

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Tauranga Art Gallery Trust
30 June 2020

The past business year, 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 has been a year of two very different half's for the Tauranga Art Gallery. For the 6 months ending 31 December 2019 the gallery posted a surplus of \$69,969 compared to budgeted deficit of \$-77,451; an exceptional fiscal turnaround. Then, Covid 19 brought gallery operations to a close on 23 March 2020, however for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2020 the gallery posted a surplus of \$72,415 compared to budgeted deficit of \$-75,096.

The contributors to that positive result were;

- Changes in the strategy for both donations from international visitors and retail sales
- Opportunities that arose to obtain touring income
- Some increases in donations and sponsorships
- A change in strategy for events held at the gallery; with reservations being restricted to corporate events and openings focusing on the art. This reduced costs and contributed to the drop in operational and employee costs
- One off reductions in expenses in marketing and insurance

Some unique art experiences in the first half of the business year in review included Tauranga Art Gallery's 2019 Matariki celebrations for Maori New Year. The three exhibitions, and an art education programme, were *Mātiro: A survey of photography* by Kapua Joy Bennett, *Hā: Lewis Tamihana Gardiner*, *BLOOD WATER EARTH: Louise Potiki Bryant and Santee Smith*.

In July, Tauranga Art Gallery was the first New Zealand venue to present *Terminus* by Jess Johnson & Simon Ward. With their pioneering use of virtual reality, the international artists created a mysterious universe of alien architecture populated by humanoid clones and cryptic symbols. This interactive show was hugely popular with the public - drawing in over 22,000 visitors, attracting national media outlets coverage in both print and television.

Following this local artists were represented in three major shows, Kelcy Taratoa's *Te Kore, Te Wiwia! The Space without boundaries* on the 7 metre high atrium walls, *Te Rangi Haupapa - A woven history*, *WHO AM I? EPISODE 001* by Kelcy Taratoa and *Home* from Papamoa artist Mr G (Graeme Hoete).

Visitations over that period attracted 52,895 persons (88% of the full year target of 60,000 for the year ending 30 June 2020). Students and adults attending gallery art education programmes totalled 8,913 participants - compared to a forecast full year target of 7,500.

The Board was confident that further fiscal improvement could be made and visitation targets could realistically be achieved by year end 30 June 2020.

Then, Covid 19 brought gallery operations to a close on 23 March 2020. Exhibitions such as *The 2020 Miles Art Awards Exhibition*, *Matatoki: Mata ā Waka*, *Lianne Edwards: Sentinels and Sea Change* already in situ, ceased to be available for public viewing. All art education and related programmes were cancelled.



The Tauranga CBD and the art gallery in particular, faced a serious decline in shoppers and visitors and donations from international and domestic visitors.

The Board's Risk Planning and Management Planning Programme ensured that art works of significant heritage or artistic value were removed from general exhibition spaces and that security and environmental protection methods were robust to protect all art works during the lock down. The need to keep the gallery closed until 20 May 2020 has had a significant impact on gallery operations. Plans to introduce new art exhibitions and educational programmes, both key features of gallery activities, were denied.

For example, in the 2018/2019 Tauranga Art Gallery, in partnership with Seeds Trust, launched the new bi-annual Rydal Art Prize. This is New Zealand's newest art award with a specific focus on a contribution to contemporary painting. The Rydal Art Prize awards an artist \$20,000 for a work or body of work deemed to be outstanding in the field of painting over the prior two-year period. As a non-acquisitive award it celebrates the role that painting continues to play within our now varied field of artistic practice in Aotearoa New Zealand. Recognising the contribution to current painting practice the winning artist Christina Pataialii had planned to present a new solo exhibition at the Gallery in early 2020. However, Covid 19 put stop to those plans and which would have been a key attractor in the latter part of the year under review. Several other artist activities including some potential engagement of overseas artists have had to be put on hold or cancelled. Existing exhibitions curated prior to lock down have had to be extended in duration.

One of the more positive activities from the gallery closure was the development of online art tutorials developed by education staff and made available via the gallery website.

We had a goal to produce 12 exhibitions over the 12 month period and notwithstanding the Covid 19 impacts, that gallery actually produced 16 exhibitions. We had a goal to undertake at least one exhibition which can tour to other galleries around the country. This year TAG partnered with Whakatane Museum, Whangarei Art Museum, Te Awamutu Museum, Franklin Arts Centre, Dowse Art Museum and Heide Museum, Melbourne with exhibitions *The 80s Show: Paintings from the Fletcher Trust Collection*, *Whatu Manawa: Celebrating the Weaving of Matekino Lawless* and *Terminus: Jess Johnson & Simon Ward* respectively with those galleries.

As noted below the fiscal situation for the full year ended 30 June 2020 is reflective of the challenges in governing the art gallery and the Board's determination manage all funds with prudence and care.



Financial and Governance

The Tauranga Art Gallery Trust owns the site, the gallery building, a collection of art works and other gallery assets. For the period under review the total revenue was \$1,469,991 (compared to \$1,539,874 last year). Expenses were \$1,392,062 (compared to \$2,094,416 in 2018/2019), resulting in a surplus for the year of \$67,932.

Other key numbers are:

- Assets: \$1,182,018
- Non Current Assets (property, plant and equipment) \$9,001,795
- Total Assets \$10,183,813
- Liabilities \$272,961
- Total assets less total liabilities (nett assets) \$9,910,851

The Tauranga Art Gallery Trust Board continues to draw on their collective commercial expertise and their knowledge and passion for the arts; to ensure our regional community and visitors can enjoy and become engaged with exceptional world class art experiences. The Board continues to investigate and determine its best strategic options to future proof the gallery so that long term fiscal and operational capability is assured. Financial sustainability remains a key focus of the Board.

I acknowledge the contributions made by Peter Anderson who served 7 years on the Board; one year as a trustee and 6 years as Board Chair; Judith Stanway 6 years on the Board, Chair of Risk Finance and Administration Committee and also Deputy Chair, and Mary Stewart 6 years as a trustee and more recently, Chair of Art Experiences and Curatorial Board Subcommittee; all three members having ended their tenure on 30 April 2020. I also acknowledge and welcome to the Board new trustees, Steven Farrant, Emma Gardiner and Rosemary Protheroe who took up their role from 1 May 2020. They join me and existing trustees, Rebecca Graham, Grant Neagle and Sylvia Willison on the Board.

Special thanks to our former Director Alice Hutchison and to all gallery staff who worked so professionally and diligently to deliver great art and visitor experiences throughout the year and to managing the challenges imposed by Covid 19 restrictions on gallery activities. Alice brought a greater level of internationalism as well as an increased focus to recognise, celebrate and share with our community the artistic talent of Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty artists who are internationally praised for their works. Alice left the gallery and Tauranga on 3 July 2020 to look after her aged mother and to be closer to her family in Auckland.

The Friends of the Gallery are enthusiastic and wonderful supporters and volunteers. Their help, financial contributions, involvement in and support of all Gallery activities and functions is most sincerely appreciated. The Trust Board is delighted to see established the independent Tauranga Art Gallery Foundation Trust which seeks collaboration with and contributions from individuals and businesses so the Foundation can support the Tauranga Art Gallery into the future.

The Trust greatly appreciates the continued support from its various funders, particularly the Tauranga City Council and the Western Bay of Plenty District Council, all our exhibition sponsors and supporters including our artists.

Without their support we could not have provided the wonderful exhibitions and programmes that were part of the year in review.

MARK WASSUNG
Trustee/Chair