

The Annual Report of South Taranaki Art Gallery and Exhibitions Incorporated (STAGE)

1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

The Lysaght Watt Gallery is administered by the STAGE INC committee who are pleased to present this Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting on the 15 June 2017.

This year the committee has endeavoured to present a wide variety of artists and their work in the monthly exhibitions. Events have been held to encourage visitors and artists to the show's opening nights and social media has been used to promote the Gallery. The annual Lysaght Watt Trust Art Award 2016 was also a success and is attracting notice from around the country. The Gallery is also involved in both the Taranaki Garden Festivals and the Taranaki Art Trail.

In April 2016 Stage Inc stalwart Roger Springett passed away, this was a great loss to the gallery as Roger had been involved as Treasurer and Secretary since Stage Inc was brought into being ten years ago. He and Margaret were key figures on the committee and in the Gallery over that whole time and he has been missed by all.

Exhibitions

Our Exhibition Curator Margaret Springett has worked hard throughout the year to ensure the Gallery has exciting and interesting exhibitions to attract local and passing visitors. This year has seen solo exhibitions and double exhibitions (two artists who each use one of the gallery spaces) or groups who use the whole space.

April 2016 **Hawera High School NCEA Art Folios** is an annual exhibition curated by the Art Teacher and shows the work by the Students of the Hawera High School Art classes. This includes students from NCEA levels 1, 2 and 3. This is popular with visitors, proud parents and extended family as well as the students who get the opportunity to see their work hanging in a Gallery. Visitors numbered 546 to this exhibition and it was our most popular exhibition.

May 2016 **Lysaght Watt Trust Art Awards 2016: Daily Life.**

The aim of the Lysaght Watt Trust Art Award is to recognise and acknowledge artistic talent. These awards are able to be held due to the generous sponsorship of local businesses and individuals. The Awards attracted 51 entries from around New Zealand, including 13 local artists. The judge for 2016 was Simon Rees from the Govett Brewster Art Gallery New Plymouth THE 2016 LYSAGHT WATT TRUST PRIZE Overall Winner was ANGELA SEFTON of New Plymouth

June 2016 **Caryl Murray's Retrospective & New Work Exhibition.**

Ohawe artist Caryl Murray celebrated 25 years of art in her **Retrospective & New Work exhibition**. Caryl's work has grown and matured over the past 25 years. It is bright and varied mixed media art reflecting her love of her surroundings and colour.

July 2016 Hawera Camera Club – Curated by Kevin Bone

An exhibition showcasing the work of the members of the Hawera Camera Club and a collection by Kevin Bone

August 2016 Collaborations – Curated by Michaela Stoneman.

This show was of works created collaboratively by artists from all around New Zealand and Taranaki. There was a wide range of media including books to look at wearing white gloves. Visitors were most interested in this exhibition.

September 2016 Hawera Art Club

“We’ve been busy” was the title of the Hawera Art Club’s exhibition - there was a wide range of styles and media to see and admire. Work by our local artists is always popular with Gallery visitors.

October 2016 The Art of the Needle

South Taranaki Stitchcraft Guild’s Biennial Exhibition created a display of textile and mixed media art works for the public to enjoy over the whole month of October. Embroidery, felting, and weaving by Southern and Central Taranaki creative fibre groups were on show. Guest artist Jane Toy of Wanganui exhibited her contemporary work as part of this exhibition.

29 Oct to 10 Nov The Art at the Wool Shed Exhibition was held at Ross and Jan Dunlop’s Garden at Ohawe as part of the Taranaki Garden Festival. Our exhibitors included Mark Bellringer photography and Korver Molloy Gallery plus other local artists. A BIZLINK event was held to open the Exhibition and promote the Gallery to Hawera Business owners.

November 2016 Solo Exhibition Tony Rumball

A solo exhibition by Tony Rumball of about thirty paintings and some of his daily pictures. Pathos, ethos, country halls and farming; the lot

December 2016 North meets South

Northern Taranaki Artists – Laurel Davis and Maria Brockhill brought their talents to South Taranaki to exhibit together with Southern Taranaki Artists - Celeste Cole and Errin Ballagh. An extremely popular cash and carry show for Christmas and it sold out much to the delight of the artists and the gallery.

January 2017 The Hawera Art School Students Exhibition

Both junior and senior students of the Hawera Art School and Creative Space exhibited their work in the gallery over January. It was pleasing to see the growth of the students and the professionalism in the way it was displayed. The Gallery continues to support the art school with this popular exhibition by way of gallery space at no charge.

February 2017

Lorna Davies and the Lysaght Watt Members Exhibition

The members of the Lysaght Watt gallery were joined by Stratford artist Lorna Davies and produced a show with good variety which appealed to visitors.

March 2017

From There to Here – Artists Helen Cairney & Chester & Ella Borrows.

This show attracted keen interest from local residents and the press due to local MP Chester Borrows' participation. Both Chester and Ella are artists in their own right and produce quite different work. Helen Cairney from Wellington used the second gallery space to show off her amazing Mandala style works based on botanicals and the environment.

Administration

The Committee which includes three new members Helen Cook, Caryl Murray and Anne–Maree Godfrey and co-opted member Errin Ballagh now has a great range of skills and knowledge available to begin to make strategic changes in the management of the Gallery.

Firstly due to a change in the financial requirements of the Charities Commission and to meet requirements of funding organisations, our rules had to be changed with regard to being audited by an auditor as this was no longer appropriate for the size of our Charity.

A **Special General** meeting was held on the 10 August 2016 to explain to members the changes the committee were proposing for the Rules of the South Taranaki Art Gallery and Exhibitions Incorporated. After a full discussion, it was passed that the change be accepted.

Our Rules now read

- **At the close of the financial year, a full statement of income and expenditure, assets and liabilities shall be prepared and presented to members at the Annual General Meeting. The financial statement is to be certified by the Chair of the Society that it was presented to and adopted by the members at its Annual General Meeting.**

Visitor Numbers for the year totalled 4,512 physically through the door which is 710 less than the previous year. On the up however, the Facebook page has 293 followers who look at and share the page with their friends and our website is also visited therefore our online presence captures a wide audience from all over New Zealand and internationally.

Health And Safety Plan– This year the committee has also addressed the issue of Health and Safety and now have the relevant forms and a Health and Safety Manual for both committee members and volunteers to follow. This was achieved by our volunteer Doug Hutchinson getting us started with a draft plan which was then worked on by Jan Dunlop and Anne–Maree Godfrey. There have been two mini workshops to explain the plan to our members and volunteers.

Artists Contracts and Commission – Both of these items had not been reviewed for some time. The committee discussed the commission and looked at other similar galleries for comparison; the decision was made to lower the commission from 30% to 25% from the 1 December 2016. It was decided to retain the Gallery Hire fee of \$400. The Contracts were updated to reflect this and other matters pertinent to the gallery space and administration.

Lysaght Watt Trust Award Entry forms and Conditions of entry were also updated.

Membership of the organisation was also looked into as records were rather confused and the committee were unsure as to the accurate membership figure. It was therefore decided to review the whole idea of membership and complete a comparison with other art organisations of our size. The results of this investigation will be included in the 2017-18 annual report. The 2016-2017 membership tally stood at approx. 39 which was as best as could be ascertained.

Funding and Sponsorship

We have been fortunate to have the continued support of the South Taranaki District Council.

We also have the sponsors of our national Lysaght Watt Trust Art Awards who were The Lysaght Watt Trust (being the major sponsor) plus Andy and Jan Beccard, Ohangai / Meremere Rural Women, Neil and Helen Walker and Lynne Walker.

The Committee also applied for a COGS Grant to cover STAGE's administration costs and were successful in gaining a grant.

Ross and Jan Dunlop open their Garden for the Taranaki Garden Festival and allow the Gallery to hold an exhibition in the woolshed. All the gate sales and woolshed sales commissions were kindly donated to the gallery. This is one of our main sources of funding and we appreciate their generosity and thank Ross and Jan for their commitment to STAGE Inc.

The Hawera Art School

The Hawera Art School began in the rooms above the Gallery but due to safety concerns it was moved to 20 Union Street. Stage Inc was overseeing the Art School and paying the costs involved with the school including the lease and the power. However fees were barely covering the costs and the committee decided to review the management of the school. After much discussion with the principal tutor Erryn Willcox and her partner Carl Fairweather and with reports from Michaela Stoneman and a feasibility study completed by our sub-committee, a decision was made.

This decision resulted in STAGE Inc divesting itself of the School and handing it over the Erryn Willcox and Carl Fairweather to run as the Hawera Art School and Creative Space. The Lease was transferred on the 14 October 2016. Stage Inc gifted the fittings and art supplies to the Hawera Art School and Creative space. STAGE INC was pleased to remain as supporters of the school and provide exhibition space once a year for the Students to display their work. The Committee are thrilled with the progress of the School and Creative Space since Erryn and Carl have taken over ownership and we are proud to advertise the School in the Gallery.

Memorandum of Understanding with the South Taranaki District Council

STAGE Inc has a Memorandum of Understanding with the South Taranaki District Council which was due for renewal in 2016. The MOU was rewritten to reflect the current rules of STAGE Inc and the requirements of both the committee and the Council moving forward. The new MOU also took into account the proposed CHALCI project which would see the Gallery move into a brand new combined Library, Art Gallery, Isite and Cultural Centre facility. The new MOU was signed on the 16 March 2017.

Volunteers

We have a strong and consistent group of 38 volunteers who help to keep the Gallery looking spic and span and open 6 days a week. Joan Robinson, who looks after the sitter's roster, reports that sitters are very good at self managing and often swap duties with other sitters when or if they need to. We have sadly said farewell to some of our regular sitters as circumstances changed for them but over the past year we have welcomed 5 new volunteers on board. The Committee held an afternoon tea for our volunteers and sent a thank you Christmas card to all. Without volunteers, neither the Committee nor the Gallery would function and they are greatly appreciated.

Property Maintenance

The Gallery has had ongoing issues with its lighting fixtures over the year and will be considering changing all lights to LED to save power and have longer lasting lights. There have also been the occasional leaks on the south wall which the landlord was asked to attend to. Margaret Springett and a volunteer painted the gallery walls and windows to refresh the look. This is done each year. The carpets were also spot cleaned by Margaret.

Promotion and Publicity

This year we have made a strong push to publicise and promote the Gallery both in our local papers and online through social media and the website. We have been successful in getting articles in the Star newspaper about our artists and their exhibitions. We have 293 followers on Face Book and hope to increase this over the next year. Our website is performing well and we have had feedback that it's an easy site to navigate. Margaret Springett is interviewed by Brian Vickery on Hokonui Radio on a regular basis.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow committee members Helen Cook (Strategy and Finances assistant), Anne-Maree Godfrey (Funding and Health and Safety) Joan Robinson (Rosters) Margaret Springett (Exhibitions Curator), Errin Ballagh (Newletters), Jan Dunlop (Housekeeping) and Caryl Murray (Artists Representative) for their work over the past year which, as you have just heard, has been an extremely busy one. In particular, I would like to thank our Treasurer Tony Milham for reorganising the structure and presentation of our finances which are very easy to understand by the non-money minded committee members. Many thanks also to Jennie Purdon for taking the minutes of our meetings, some of which were very long as we nussed through the things we needed to do this year.

That concludes the Annual Report of STAGE Inc. for the 2016-17 year.

Lynne Walker

Chairperson

STAGE Inc.