

TAGT Chair's Report - 2016/17 Financial Year

2016-2017 was an excellent year for the Tauranga Art Gallery as it achieved significant milestones and success including:

- The greatest ever number of visitors in any one year since the gallery opened 10 years ago. A total of 86,610 people enjoying our exhibitions and various art initiatives (compared to 54,101 in 2015/16 and our 2016/17 SOI target of 65,000)
- The highest number of young people to have ever participated in gallery art education programmes – Learning Experiences Outside of the Classroom – with 10,949 participants (compared to our 2016/17 SOI target of 6,000)
- A wide diversity of historical, contemporary and cultural art experiences and activities, with participation by and engagement with outstanding local, national and international artists
- In April 2017, the Tauranga Art Gallery was named one of the top seven art galleries in New Zealand by Culture Trip, an international travel and lifestyle website that attracts more than five million readers per month
- Visitors and users across our digital platforms in 2016/17 increased to 43,333 (compared to 21,542 in 2015/16)
- Provided new opportunities for and initiated art experiences that took art to the people beyond the gallery walls
- Improved organisational capability and cost management contributed to a turnaround and improvement in operating performance by over \$200,000

The Trust Board, the Gallery Director and his staff have work hard and collaboratively to explore ways to build capability for the future and achieve the Tauranga Art Gallery's purpose and aspirations.



Our Purpose is unequivocal; to create exceptional art experiences that engage, inspire, challenge and educate and which are delivered in ways that support and endorse our aspirations.

The success and interest of Paradox Inside (held at the gallery), was such that there were days when people joined long queues to enter the exhibition. Additional staff and volunteers had to be rostered to manage the crowds. It was estimated that over the duration of the event (28 March to 15 June 2017), 49,180 people visited Paradox Inside. Paradox Outside and other activities were also well attended. An in-exhibition survey of 3,118 people revealed that 52% of Paradox attendees lived in Tauranga City and the remaining 48% were visitors. It was assessed that 25,440 Tauranga residents attended Paradox, as well as 23,740 visitors. Of the 23,740 visitors who attended Paradox, 10,170 were attracted to Tauranga by the Paradox event, resulting in a net inflow of cash into the Tauranga economy of \$1.2million, excluding GST. As noted in survey responses, Paradox also delivered very positive social outcomes for both residents and visitors.

Some of the other highlight exhibitions over the reporting period include projects that have specifically focussed on creating links with local individuals, communities and organisations. The exhibition *Koula: The Niki & Theo Vellinga Collection* featured the significant private collections of a local couple with many of the over 70 works on display from artists local to Tauranga and the wider Bay of Plenty. The financial year also included the ever popular Miles Art Awards with an increased number of entries from Bay of Plenty artists and a larger prize pool than previous years.

As part of our collaboration with the Tauranga Garden & Arts Festival the gallery featured two projects. The exhibition *Grafted: Paintings of Contemporary Polynesian Gardens by Barry Dabb* featured over 25 years of botanical works by this locally significant artist and on the lawn of Baycourt Theatre was *The Apron: A Garden Project* by Richard Orjis which featured a wildflower garden.

The gallery extended its reach nationally through the initiation of two touring exhibitions. *Whenua Hou: New Maori Ceramics* was a co-curated project with Objectspace in Auckland. The exhibition featured the work of eight Maori artists from throughout Aotearoa and Australia who work with uku (clay). Opening at Tauranga Art Gallery the exhibition travelled to Whangarei Art Museum and Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui during the financial year and will travel to three further venues before completing its tour at Objectspace in Auckland in mid 2018. Another exhibition *Barnacles*, a series of commissioned works by contemporary photographer Yvonne Todd also toured to RAMP Gallery, Hamilton and Papakura Gallery, Auckland.

Continuing our focus on increasing diversity within our programme, the gallery hosted the Medicine Buddha Mandala in collaboration with the Tho Sam Dhargyey Ling Centre of Contemplative Learning. This intricately constructed sand mandala created over a week proved incredibly popular with audiences with large groups travelling from Buddhist centres around the Bay of Plenty including interested local individuals.

Our staff have also worked closely with the Friends of Tauranga Art Gallery to offer added value to help grow and diversify the Friends membership which has increased by over 16% during the financial year at a time when Friends groups nationally are reporting decreasing numbers.

As the figures mentioned above suggest, the gallery's Learning and Engagement numbers have increased with bookings reaching capacity up to 4 months in advance, requiring staff to consider innovative approaches to facilitating educational experiences. This is testament to both the quality and relevancy that local and Bay of Plenty schools and other demographic groups are seeing in the programmes we offer.

Celebration

2017 marks the Tauranga Art Gallery's 10th Anniversary, having opened in October 2007. We have endeavoured to make this calendar year a unique opportunity to both celebrate and look at the future direction of the gallery. The anniversary started with a launch function attended by nearly 200 invited guests in March, and will continue through to the official birthday event in October 2017. This occasion has allowed the gallery to work closely with local businesses and individual philanthropists who have generously supported the anniversary activities including our presentation partner, Cooney Lees Morgan.

Governance

Following the resignation of one Trustee who relocated to Auckland for business reasons in August 2016, for most of the year in review, the Trust Board had 6 members. In April 2017 Sonya Korohina resigned from the Trust after four years as a Board Member and having been Deputy Chair since May 2015. Two new trustees (Tina Harris- Ririnui and Mark Wassung) joined the Board on 1 May 2017. The Trust operates a committee structure with defined Terms of Reference to share governance responsibilities and trustee focus for:

- Risk, Finance & Administration
- Art Experiences & Curatorial Services
- Stakeholder Relations

Financial

The 2016/2017 financial result was very satisfactory. The 2015/16 deficit of \$209,397 was reversed significantly and resulted in an actual operating deficit of just \$5,677, compared with a budgeted operating deficit of \$82,608. While there were increases in visitor numbers and in sponsorship, grants and donations, stringent focus on and excellent cost management, played a large part in the improved result. The 2017/2018 financial result will be largely dependent on the success of fundraising activities and the Board has

initiated strategies and plans to meet those challenges. The gallery is on target to produce a small surplus for the 2018/2019 year. The Trust's total equity as at 30 June 2017 was \$10,598,527.00.

Tauranga Art Gallery Foundation

In 2014 Tauranga City Council passed a resolution approving the establishment of a fundraising foundation to support the Gallery. It has taken considerably longer than envisaged for the independent group of volunteers to recruit suitable Foundation trustees. However, that has now been achieved and the new entity will launch in the coming months.

Thanks

Special thanks to our gallery Director Karl Chitham and all gallery staff who are committed to delivering great art and visitor experiences for the interest and enjoyment of our community and visitors to the region.

Thanks also to my fellow volunteer trustees for all their contributions and efforts during the 2016/2017 year. The Friends of the Gallery are keen supporters and volunteers. Their help, financial contributions and particularly their involvement and support at all gallery activities and functions is most sincerely appreciated.

The Trust greatly appreciates the continued support from its various funders, exhibition sponsors and supporters including our artists. Your support means the gallery team can continue to reach out and engage with our different communities and share with them the wonders of the creative world.

Peter Anderson

Chairman, Tauranga Art Gallery Trust