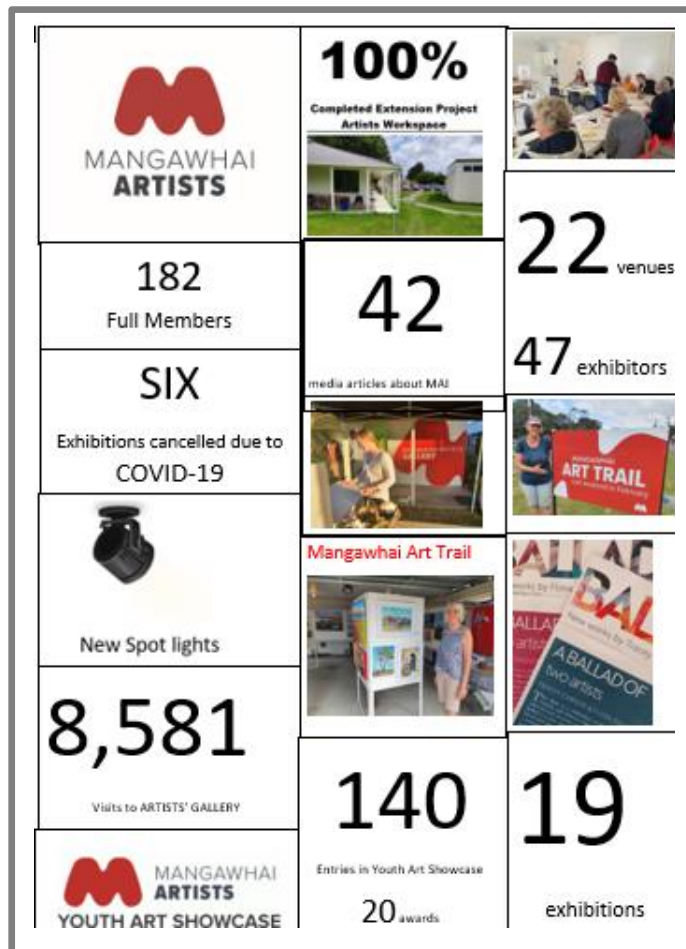


Nurturing and celebrating creativity and community well-being through art



Tēnā koutou,

We remember and acknowledge those who have gone before us, celebrate what we have learned and enjoyed over the last year, and plan and prepare for the year head looking further out to the future.

I am pleased to present our annual report on the **performance and highlights** of Mangawhai Artists Inc (MAI) during the **1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021** financial year. We are grateful to our patrons Malcolm and Joanna Roberts for their proactive support over the year. The Committee represents the membership and takes responsibility for governance, and as a small volunteer organisation, Committee members all also actively support the day-to-day activities of Mangawhai Artists.

MAI is reliant on all members actively engaging with the Gallery, learning opportunities, building maintenance and Art Trail. It's a good thing to give time to and as a Committee, we are grateful for help – thank you! We emphasize that active volunteering is essential to the success of Mangawhai Artists.

It has been an extraordinary year. COVID-19 brought uncertainty and change. Your Committee remained committed to our **mission: nurturing and celebrating creativity and community wellbeing through art**, and focused on our three priority areas

- Creating an enduring presence and legacy in Mangawhai
- Being inspiring at all times (collaborations, community projects, learning opportunities, etc)
- Promoting all artists



Our mission remained highly relevant in this public health crisis. Many people found creative expression a buffer against the adverse consequences of the lockdown and pandemic. Creativity was one of the ways people made sense of the COVID-19 restrictions as they created meaning and found value and joy in a simpler everyday life. Art-making for people was joyful, distracting, stimulating and a point of connection. It was playful when children and adults dressed up to take rubbish to the gate and neighbours in some places sang together or met in a socially distanced context at a farm gate or street corner.



During the major lockdown, one of our experienced tutors offered a free on-line learning opportunity for members in the spirit of **#BeKind**. Another took a key role as Whaea Bec, the art teacher on national TV School each day during lockdown. They affirm the talent and adaptability of our members!

Several Committee meetings were on Zoom. The lockdown forced closure of Mangawhai Artists' Gallery for a period, with cancellation of exhibitions, learning opportunities and Mangawhai Art Trail. We began the year concerned about covering costs of rent, utilities and maintenance at a time when all our resources have been applied to increasing the functionality of a community-owned building. With membership subscriptions due, we were concerned about financial pressure on our members and hope our membership stays much the same. We also recognised the financial impact on sponsors and are extremely grateful for support.

The Blessing of the new extension and a plaque honouring Lynn Middleton were core to the celebration and **opening of the Artists' Workspace** with our **Te Uri o Hau Kaumatua, Ben Hita**. **Mayor Dr Jason Smith** spoke and *Totally Uked* sang joyfully. The on-line MAI Youth Art Showcase awards for each age category were presented by **Annie Ackerman, CEO of The BIG Idea** and **Hinurewa te Hau, General manager of Creative Northland**.



the doorway between the Gallery and Artists' Workspace was cut through. Every month we summarised progress on the Workspace. September 2020 a new power connection and switchboard. October saw the Health and Safety fit-out for

whole building with updated incident report forms, kind donations from a member of a First Aid Box, wet floor signs, spill kit and fire extinguisher. Emergency lighting was tested. Sinks suited to children and adults were kindly donated. The total expenditure to create the Artists Workspace was \$175,000 plus thousands of donated hours and goodwill.

The result is a safe, useful and well-insulated community facility. **Thank you to everyone for all the passion, work and resources that went into achieving the Artists' Workspace!** Grant Mitchell resigned from the Committee following the final Council compliance sign-off, as he had planned, and we thanked him for his wonderful contribution, particularly the time and effort he gave as project co-ordinator for the development of the Workspace. We also much appreciated **Raewyn Vague's** wonderful contribution. Payments were a significant element of the workload we took as a Committee. Raewyn is a caring, responsible, dedicated and effective treasurer, and we are so grateful for her willingness to continue in this role. Raewyn also coordinated learning opportunities and herself offered successful children's classes!



It is wonderful to have a clear indication of the pleasure, social connections and stimulating learning The Artists' Workspace will enable over coming decades! Acknowledgement of the many contributors is a permanent reminder on the interior walls, and a special plaque on the exterior is dedicated to the memory of previous deputy chair Lynn Middleton and the contribution she made. As he had planned, Grant Mitchell resigned from the Committee at the project closure.

Health and safety was a significant focus through the year – very important for all organisations at any time, and ofcourse with a construction site. COVID-19 added requirements for signs, protocols and on-going care and caution.

Raewyn Vague as treasurer undertook a major task migrating the financial system to Xero, for better tracking of revenue and expenditure. All NGOs and charitable organisations require effective governance for sustainability, and we are very grateful to Raewyn, Belinda Vernon, deputy chair and Clare Wells, secretary for their time and dedication to effective governance and enabling Mangawhai Artists to be inspiring and empowering.

We are grateful to John Webby for reviewing the accounts which confirm a positive financial situation, with sponsorship, membership subscriptions and careful management.

Grace Cheng has helped Mangawhai Artists access NGO software, and in particular has identified and tracked potential sources of funding with dates and requirements using IT support Fluxx. This sets MAI up well for the future. She has gained useful insights into exhibitions and encouraged others, and we thank for her contributions as a Committee member.

We are very grateful to Mangawhai Central as our major sponsor for the year, and this enabled completion of the Artists Workspace, People's choice awards at the celebratory Members' Exhibition after the lockdowns. The unanticipated requirement to add a new power board as well as wiring for the Gallery extension and completion of the Artists Workspace would otherwise not have been possible.

With the support of Mangawhai Central and The French Art Shop, innovations within MAI included an **on-line Youth Art Showcase**. This attracted over 130 entries at an uncertain time with COVID-19. The award packs of quality art materials from **The French Art Shop** are now spread around our communities and inspiring young people to explore and develop their art.



Committee first meets in new workspace!



Being inspiring at all times

The new logo, inspired by the coastal shoreline of Mangawhai, has become well recognised on the Gallery exterior, our website and in print and social media. The now-familiar red is the primary MAI colour for artists, the Gallery and Mangawhai Art Trail, and green for Friends of Mangawhai Artists (FOMA). Katherine Habershon designed the logo and MAI will continue its innovative use strengthening Mangawhai as a creative destination and art-making place for artists, tourists, students and surrounding communities.

We are pleased to have worked with **Te Uri o Hau** and Kaumatua Ben Hita, initially setting the stage for the construction, and later blessing its future use and users. He is a key member of the Taumata Kaunihera (elders' council) which promotes awareness of Te Uri o Hau and is responsible for communication with other organisations.

For the long-term future of Mangawhai Artists Inc and the proposed purpose-built Community Art Centre in Mangawhai Community Park a relationship with the local hapu is important. It is fundamental to our community's development and to interest on the part of any significant funders. We are collaborating on a Te Reo (Maori) title as a feasibility study for the proposed Mangawhai Community Art Centre evolves. Although no longer on the Committee for regular meetings, Grant Mitchell continues his commitment to ensuring this opportunity stays alive.

Chris den Hartogh has worked hard to finalise and adjust the **Gallery exhibition programme** in a challenging year, and we are so delighted with the programme and the quality of exhibitions. Information for exhibitors is always being updated, and she has streamlined this. When artists read and follow the instructions it makes life easier for everyone. While Gallery reports have noted a decline in visitor numbers due to the Saturday market now being held at Mangawhai Beach School, the level of interest remains high and smaller groups of visitors have stayed longer and enjoyed talking with artists. **The Gallery hosted 8,581 visits this year.**

Some members have helped greatly with **hanging, lighting, hosting and promoting** exhibitions. We are grateful to **Jon Clist, Howard Esler** and others.

Especially we thank too **Elena Nikolaeva, Nicola Everett** and others who have provided the very important **curation** role. This is just as important as the work being exhibited.



The **Mangawhai Art Trail** in the last weekend of February 2021 was a huge success in terms of visitor feedback, sales and a feeling of enthusiasm and vibrance reflective of the awesome creative community. It was a wonderful destination for visitors and a delightful way for artist to visit others' studios. Special thanks to Wendy Leach for intensive website support in a short timeframe and to Chris den Hartogh for a huge amount of work organising the Art Trail event with 22 venues and 47 exhibitors. One or two exhibitors just over the border with Auckland were excluded for the second day due to an Auckland-wide COVID-19 lockdown.

Inspiring learning opportunities have been offered by several tutors during the year, and these have been greatly appreciated by participants. Comments have included...

"A supportive and encouraging learning environment"

"Very informative, friendly and supportive. The tutor was clear and concise in her instruction giving you confidence to move onto the next level. It is always a positive vibe to be with like-minded people learning new skills and techniques together and having fun along the way"

"Excellent tuition - never overpowering - always positive, knowledgeable and encouraging - allowed us the freedom to explore our own individual styles"

I have never drawn or had an art class in my life before, so I was a little nervous wondering what I had let myself in for. I am delighted with the results from that course, and really pleased with the progress I have made. The course structure was gauged perfectly for the skills of the class and as we progressed through the 6 weeks, our capabilities and confidence grew with each weeks tuition. The subject matter and tasks were well thought out, teaching style. Effective and homework a pleasure !!!

"Classes at Mangawhai Artists have opened up a whole new world for me! I have just finished Elenas acrylic painting class, signed up for another one and another course with Wendy"



Community engagement and collaboration has included **school holiday art classes for children and young people**; planning for a combined sculpture exhibition in 2022 with Te Whai Community Trust and supporting Mangawhai Business Association and Kaipara District Council in their innovating streets project.

Rosina Kamphuis and Nicola Everett have led an impressive rolling **art showcase** in the Mangawhai office of **Kaipara District Council**.

Promoting all artists

The Gallery promotes our artists through **exhibitions, shows** and sales support and is a catalyst for art-making innovation. Visitors are stimulated and inspired, and the Gallery makes art accessible to audiences of all ages. It is a place for art, community connections and enriching dialogue about creativity and the ways people share ideas, experiences and hopes through their art.

Social and print **media** advertising, using the EFTPOS facility and being able to exhibit without a commission make Mangawhai Artists' Gallery a special place to exhibit. During the year we had a total **169 members** comprising 156 full members, 11 star members, 2 life members - and 34 FOMA.

There were **17 exhibitions** (six cancelled due to COVID) and **two All-Members' exhibitions**. During the year there were **8,581 visits to the Gallery**.

Gallery running includes insurance for the building (\$2,554.06), consistent updating of COVID requirements, minor repairs and adjustments, streamlining the storeroom, construction and use of a store space for plinths. It relies on occasional working bees and all users contributing to its cleanliness and smooth running.

Communication through a range of media and relationships with other organisations and the community are core activities for the MAI Committee. Wendy Leach has taken the major responsibility for the website and social media for the last four years. She has assisted people with Artist Profiles, kept everything up-to-date and taken a professional and responsible approach even when far away on holiday! We are deeply grateful for the major contribution she has made and were saddened by her resignation during the year – and grateful for her continuing role as a highly-regarded tutor and active member.

Christine Basham as on the Committee for two periods during the year. We appreciated her enthusiasm, ideas and work and wished her well on her resignation.

Looking back on such a challenging year, we can be confident MAI is well positioned for the future. We are fortunate to have an excellent line-up of nominees for the Committee to form a cohesive and capable group to deliver on the vision support artists, Friends, visitors and volunteers. Our processes and operating systems are becoming more resilient, and the new Workspace has added a new element to these.

I have been on the Committee for six years, and I am particularly grateful after four years as chair to have worked with such a talented Committee and to be handing over to **Belinda Vernon** as chair, **Clare Wells** as secretary and to a new Committee. **Belinda and Clare are both experienced in governance; inspiring, committed, capable and wonderful to work with.** I look forward to being involved in some way and wish members and the new Committee well, as Mangawhai Artists continues to show it can be best in class as a small charitable entity with a big heart and an important role nurturing creativity, promoting art and artists and contributing to wellbeing in this community.



Mary-Anne

Mary-Anne Boyd, Chair