positive mental health choices and reduce social isolation. Open to everyone, all materials are supplied. Koha is appreciated.

Monday Art Sessions: Open

7.00 pm – 9.00pm - weekly

In these evening sessions, students build on techniques applicable to multiple art mediums, learn from each other, or simply provide space to work on personal projects. The cost is \$5 per session; please bring your own supplies.



For more information - Website: www.haporihub.org | Email: info@haporihub.org | Phone: 028 8513 2044



Free Whakairo/Carving classes in Te Hāwera

Local toi whakairo artist Meka Mauriri is on a mission to help with the revitalization of whakairo in Taranaki. Meka runs free whakairo classes in Hāwera, at Te Paepae o Aotea. Trained in the art of whakairo (Māori wood carving) at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, Meka is dedicated to give back to the Taranaki community. Anyone of any gender, over 17 years old, who is curious and has an open mind is welcome to learn this traditional artform – no experience necessary. Classes run on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, from 5.00pm – 8.00 pm. All tools are provided.

**To enquire about or register for classes, contact Meka – 022 547 1631
 or Instagram: [Matariki Whakairo](https://www.instagram.com/matariki_whakairo)**



Accessible Arts Taranaki (AAT)

Over the past year, the Creative Taranaki team has been building the AAT initiative. *Discovery Sessions* have been held in North and South Taranaki to develop a practical action plan in relation to arts accessibility in the District. The purpose of AAT is to: champion inclusion from inception, connect and enable the sector, share information, build capability, advocate and amplify voices, reduce isolation. Everyone should be able to experience, enjoy, and participate in the arts - without barriers, without feeling left out, and without needing to explain themselves.

Whether you're an individual, organisation, creative, venue, funder, or community member, you can help by connecting with us, sharing your knowledge or needs, opening your space to accessible practice, partnering on events or workshops, helping spread the word or attending hui and contributing your voice.

Creative Taranaki (CT) Website Revamp

Alongside Smokeylemon, CT are developing their website, making it easier to discover, connect with and support creativity across Taranaki. New features have been designed to give the creative community greater visibility, and for people to find out what's happening, who's creating and how to get involved.

The new **What's On** guide makes it easy to add your event, exhibitions, concerts, performance, workshops, classes, competitions and opportunities. Use a simple form to share all details people need to find you and take part.

The new **Creative Directory** will be the go-to place to find, discover and connect with creativity across the region.

Can include artists, practitioners, performers, organisations, galleries, theatres, clubs, classes, teachers, tutors, venues, rehearsal spaces, recording studios, art supplies and creative services. If you're part of Taranaki's creative ecosystem, you can upload a free listing, with all your important and online links.

Together, these two tools will help CT connect and promote Taranaki's creative whānau on a bigger scale than ever before. Currently in the testing stage, CT needs your help before the launch in October, to check everything is user friendly and works well. If you'd like to help to test the new site – and be among the first people, organisations and events featured – please email web@creativetaranaki.org to send you the links to add an event, artist profile, your organisation, or all three. Let's put Taranaki creativity on the map!

For more information and updates - **Facebook: Creative Taranaki** | **Website: www.creativetaranaki.org**
Phone Creative Taranaki Arts Coordinator, Megan Symons: 027 500 7722
or Email: artscoordinator@creativetaranaki.org



2025 Photography winner – Chris Poletti

Taranaki National Art Awards (TNAA) 2026

Sinclairs Event Centre, Tasman Street, Ōpunakē

Exhibition: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, 31 October – 8 November 2026

Awards Ceremony: 6.00 pm Friday 30 October 2026

Entries have closed for this national visual arts competition held in Ōpunakē, with 266 entries received over seven categories. The TNAA provides an exceptional visual art experience that encourages participation within a diverse range of creative mediums. Co-judges for 2026 are Maree Mills, Curator at Te Whare Taonga Waikato and Andrew Clifford, Director at the Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui.

Cash prizes are offered for all categories: Painting, Taranaki Artists, 3D, Works on Paper, Fibre Art, Tō Taranakitanga and Photography. All entries are displayed in the exhibition, and most works are for sale, offering an opportunity to purchase original artworks. The exhibition coincides with the region's garden festivals and the Taranaki Arts Trail. This long-standing event would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors, volunteers and the Ōpunakē community. The committee are calling for more people power to help with the set-up, art install and pack down phases of the event. Any time you're able to volunteer to help the event come together would be very welcome.

Stadium set-up days: Thursday 22 & Friday 23 October, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Category layout & artwork placement: Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 October, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Exhibition Installation: Tuesday 27 October, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. A complimentary lunch is provided.

Stadium pack-down days: Monday 9 & Tuesday 10 November, 10.00 am – 4.00pm

Instructions and briefings are given when volunteers arrive, with all equipment provided.

If you're keen to get involved, as an individual or group, please call Donnelle 021 912 328 or Megan 027 500 7722.

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

Hāwera Repertory – News

Celebrate 80 years of Hāwera Repertory - stories, community and applause!

Costume Soirée: Friday 16 October 2026

Doors 6.30 pm, 7.30 pm start | Repertory House

Step into the spotlight and experience a moving display of costumes from our extensive wardrobe. Admire the creativity and craftsmanship of the many stunning costumes lovingly created over the years by dedicated volunteers, beautifully modelled by some of our talented up-and-coming performers.

Open Morning: Saturday 17 October, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm | Repertory House

Take a trip down memory lane with displays from our archives.

A Night of Dinner, Dance & Memories: Saturday 17 October, 6.00 pm till late | Hāwera Community Centre Hall

Celebrate in style with an evening of great food, company, live entertainment from Sonic Delusion to dance the night away. Smart dress.

80 years Celebration Showcase | Saturday 17 October, 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm | Hāwera Memorial Theatre

Wanted: Singers, dancers and performers to shine in a one-of-a kind performance, commemorating 80 years of theatre memories. An opportunity to unleash your talent at a celebration of theatre excellence. Coordinated by Hāwera Repertory's Life Members. Contact Russ Standing: Email russellss@xtra.co.nz or Phone 027 242 3904 to be part of this event.

To Register for Hāwera Repertory 80 Years Events: [Registration Link](#) or Email: info@hawerarep.org

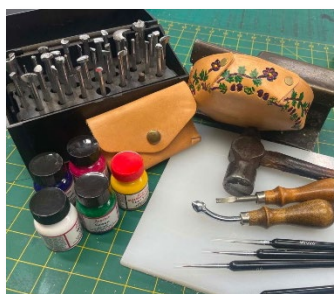


Barbara Leydon Junior Drama Festival 2026

Hāwera Memorial Theatre | 7.00 pm 14/15/16 September 2026

Support and enjoy the talents of the future of live theatre in South Taranaki. Featuring 18 plays from Hāwera Repertory, Christine Cameron School of Speech and Drama, Hāwera Christian School, Te Paepae O Aotea and Whenuakura School. Koha Entry.

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



Workshop – Citizen Leather

Tuesday 6 October & Wednesday 7 October, 5.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Join tutor Layla Cann to create a leather stamped and painted trivet dish or purse. Learn new skills and meet new people. Cost is \$80 per person, materials provided. Book in store or Email: layla@citizenleather.co.nz. Supported by South Taranaki Creative Communities Scheme.

Citizen Leather | 87 Tasman Street, Ōpunakē

Open Friday & Saturday 10.00am – 3.00 pm | Website: www.citizenleather.co.nz | **Facebook:** [Citizen Leather](#)

Taranaki Singer Songwriters – Spring Events

Taranaki Singer Songwriters present vibrant original music showcases, songwriting gatherings and fundraising events across the region. These relaxed and welcoming evenings celebrate local creativity and provide opportunities for musicians and music lovers to connect in community spaces throughout Taranaki. Expect heartfelt original songs, inspiring collaborations, good humour and a supportive atmosphere for artists of all ages and experience levels.

Taranaki Singer Songwriters - Hāwera

Friday 23 October – Hāwera Repertory Theatre | Doors 7pm | Music from 7.30pm

Bring your whānau and friends and come along for a relaxed and entertaining night celebrating local songwriting talent. Open for everyone, from complete beginners through to experienced professionals. Sign up to play a song in front of a warm and attentive audience, backed by professional sound and production. Entry is free, with a koha collected on the night, and the bar will be operating. You can expect plenty of solo performers, with bands welcome too. Every night is different, and you never quite know who will take the stage. It's a great opportunity to discover original music being written and performed right here in Taranaki. Musicians can sign up to perform [via this link](#).

Taranaki Singer Songwriters – Special Show, New Plymouth

Sunday 8 November 2026

Featuring a showcase of talent from South Taranaki. More details will be announced soon — watch this space!



For information, sign-ups and tickets, visit: www.taranakisingersongwriters.com

Taranaki Arts Trail 2026

Taranaki Arts Trail: 30 October - 8 November 2026

9.30 am - 4.30 pm daily. Free admission.

The Taranaki Arts Trail celebrates artists opening their studios to the public. For 10 days, artists across the region offer visitors the chance to step inside, meet the makers, and see the magic where it happens. Some studios are open the full 10 days, others for weekends only - check the programme to plan your journey. Mark your calendar, grab some friends, and get ready to discover the creativity tucked into every corner of our region. Pick up a brochure or check the website for full details about the artists, events, workshops and tours. South Taranaki studios to visit this year are:

Claire Jensen | 29 Hickey Place, Ōpunakē *Studio pictured right*

Sculpture - Exploring themes relating to nature, the environment and symbols of identity.

Shannon Lucy Baker | 3 Ponderosa Place, Ōpunakē

Painting - Inspired by the remarkable wildlife and natural beauty of New Zealand.

Mark Bellringer | 51 Bridge Street, Eltham

Painting - Finding interesting points of view in the "ordinary everyday that surrounds us".

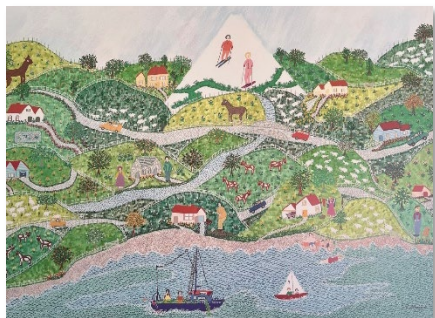
JD Reid | 3 Tihi Road, Ōhangai, Hāwera

Painting - Large immersive landscapes hoping to echo nature's beauty



Website: www.taranakiartstrail.co.nz **Email:** taranakiartstrail@gmail.com

The Village Gallery – Spring Exhibitions



Simply Charming: Aithnia Batchelor

25 August - 19 September 2026

Aithnia Batchelor is an award-winning, self-taught naive artist working in acrylic, oils, and watercolour on hessian, board, and canvas. Though naive in approach, her work is anything but naive in execution, her compositions draw the eye expertly around the canvas, packed with intricate rendering and joyful subjects. Batchelor started painting at age 44 and has been hooked ever since. Her colourful, joyful work reflects her hope for a happier, gentler world.

Eltham Lions Art for Awareness 2025 - Call for Entries

Exhibition dates: 29 September - 24 October 2026

Eltham Lions Club invites artists and creatives of all levels to enter this year's art exhibition, raising funds for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. Open to all creative mediums, with any interpretation of breast cancer awareness theme.

Registrations close: 18 September 2026. **Artwork drop-off:** By 26 September 2026.

Entry fee: \$15 per entry, \$10 each for two. [Register at this link](#), or Email villagegalleryeltham@gmail.com

A Year in Pātea: Marianne Coady

27 October - 21 November 2026

A mixed-media exhibition reflecting Marianne Coady's first year living in Pātea and her impressions of the town and wider Taranaki region. Local inspirations include Pātea's famous strong winds, the Eltham cheese shop and bats, alongside a few memories from Australia. Marianne's practice spans ceramics, eco-printed textiles and encaustic art. Originally working with textiles and eco-dyeing, she later studied art and ceramics in Cairns, Australia, with ceramics becoming a major focus of her work.

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

Quirky Fox Gallery & Framing News



Hidden Realms | Opening: 30 September 2026

An intimate group show featuring five diverse artists. The exhibition questions what worlds would we see if our vision was just a tiny bit wider, quicker or registered colours differently? What goes on in the microseconds our eyes shut in a blink or sneeze? What if other worlds, realms or times coexist with ours, yet can't be seen by the human eye?

Quirky Fox: 162 High Street, Te Hāwera

Open: Monday – Friday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm, Saturday 10.00am – 1.00 pm

Phone: 06 278 6909 | Website: www.quirkyfox.co.nz | Facebook: [Quirky Fox NZ](#)



From the Womb to the Tomb: A Medical History Runs until July 2027

An exhibition about the ever-changing industry of medicine and health in South Taranaki. Life and death are shaped by the people at the centre of care: the individual and the medical professionals supporting them. The exhibition explores the holistic nature of Māori health before the arrival of Pākehā; the devastation of war and disease in the region over the last century; and the technological advances achieved today. At the center of every story are the doctors, nurses and midwives who dispensed cures and hope for patients in towns and the isolated backblocks of South Taranaki. Discover the stories of courageous men and women who ventured into the unforgiving terrain of the

District to administer medicine to early settlers and Māori. Valiant figures include Anne Evans, who nursed a known fugitive back to health deep within Ngā Ruahine lands; Calamity Kate, the intrepid Matron at the Pātea Hospital; and Dr Harvey, the innovative doctor immortalised in his daughter's book. Funded by the Taranaki Regional Council.

Pictured above: Hand-coloured photograph of Dr W T Simmons with his team of nurses at the Pātea Hospital, c1910.

Aotea Utanganui - Museum of South Taranaki, 127 Egmont Street, Pātea

Facebook: Aotea Utanganui | www.museumofsouthtaranaki.wordpress.com

Email: museum@stdc.govt.nz | Open: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Monday – Saturday | Phone: 06 273 8354

Gallery Pātea – Spring Exhibitions & News

Photographic Portraiture in Pātea | Until 13 September 2026

A project led by Steven Boothe in collaboration with Poihakena Portraits of Pātea, and supported by participants and volunteers. Over several weeks, workshops were held at local venues introducing participants to the art of portrait photography focusing on concepts of lighting, composition, focus, and the journey from camera to print. The project culminated in a day of street photography, where 25 locals were photographed across town, commemorating the warmth and vibrant character of the town. Working locally with Poihakena Portraits, prints were produced on fine art paper, framed, and gifted to each person who braved the cameras during the workshops and street photography. Supported by funding from the South Taranaki Creative Communities Scheme.

Dog | 17 September – 11 October 2026

Artists are invited to interpret “Dog” however they see the subject. Apart from farm dogs, there's a mix of woofs, yaps, sniffers and tail wags, pig dogs, thoroughbreds and mixed breed mongrels, most of them special and precious to their families. Mad dogs and Englishmen? Wondering how dogs might see the world? Come and check it out.



Garden Party | 15 October – 8 November 2026

Featuring two and three dimensional works from artists in South Taranaki celebrating the growth and magic of gardens during the Taranaki Garden Festivals.

Birds – Manu | 12 November – 29 November 2026

Aotearoa/NZ is known for its birdlife throughout the world, both for its conservation and restoration of rare birds. Characteristics of some manu have been attributed to people of status and an indication of rank. Endowed with qualities that have inspired whakataurangi (sayings and proverbs) they provide an example of care to the environment, and to social interaction. Manu are part of the culture of our whenua/land, integral to the imagery in our languages.

Gallery Pātea AGM | 2.00 pm Saturday 12 of September 2026

After years of dedicated service, the current Gallery Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary are stepping down. For Gallery Pātea to remain open, new people need to fill these roles. None of these roles require any prior experience in the arts, just a willingness to give a little of your time to something that has endeavoured to provide a creative space and outlet for the last ten years. The gallery has a dedicated roster of volunteers and artists as a strong foundation to build on. What it needs now is fresh energy and fresh hands to take over the administration. If you are interested in any of these roles, please come along. All welcome.

Gallery Pātea, 56a Egmont Street, Pātea | Email: gallerypatea@gmail.com

Open: 10.00 am - 2.00 pm Thursday – Sunday or by appointment

For more information text Gabrielle Belz 021 0813 8355 | Facebook: Gallery Pātea

Lysaght Watt Gallery – Spring Exhibitions

Born Under a Lucky Star | Until 14 September 2026

An exhibition featuring works by renowned Aotearoa textile artist, Maungarongo (Ron) Te Kawa (Ngāti Porou), alongside new work created by South Taranaki artists at Ron's Craft Camp Wananga held in July. This will be a firecracker of a show, bursting with colour, vitality and bling! Curated by STDC Arts Coordinator, Michaela Stoneman.

The Lysaght Watt Trust Art Award 2026

28 September – 23 October 2026

Opening Night Gala Event: 6.30 pm 26 September 2026

The Lysaght Watt Gallery is pleased to present their biannual Art Award 2026. The Art Awards continues to attract submissions from artists across Aotearoa NZ. This year there are 47 selected entries in two categories (2D & 3D). The 2026 judge is Anique Jayasinghe, Community Arts Activator from Whanganui.

Dimphy de Vaan & Co.

27 October – 5 December 2026

Dimphy de Vaan is a multidisciplinary Taranaki artist. Bringing together a broad spectrum of media, including clay, stone, printmaking, harakeke and more. Dimphy will be joined by her husband, Arno de Vaan, an andesite stonecarver.

EXHIBITION EVENTS:

Tuesday 27 October 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm: *Exhibition Opening & Give it a Go Workshop*

A free hands-on creative session with the artist. Come along, have a go and explore one of the techniques used in the exhibition. No experience needed, all welcome.

Sunday 1 November 1.30 pm - 2.30 pm: *Give it a Go Workshop*

Sunday 1 November 2.45 pm: *Artist Talk*

Join the artists for an informal conversation about their work, processes and ideas.

Friday 13 November 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm: *Give it a Go Workshop*

Saturday 5 December 10.00 am -12 noon: *Artist Talk*

Last chance to engage with the artists. Stay for a chat and some kai, with coffee and juice.

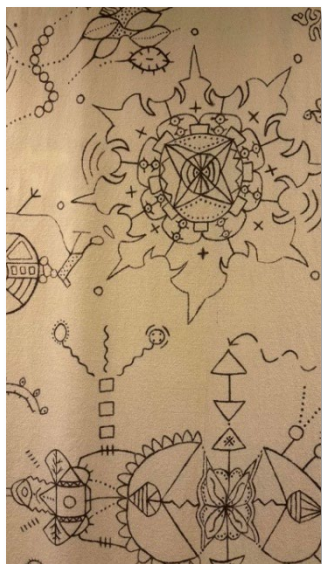


Lysaght Watt Gallery, Te Ramanui o Ruaputāhanga, 121 High Street, Te Hāwera

Open: 10.00 am – 4.00pm Monday – Friday. 10.00am – 2.00 pm Saturday.

Website: www.lysaghtwattgallery.co.nz | Facebook: Lysaght Watt Gallery

from out of the blue studio gallery – Spring Exhibitions & News



This is My Medicine - Solo Exhibition by Heidi Monks | Until 21 September 2026

Heidi Monks is from Thames – and is Artist in Residence for the duration of her exhibition. Natural dyeing and conceptual visualisation are the hallmarks of Heidi's practice. Her approach is grounded in her belief in the spiritual or soul based essence of artist expression. There is a strong, gentle power and presence in Heidi's works. [Check out her artist page](#) where she talks about her practice and what she has created for this exhibition.

Play Days – with Heidi Monks: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Tuesday 8 September 2026

Join the artist in residence to explore mark making on textiles. Create tools with what is foraged along with ink creation from plant materials. See more details on the [gallery website](#). *Pictured left: Work by Heidi Monks*

Liminal Fibres - Solo Exhibition by Suzan Kostanich

24 September - 9 November 2026

Exploring what liminal means within the textile field: “being at the threshold or boundary where it is neither fully one thing or another”, a space where fibres intersect, are altered but not erased. Suzan's works are meticulously conceived, designed and executed. Suzan will be Artist in Residence during her exhibition.

Poetics of Place - Tracey Sullivan. Julz Coffey and Lynn Taylor

12 November - 21 December 2026

Three leading NZ artists will exhibit their distinctive works talking about their relationship to place.

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 app.

Facebook: [from out of the blue studio gallery](#) | Instagram: [threadthinker](#) | Email: silktangles@me.com

Ōpunakē Open Studios & Galleries: [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#)

Percy Thomson Gallery – Spring Exhibitions

Taranaki Arts Trail Preview 2026 | 4 September – 4 October 2026

The Taranaki Arts Trail is nearly here – let the Gallery tempt you with a sneak peek! See a selection of the exhibiting artists' best works before they open their studios and collect a programme so you can plot your course around the maunga. *Right: Mark Bellringer, Moki Road*

Fibreworks 2026 | 10 October – 15 November 2026

Creative Fibre Taranaki's biennial exhibition over the region's Festival period. Entry is by selection and will include examples of weaving, knitting, crochet, felting, dyeing and spinning made into artworks that will capture your imagination. Demonstrations, opportunities to 'have a go', raffles, items for sale and vote for People's Choice Awards.

Mikaela Nyman and Ellie Field: Liminal Spaces | 10 October – 15 November 2026

In their respective arts practice, Mikaela Nyman and Ellie Field explore identity and the discovery of ancestral narratives and heritage – threads interwoven with alternative and lived realities. This is a living, breathing tapestry of voices, materials, and storytelling that embraces fragments and imperfections. They have collaborated on the book cover for Mikaela's poetry collection *The Anatomy of Sand*, published by Te Herenga Waka University Press in 2025. The cover features Ellie's glass sculpture on Back Beach in Taranaki, where many of the poems are set.

Stratford Art Society Spring 2026 Exhibition | 20 November – 13 December 2026

The Society returns with their second show of the year – a perennial favourite! Celebrate the diverse creativity of our artistic community, purchase a special piece for Christmas gifting (or for yourself) and vote in the popular Viewer's Choice Awards. And if you're a member, keep an eye out for entry details in the coming weeks.

The adjacent store, Percy's Place, is now online, on the Gallery website. Browse a selection of handcrafted goods by local creatives. Percys Place is open seven days a week, 10.30am – 2.30pm at 56 Miranda Street.

Percy Thomson Gallery, Prospero Place, Whakaahurangi Stratford | Director: Catherine Rhodes
Open: Monday - Friday 9.00 am - 3.00 pm. Saturday - Sunday 10.00 am - 3.00 pm | Phone 06 765 0917
Website: www.percythomsongallery.org.nz | Facebook: Percy Thomson Gallery



Fenton Street Arts Collective – Spring Exhibitions



Nick Egglestone: From 22 October 2026

Tauranga artist, Nick Egglestone brings his fabulous 'dog and animal' works to the gallery. Working mainly in watercolour and acrylic inks in an illustrative style of painting, Nick also a tutor, shoemaker and potter. *Left: Painting by Nick Egglestone*

Ben Naughton: From 11 September 2026

Taranaki photographer returns to the gallery with new photographic works. Landscape, nature and macro photography.

Jillaine Lang aka Black Pixie: From 27 November 2026

Jillaine brings her own kind of quirk and whimsy in the lead up to Xmas. A multi-disciplinary artist who creates whimsical, upcycled art from vintage China plates, textile collages and mixed media.

11 Fenton Street, Stratford | Facebook: Fenton Street Art Collective
Open: 8.00 am - 2.00 pm – Tuesday - Sunday, closed Mondays & public holidays

Stratford Art Society

Stratford Art Society is a well-established art group in the heart of Taranaki. Membership is open to all visual artists in Taranaki. Members receive many benefits, including newsletters, inclusion in group exhibitions a year at Percy Thomson Gallery and opportunities for Market Days & workshops. Membership is \$30 annually. Membership forms can be picked up at Percy Thomson Gallery or by email. Check for regular updates and opportunities on social media.

Email: stratfordartsoc@gmail.com | Facebook: [stratfordartsocietytaranaki](https://www.facebook.com/stratfordartsocietytaranaki)





Poetry Event

Three Poets Waxing Lyrical

Saturday 12 September, 3-4 pm

Poppies Bookshop, 7 King street, New Plymouth

A kōrero about writing poetry, seeing beauty and wonder in small things - and poetry of course! Featuring well-known poets Airini Beautrais (Whanganui) Helen Lehndorf (Palmerston North) and Mikaela Nyman (New Plymouth). Organised by the Taranaki branch of NZ Society of Authors Taranaki, collaborating with Poppies. Free event, all welcome!

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/ Len Lye Centre – Spring Exhibitions

***Economies of Deferral* | Until 15 November 2026**

Featuring work by Fiona Clark, Matthew Galloway, Ngahuia Harrison, Ho Rui An, Darcy Lange and John Miller. Encounter a powerful, thought-provoking look at Aotearoa's energy story – where ambition, industry and community collide. Compelling visuals, archival material and urgent contemporary voices. Curated by Simon Gennard.

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori - A week of creativity, connection and kaupapa Māori:

Waiata Amongst the Art: Special Edition: Wednesday 16 September, 12.30 pm

Experience the joy of singing waiata together in the gallery's unique acoustic setting.

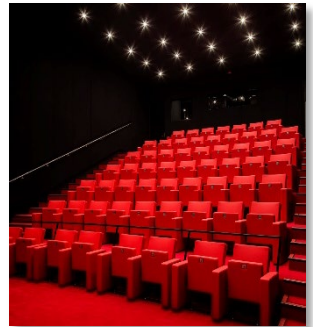
Mahi Toi: Te Reo Māori Through Art: Friday 18 September, 12 noon

Explore te Reo Māori through art activities, including visual pepehā and Māori design.

Sunday 20 September, 10.30 am | Toi Mā te Whānau - bring the whole whānau along for a relaxed art-making session with learning, play and new kupu.

Len Lye Centre Cinema: Saturday 19 September, 6.00 pm | Kōkā (rated M)

Len Lye Centre Cinema: Sunday 20 September, 3.00 pm | Mārama (rated RP16).



Open 7 days, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm | 42 Queen Street | Phone: 06 759 6060 | Website: www.govettbrewster.com



Puke Ariki – Spring Exhibitions

Kiingi Tuheitia Portraiture Award Exhibition

Runs until 1 November 2026

Celebrating the work of young Māori artists and connections with their tūpuna (ancestors). Organised by the New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata, in collaboration with the Office of the Kiingitanga, the show features diverse media and styles, spanning fibre, video, painting and sculpture. Through 40 artworks from across Aotearoa, explore unique portraits of treasured ancestors, famous warriors and even atua (gods). Puke Ariki will present special additions including

new works by Taranaki artists, Ngāti Te Whiti Oral Histories and photographic portraits from the museum's collections, highlighting tangata whenua of Taranaki and the lives of their tūpuna.

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

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

TSB Showplace Events

Darklight: The Hidden World

25 September – 4 October 2026, 9.00 am – 9.00 pm daily

TSB Showplace, Devon Street, New Plymouth

A school holiday special event, transforming a historic venue into an immersive journey of light and sound. Presented by New Plymouth Partners, the experience invites visitors of all ages to explore six interactive worlds shaped by the latest in light, sound, and technology. Tickets from \$10 + booking fees at www.darklight.co.



***Fringe Taranaki* | 4-15 November 2026**

A brand-new Taranaki arts festival with bold ideas, fearless creativity... and the unexpected. From comedy and live music to theatre, cabaret, dance and circus, with the Evolution Dome at the centre of the action.

Website: www.fringetaranaki.co.nz

Gover Street Gallery – Spring News

Gover St Gallery is community-driven with artists' studios, monthly exhibitions and engaging workshops and events.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Exhibitions: Mark Dyer, Paul Hutchinson, Cameron Craven, Craig Finey, Franquoi, Sylvan O'Riley, Stephen Lyttelton, NP Potters

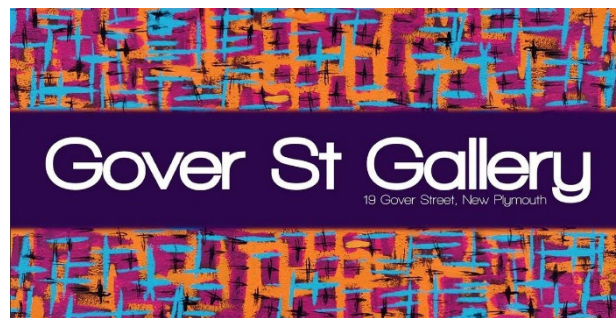
Event: NPGHS Exhibition Opening: 4.30pm 2 September 2026

Sunday Studio: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm 6 September - Back to Basics

Drawing with Brenda Cash

Closed: 21 – 25 September 2026

The Big Exhibition 2026: 26 September - 28 November 2026 | Opening Event: 6.00 pm Friday 25 September.



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday Studio: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm 4 October 2026 - Lettering with Brenda Cash

Taranaki Festivals: 10.00 am – 5.00pm 30 October – 8 November 2026: Eight artists in one location at Gover St Gallery: Brenda Cash, Heidi Griffin, Rebecca Beyer, Robyn Jacob, Mikaela Nyman, Becky Dawson, Holly Smith and David Rogers. Come and meet them for a chat about their work, process and inspirations.

Sunday Studio: 10.00am – 3.00 pm 15 November 2026.

Sketching Day at Stanleigh Gardens with Brenda Cash and Heidi Griffin. Materials, transport, lunch, afternoon tea and creative guidance are all included in an inspiring setting. \$120 per person. Contact gallery to register.

Open every Sunday until Christmas, 12 noon - 4.00pm, from 22 November 2026.

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

Open: Monday – Saturday 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. Closed Labour Day.

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



The Big Idea

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

Website: www.thebigidea.nz

Arts Makers / Kahui Ringatoi Aotearoa (AMA)

Arts Makers Aotearoa believes in the power of arts, culture and creativity to enrich the lives of all New Zealanders. AMA aims to raise the standard of support for visual artists and the arts sector as a whole, with art makers shaping the policies that directly affect arts communities, work and wellbeing. The website is a collaborative project incorporating support and resources for the artistic community. Since 2020, AMA has become an established advocacy network, identifying the need for a diverse collective of makers to self-organise and create initiatives that can sustain it's members. They believe that working together is the surest path to meaningful change and radical imaginaries.



Website: artsmakersaotearoa

Coastal Arts Trail - Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatu - WEBSITE

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 Summer – Dec 2026 & Jan/Feb 2027 to:
Michaela Stoneman, Arts Co-ordinator: michaela.stoneman@stdc.govt.nz



Send information by: **Wednesday 18 November 2026**

Publish date: **Tuesday 1 December 2026**

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