



Annual Report

1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

I am delighted to present on behalf of the Committee the Annual Report of Mangawhai Artists Incorporated for the year ended 31/3/22.

It was with great sadness that we learnt through the year of the deaths of two of our MAI members during the year. Gordon McGibbon and Goodie Grotzky. We miss Gordon's cheeky Scottish humour and Goodie's cheerful smile greatly. We extend our sympathy and condolences to their families.

We also extend our sympathy and love to members who have lost family and friends in the last year.

Membership

Full members	183 (2021: 182)
FOMA	37

Gallery

2021/2022 has been a busy exhibition season in spite of Covid constraints. **Chris den Hartogh** led the Gallery role for most of the year. She collated an exciting exhibition season, after managing the huge job of calling for expressions of interest and then matching and putting together the exhibition programme. She then needed to juggle exhibitions as covid interfered with the exhibition season. Chris also organised the Easter and Christmas members exhibitions through the year.

Chris liaised with artists ensuring they were aware of their responsibilities as exhibiting artists – and prompting them in the run up to their exhibition and ensuring all went smoothly.

Exhibitions

Although affected by the Covid-19 pandemic with lockdowns and grappling with traffic light settings, not to mention roadworks in and around the village including immediately outside the Gallery, the 2021/2022 year was a busy one. The Gallery hosted 22 exhibitions through the year, compared to 17 in 2020/2021, starting with the Members' Easter exhibition in 2021. Visitor numbers dropped slightly on the previous year from 8581 to 8288 with roadworks and Covid having an impact. There were two Members' exhibitions, with the August Members' exhibition cancelled due to Covid.

In addition to individual, duo and group artists exhibitions we also hosted the Small Prints exhibition from the Print Council of NZ. We also had held an exhibition of Lynn Middleton's work.

Exhibition support

While individual artists are responsible for running their exhibitions the Gallery offers support through the goodwill of other member artists.

I acknowledge our talented curators – **Nicola Everett, Elena Nikolaeva, Rebecca Barclay-Clist** – who are willing to curate or give guidance to exhibitors as well as curating our member exhibitions and the Kaipara Art Awards.

The lighting team – **Howard Esler and Pauline Mann** – are an essential part of a good exhibition. Our lights are expensive – and we appreciate Howard and Pauline taking responsibility for lighting of exhibitions.

I also acknowledge those members who put up their hand to help with the hanging of Members' exhibitions and also help with the roster from time to time.

Although not technically in the last financial year, I must mention the great team effort (led by Howard) in pulling together the Spontaneous 3D exhibition. This was as the name suggests a spontaneous exhibition produced in the space of 10 days to fill a gap in the exhibition schedule. This was an example of all hands to the pump producing a wonderful result.

Communications and Media

Through the year we have received tremendous support from both the Mangawhai Focus and the Weekend Lifestyler – as well as the Junction. We prepare media releases for each of the exhibitions and other activities such as Art Trail and workshops and receive excellent coverage raising the profile of our member artists and the Gallery and Workspace.

Social media is increasingly an important means of communication. I acknowledge the work that **Wendy Leach** does in ensuring MAI has a strong social media presence.

The website is also an essential communication tool kept up to date by **Clare Wells**, with back up from Wendy.

Our periodic mailchimp/e-newsletter is also an important way of communicating with members. With a new exhibition each fortnight there is always something new to share.

Art Trail

The 2022 Art Trail was again held over the last weekend in February, an initiative started in 2021. With 19 sites and 39 participants it was well supported by the public and is now established as an end of February event.

Art on display at KDC offices

We continue to exhibit members' art at the KDC offices with three profiles in the last year (Jeanette Vickers, Angela Hockenhull, and artists from the Kaipara Art Awards (Deb Hunter Whitlock, Pip Murray-Aynsley and Zivana Pauling)).

Kaipara Art Awards

After a break in 2020 the Kaipara Art Awards returned – this time organised by Dargaville Arts Association – with 39 entries with 30 from Mangawhai.

Congratulations to award recipients Deb Hunter Whitlock (1st, 2D Painting); Geoff Ruthe (Judge's Award); Philippa Murray-Aynsley (2nd 2D painting), Janel Colle (3rd 2D Painting), Sarah C (2nd 2D other); Shann Whitaker (3rd 2D other); Aaron McConchie (1st 3D); John Ecuyer (2nd 3D) and Trista Ecuyer (Emerging Artist).

Thank you to John Pickworth, from Dargaville Arts Association, for organising and Kenneth Adams for judging the Awards. Unfortunately, Covid meant it wasn't possible to hold an opening ceremony in Dargaville, but we were lucky to host a closing ceremony at Mangawhai.

Learning Opportunities

Chris Cowley-Thomson and Marion Bilton took up the Learning Coordinators roles with huge enthusiasm. Unfortunately, Covid stood in the way of most of their ideas for a comprehensive workshop programme. However, in the last few months with the lifting of restrictions they have hit the road running. Although technically in the new financial year I am including these in the report as both Chris and Marion are standing down at this AGM.

Give it a go project

With funding from Creative Communities Scheme Marion and Chris organised the Give It a Go project – the objective was to engage with the community and create a platform for new tutors. Both of these objectives were successfully achieved. The classes included cardmaking using quilling, abstract, drawing and printmaking. The final class was followed by a drinks and nibbles event to celebrate the success of the workshops and an opportunity for participants and tutors to mix and mingle. Feedback from participants clearly indicates a demand for more classes across a variety of art forms from textiles to ceramics.

The long-term aim was to see the project become an annual event and to inspire new tutors. That mantle is passed onto the incoming committee.

Mangawhai Beach School initiative

The objective of the school programme was to engage with school children and exhibitors. An additional aim was to get more foot traffic through the gallery by displaying children's work in the workspace encouraging Mum, Dad and family to come and visit. A trial was run during the last exhibition with a group of 27 students aged 9 accompanied by a teacher and mother helpers attending the Gallery. Edie Chappell was the exhibiting artist and she talked to half the children in the gallery while the other half worked on creating work in the workspace. Half-way through the children swapped groups. The school is very keen for more involvement with the Gallery. Following the trial exhibitors in the new season will be approached to see who is interested in taking part.

Workshops and classes coming up

Several classes are now in the pipeline and the workshop programme for the year ahead is off to a positive start.

Administration and Committee work

The committee met monthly, including by zoom through lockdown periods. Email addresses were updated to be generic, ending in Mangawhaiartists.co.nz, to align with the website.

Clare Wells as secretary ensured agendas and minutes promptly circulated, as well as preparing run sheets and supporting documentation to ensure we worked efficiently. Clare also effectively acts as Deputy Chair, and I have relied on her a lot for support and guidance. Thank you, Clare, for always being there with a cool head and good sense!

Pip Murray-Aynsley is a willing and enthusiastic committee member supporting all committee and gallery activities. She is a willing pair of hands as well as offering sage advice around the committee table.

Finance: Raewyn keeps the books in order. To say she is a bookkeeper is to understate the role. She is an accountant extraordinaire. We receive comprehensive finance reports at each committee meeting enabling us to understand our financial position. She also maintains our membership records, managing the invoicing and receipting process ensuring membership renewals are processed on a timely basis. She manages the huge task of artists payments ensuring they are paid promptly and eftpos transactions are reconciled. It's a big job requiring daily engagement. Thank you.

I also acknowledge and thank John Webby who provides an independent review of our financial statements. Independent review is an important process to give confidence that the accounts give true and fair view of the organisation's financial position.

Gallery/Workspace Property and Maintenance

Early in the year the external storage room behind the workspace was completed providing additional storage space.

We took advantage of down time to complete maintenance in the gallery and workspace. **Chris Cowley-Thomson** led the work to paint the Workspace floor grey and the gritting and painting of the Gallery. In addition, **Howard Esler** led the work on repainting the Gallery walls in between exhibitions, with help from **Ian McGowan**.

Howard is our Mr Fixit man – and is always at the ready to help out when required. The display box next to the gallery entrance is all the better for his handiwork – as well as the hoggin path between the Gallery and the Library. Thank you, Howard!

Workspace

Ann Connew took on the role of Workspace Coordinator. This involved not only managing bookings but also ensuring the workspace was well maintained and ready for its next hirer. Avoiding clashes and managing rescheduling of bookings due to Covid disruptions has meant this is a constant role.

As part of managing the Workspace a commercial cleaner has been contracted to clean the bathroom, kitchen and floors in the Gallery and Workspace on a weekly basis.

Community Art Centre

At the last AGM the Committee was charged with continuing to explore the concept of a purpose-built Community Art Centre in the Mangawhai Community Park.

While we have continued our participation at the Friends of Community Park, there has been no significant progress on the development of the Community Art Centre. Last month, in May, the Museum signed a licence to occupy for their site releasing the area that has been identified for an art space in the Mangawhai Community Park. This enables MAI to negotiate a Development Agreement with KDC to develop the space.

The museum agreement sets out timelines require MAI to sign a development agreement within 2 years and to commence development within 5 years.

As discussed at the last AGM further work is required to progress the CAC. This includes seeking membership approval of the concept for design; negotiation of a development agreement, completion of a feasibility study and presenting a business case and project plan to members for their approval.

This will be a major piece of work in the coming year requiring a significant commitment from a small team drawn from the committee and the wider membership. We will be looking for active participation and involvement from outside the committee. We will be calling for expressions of interest in the next month. It will be important to have the right skills and experience on the team to get this right.

I acknowledge Grant Mitchell who has been our representative at the Friends of the Community Park since its inception. Together with Mary-Anne Boyd, Grant has ensured that MAI has a place in the Mangawhai Community Park. Grant resigned as our representative in February but continues to be available to support and guide us. Thank you.

COVID-19

It's stating the obvious to acknowledge the disruption caused by COVID-19. The Committee has grappled with keeping the gallery and workspace open while working within the constraints of public health advice. The introduction of the traffic light system late last year and the rules relating to vaccine passes, masks and other public health measures was challenging for the Committee. We spent a lot of time reviewing the government guidelines and did our best to navigate our way through the constantly changing guidance and to do what was right. No decisions were taken lightly. We did what we thought was right and lawful. We know that our decision to require vaccine passes to access the gallery and workspace during the red setting was not agreed with by some and caused some discontent and stress amongst some members. We are sorry for this.

Retirements and resignations and co-options

It was with regret that we received the resignation of **Deb Hunter-Whitlock**, due to family commitments, from the committee at the end of July last year. Deb, we enjoyed and appreciated your contribution in that first month – and look forward to drawing on your skills and experience sometime in the future when the time is right.

Chris den Hartogh has been the Gallery coordinator for several years. She has streamlined procedures, sorted out the exhibition programme, run the gallery, led the Art Trail and overseen the upgrading the development of the Gallery. Chris left the Committee in early January and has left huge boots to fill. Chris, thank you for your huge contribution during your time on the committee.

Marion Bilton and Chris Cowley-Thomson – although two individuals – are also very much a team – the dream team, bringing high levels of enthusiasm and energy to the committee – always accompanied by follow through! Together they have put in place important building blocks for workshops and community engagement going forward. Thank you for your energy and commitment.

In March **Shann Whitaker** was co-opted to the committee. Shann is passionate about art and the benefits of creativity to the community, reflected in his initiative to establish the Mangawhai Creatives facebook page. He brings new ideas and is always looking for new ways to innovate and add value.

Our patrons

One of the constants through the year – through challenging times and good times – has been the guidance, wisdom and steady hand of our patrons Malcolm and Jo Roberts.

Malcolm has been involved right from the early days, as an enthusiastic supporter, artist, exhibitor, and chairperson. He has overseen the growth and development of the vibrant art community that is Mangawhai Artists – as well as the Gallery and Workspace. Jo has equally been at Malcolm's righthand side, and we were pleased to welcome Jo as a patron in recent years.

Together their guidance and support has been a huge strength to the organisation. It is with sadness but with much appreciation that we accept that it is time for them to stand down as Patrons. Thank you both for your support. You leave big shoes to fill – and we'll be taking time before we do.

Conclusion

The 2021/2022 year has been one marked by extraordinary solo, duo and group exhibitions, engagement with member artists through members exhibitions and the Art Trail and Kaipara Art Awards, the continued development of the Gallery and Workspace and the reputation of Mangawhai Artists and the introduction of new initiatives in the learning space.

I extend my heartfelt thanks not only to each and every member of the Committee but also to all members of MAI for their support of the organisation over the last year. An organisation is only as strong as its members. It's uplifting to see the number of artists who participate in our members' exhibitions, who sign up for their own exhibitions, who take classes and take part in them, and who are prepared to help when the call goes out to help with hanging an exhibition, the roster or other tasks.

Our challenge for the new year is to continue to build on that solid foundation.

Belinda Vernon

Chair, 2021-2022

On behalf of the Committee 2021/2022:

Belinda Vernon, Clare Wells, Raewyn Vague, Ann Connew, Philippa Murray-Aynsley, Howard Esler, Marion Bilton, Chris Cowley-Thomson, Shann Whitaker