

## The Annual Report of the South Taranaki Art Gallery and Exhibitions Incorporated. (STAGE Inc.)

1 April 2019 –15 July 2020

This Report covers the time from 1st April 2019 to 19 March 2020.

### **Committee and Patron**

The Annual General meeting of 2019 was faced with a dilemma with Lynne Walkers resignation and no nominations for Chairperson. So it was with much reluctance that I put my name forward to fill the gap as Acting Chairperson until such time a more suitable person could be found to fill the position. That person came forward eventually: Ella Borrows who already knew how the Gallery operated and was willing to put her name forward. Ella was voted as Chairperson March 2020. The members of the committee who took up positions were Margaret Springett Acting Chair, Helen Cook (Treasurer and Secretary) Gail Thompson (Exhibitions Curator) Joanna de Vegt (Newsletters and Facebook) Jennie Purdon (Hawera Art Club Rep) Liz Harrison (LWTAA Chairperson) Ashley Robinson (Social media) Nichola Chapple (Roster). Jan Dunlop remained as our Patron.

### **Exhibitions**

The Exhibition Curator Gail Thompson has provided a varied programme for the Gallery as well as giving space to our annual local art groups like the High School, Art Club, students from Creative Space, Michael Stoneman and a Maori exhibition. These exhibitions the committee aims to have every year fulfilling our role as a community Art Gallery. This leaves at least seven or more spaces to be filled by other artists and especially so when artists may pull out at the last minute or there is an epidemic to cope with.

Exhibitions for the other months came from the Maori Trust, Ian Axtell and Lester Earl, Henrietta Reason and Brenda Cash, Cath Sheard and Dimmie Dailewski, Dorothy Andrews with Jenny Belawski, a Collective of a number of people for December and Jenny Sosich with member's collection in our opening exhibition post COVID.

### **The Lysaght Trust Awards**

Due to the pandemic, the gallery looked to being closed for over two months therefore the 2020 Art Awards had to be cancelled which was a pity when so much work had already been done; we look forward to the event next year.

### **Garden Festival**

For the last five years Jan Dunlop has opened her garden and wool shed so the gallery could exhibit art work and be part of the Taranaki Garden Festival. Jan and her family put in an enormous amount of work over this time and for this commitment to the Lysaght Watt Gallery we are extremely grateful. Thank you Jan for all your support over those years and in the capacity as Patron you continue to support the Gallery. We are grateful to you.

### **Volunteers**

The gallery can only be open if we have volunteers to be there everyday and open the doors for visitors. This has been the case from the beginning. The number of people involved is huge and it has been said of all volunteers, much of what happens in South Taranaki would not happen if it were not for the volunteers. We thank them all.

Nichola Chapple volunteered to compile the sitter's roster for the gallery but recently had to give up for various reasons. A difficult task, Nichola but thanks for trying to make it work under difficulties; we hope you will be able to do more in the future. At the thank you BBQ for volunteers held at Margaret's place in early 2020, we were able to get to know some of the volunteers better as well as having an enjoyable time together.

### **Property**

The Gallery has been at 4-6 Union St for 15 years. During that time we have maintained what we can but it is disappointing that the maintenance by the owner continues to bug us and we continue to have floods in the kitchen and wet carpets in the Gallery. The heating is not the best as one of the wall mounted air con units has broken but if replaced would be expensive. Our thinking was that when we move it would be for other peoples benefit not the gallery. We may have to rethink this as it looks as if the proposed new Gallery is still a couple of years away. The lighting too is under review.

### **Te Ramanui**

We continue to look forward to Te Ramanui and there were a number of meetings last year with the Council in order to clarify some issues. We continue to wait.

### **Friends Membership**

This remains around 80 and hope in future this will increase.

### **Thanks**

Joanna de Vegt leaves us this year and we are sorry to lose her. She has fulfilled the role of Newsletter writer, Facebook keeper and Roster sitter. Thank you Joanna. With more time I hope it means more Art works.

Thank you to all the members of the committee, you have taken up your roles seriously and this enables the gallery to run smoothly and effectively.

Gail leaves her role but we hope not entirely. Gail became Curator really not knowing what was entailed and for this reason I thank her for what she has achieved over this year and hope she will remain on the Committee.

Thank you to Ella for taking up the leadership role. I am sure now the Gallery is in good hands. Thank you to Helen who held the fort last year and mostly this year while a bewildered Acting Chairperson sat in awe at what you do.

### **A Book**

Gifted to us by Diana MacDonald with newspaper cuttings tracing our history from inception. It's a wonderful record and we very grateful to you for recording those first years.

### **A Sad Day.**

To hear about the death of Bill Rumney was a shock. In the beginning in true Bill style he was in 'boots and all'. It was Bill who put the hanging system in and made the forms in the gallery amongst many other jobs that had to be done.

Bill was beginning to paint again and had some very lovely work in the Gallery. We give our deep sympathies to his wife Shirley and her family.

### **My thanks**

To everyone who makes it possible for this Art Gallery to takes its place in the life of South Taranaki, I thank you. It has proved its place in the community and with your commitment will continue to do so.

Margaret Springett  
Outgoing Acting Chairperson