

Lysaght Watt Gallery committee welcomes you to our first newsletter for 2026. Building on the successes of 2025, we look forward to continuing to enhance the creative life of our community through exhibitions and other events the gallery will be hosting during the months ahead.

The past two exhibitions have showcased a diverse range of skills. Curator Elizabeth Harrison said, "X Stitching was an opportunity for us to explore the art of the cross stitch in a variety of works. The intricacies and attention to detail was an eyeopener for the many people who visited. Congratulations to Gail Thompson – your patience and abilities with a needle and thread are amazing.

The Chair Affair created some amused responses. The whimsical nature and creativity was always going to create a diverse response. Some liked it – some did not because it lacked the seriousness. But it did what was intended – people came, they looked, they responded and it was a reminder to us all to wonder "what is the purpose of art?"



 **Idea Services Hāwera**  
presents

## A Diverse Approach

**9 to 28 February 2026**

You are invited to the opening on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 at 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.



The opportunity to celebrate the talents and achievements of artists with an intellectual disability is an occasion that the Lysaght Watt Gallery wants to share with the community. Here is a platform to showcase the artist's creativity, hear their voices and sell their art.

## Exhibitions

Our next exhibition will run from the 9 to 28 February 2026 when Idea Services Hawera presents **A Diverse Approach** - An exhibition which celebrates the talents and achievements of artists with intellectual disabilities. Curator Elizabeth says, "While we have already used this title, it fitted the purpose of this exhibition from Idea Service Clients. Idea Services have enjoyed exhibiting with the gallery in the past. Their enthusiasm to participate is contagious and they are always well supported by the community as artists. Well done, Idea Services staff for encouraging participation in the arts and enabling the community to enjoy the creativity of these artists."

The Opening event of the exhibition is on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 5.00pm to 7.00pm and all are most welcome to attend.

The following exhibition will be **Whiti** – this exhibition will be curated by Bonita Bigham KSO and will feature some of Aotearoa's premiere artists. The gallery looks forward to collaborating again with Bonita and Toi o Taranaki.

We continue to have a number of enquiries from out-of-town artists wanting to exhibit in our Gallery. This reflects our growing reputation as a very desirable space for presenting art to the community.

## Committee member profile



Curator Elizabeth Harrison

'I have been involved in the art sphere for many years having specialised in English and Art at Teachers College in the 70's. Since then I have taught across the Arts curriculum: drama, music and fine arts as well as developed my own art practice. I also curated in community galleries in Helensville and Rai Valley.

Becoming involved with the Lysaght Watt Gallery was an opportunity to re-engage with the art world as a practising artist and administrator.

I enjoy the role of Exhibition Curator. I am especially pleased to have broadened the exhibitor profile thus enabling the community to engage with artists from outside the region. This is good for the art world and for our community.

Our Gallery is a special place - we are all volunteers who should be proud of our commitments and achievements.'

## **What's on at other galleries?**

**QUIRKY FOX GALLERY**—162 High St, Hawera.

“Bubble Distopia” a group show on from Feb 4th till March 7th.

## **PERCY THOMSON GALLERY**

“Art Artist” a multimedia installation by Roger Peters on from Feb 13th to March 15th.

## **THE VILLAGE GALLERY ELTHAM**

“Taranaki Paintings and Beyond” by Ian Little, oils, line and wash and acrylics on from Feb 3rd to March 3rd.

## **PATEA ART GALLERY** open 10am to 2pm Wed to Sundays

“Tu Tonu – Stand Tall” on from January 28th to February 15th.

Thank you all for your continued support and for those who volunteer at the gallery. We are always very happy to hear from anyone who would like to join our volunteer group. As the friendly faces of our gallery our volunteers play a vital and much appreciated role.