



# **Annual Report 2022 - 23**

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**Cover Photo:** East sentinel of the gallery under construction

## **About MAHARA**

MAHARA is the district public gallery for the Kāpiti Coast. It was founded by artists and volunteers as a charitable trust in 1996.

The Gallery has operated out of the original Waikanae Library building, provided by the Kāpiti Coast District Council. The building is currently being redeveloped to become a purpose-built art gallery that meets accepted museum standards.

MAHARA receives some private financial support as well as funding from the Council to cover operational costs. The exhibition programme is developed to meet the expectations of the Council as set out in the Partnership Agreement between the two parties. It seeks to balance quality local and national content, work in partnership with Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāti Toa Rangatira and reflect the diversity of the Kāpiti arts community.

Currently the Gallery employs 2.5 full-time-equivalent staff including Director-Curator Janet Bayly. Their work is supplemented by volunteers and the Friends of Mahara.

Governance is provided in the form of a Board chaired by Gordon Shroff. The Kāpiti Coast District Council is represented on the Board and iwi belonging to the ART confederation and Waikanae Community Board. Other Board members bring a mix of business and specialist skills.

## 2022-23 Highlights

The main building construction was completed and the building was blessed by iwi on 19 April 2023. Work continued on internal completion, fitout and external landscaping.

Exhibitions	9
Public Programmes	40
Total Vistors	4,964
Event Visitors	1,861

While working off-site in temporary offices, we delivered eight exhibitions from our temporary gallery, MAHARA *iti*. The community appreciated our presence while construction proceeded. We also held a pop-up exhibition in Otaki.

We held 40 public programmes and education workshops.

These were attended by 1,861 people to venues across the district.

Total visitors: 4,964, increased from 2,814 in 2021 -2022.

Event visitors: 1,861 compared to 784 in 2021-22

## The MAHARA Gallery Trust Board

### TRUSTEES

**Gordon Shroff** (Chairperson) is a former senior civil servant with an interest in the arts. He graduated in History from Auckland University in 1967 and joined the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, serving in New York, London and Samoa during his career. In the mid-1980s he headed the New Zealand Immigration Service. He was President of the Friends of Te Papa from 2012 to 2015 and served on the

Friends' Board for eight years. He was admitted as a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) in 2004.

**Glen Wiggs** has a background in law and marketing and has been a leader in regulation of advertising for over 28 years. He was Executive Director of the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in New Zealand for more than 14 years before establishing the Foundation for Advertising Research (FAR). He was for seven years an Adjunct Professor of Advertising Regulation at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. He was admitted as a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in 2009.

**Jill Griggs** joined the Board during the 2020 year. She has an extensive background in public- and private-sector consulting work, starting as a business strategist in the engineering field and, more recently, managing legislative change in the public sector. She currently runs her own consulting business that provides facilitation, planning, governance and other similar roles to the private and public sector. She is also a mediator, professionally accredited by AMINZ.

**David Shand** (Treasurer) worked for the World Bank, IMF, and OECD before returning to New Zealand in 2006. He is a graduate in economics and accountancy from Victoria University of Wellington. He is currently an independent director of Auckland City Mission Housing Ltd. He was formerly chair of the Tertiary Education Commission, a member of the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance, chair of the 2007 Rates Inquiry and a director of Meridian Energy. He was a board member of the NZ Portrait Gallery for eight years. He has held a financial advisory role in his iwi, Ngai Tahu.

**Andrew Sexton** BArch (Hon) joined the board in late 2022, as an independent Director. A member of the NZ Institute of Architects, Andrew owns and manages his own award-winning architectural practice—Andrew Sexton Architects, established in Wellington in 2004—and now more recently based in Mahara Place, Waikanae.

### **Kevin Ramshaw** (Secretary )

Kevin Ramshaw is a former journalist and public relations practitioner. As a journalist he worked in print, radio and television. He was Managing Editor of South Otago Newspapers Ltd before working as a journalist in the

United Kingdom. In the public relations field, after working in Auckland, Wellington and Hong Kong, he co-founded the Wellington public affairs agency Busby Ramshaw Grice in 1995. Before retirement in 2012, he worked for KiwiRail and its predecessor. He stepped down as a Trustee and board secretary in March 2023.

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Queenie Rikihana-Hyland** is an Ōtaki-based author who trained as a journalist and worked for a number of publications in New Zealand and overseas as well as teaching at Whitirea Polytechnic. She is of Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Toa and Te Āti Awa descent and has endeavoured to represent her iwi on the Mahara Gallery Trust Board since 2001. She has been an Ōtaki Community Board member and served as a Ministerial representative of Te Wānanga o Raukawa Mana Whakahaere Board. She has recently been Raukawa nominee to the New Zealand Māori Council for three years. She is the author of Māori Myths and Legends, published by Reed.

**Ann-Maree Ellison** is the Te Āti Awa representative on the board of trustees, Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāi Tahu. With expertise in Education and Environmental management, her personal goal is to lift the educational achievements of Iwi/Māori. She currently holds positions as Whakarongotai Marae Trustee, Raukawa Foundation, Te Āti Awa Charitable Trust, Cultural Heritage Liaison Group M2PP, Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti, To Ohu Taiao, Town Centre Working Group, ART Forum, Māori Economic Development Board, Ara Tahī, Te Upoko Taiao, and is an accredited Environmental Commissioner.

**Liz Koh** is an active Rotarian, former Chair of the Chamber of Commerce, founding Chair of Kāpiti Economic Development Association (KEDA) and Trustee of Creative Kāpiti Charitable Trust. For nine years Liz Koh served as the Deputy Chair of the Nikau Foundation and established the Nikau Kāpiti Fund and Creative Kāpiti Fund.

**Tonchi Begovich** (Waikanae Community Board Representative) is a Registered Quantity Surveyor, a member of the Waikanae Community Board and Co-Owner of Diamond Residential Ltd a local Waikanae residential home builder. Tonchi also works as NZ Construction Manager for Bode. He has more than 30 years' experience in the commercial and residential construction and build environment. Tonchi is a member of the New Zealand Institute of Quantity Surveyors and New Zealand Institute of Building.

## Chairman's report

2022-23 has been another challenging and demanding year for Mahara but the Board and Director and all supporters have been buoyed throughout by the sight of the new gallery emerging from the renovation of the old building and the excitement this project has generated.

Covid has posed challenges across the arts sector with changed patterns of engagement and attendance at events and Mahara has had to deal with these as well as with maintaining a presence and a profile in the community while our usual site was closed. The Director's Report which follows outlines the remarkable success achieved in visitor numbers, exhibitions and artists sales and fundraising through the operation of the Mahara *Iti* temporary mini gallery in association with Andrew Sexton Architecture.

Other commendable activities included programmes of activities in Mahara Place, workshops at Paekākāriki School, outreach to Ōtaki with a pop up show of Kapiti artists and engagement of artists with disabilities in producing a ramp- mural in the town centre.

Alongside "keeping the show on the road" there has been immense pressure on the Director and staff and on Board members to develop new systems and capabilities to be able to efficiently operate the new and larger Gallery when it opens for business. This work has included taking on and training additional staff and contract support, planning for and bringing together a forward programme of exhibitions and devising and workshopping Strategic, Marketing and Business plans. This has compounded the work load for the small staff team and the Board is most grateful to the Council and Mike Mendonca, General Manager Spaces and Places, for seconding his deputy Sonja Williams to Mahara as Transition Manager to increase our capacity.

Director Janet Bayly has also had to devote very significant time to working with our selected designer on creating a new visual identity and coherent style across our website/publications for the new Mahara and to consultation with the architect, Council officers and the building team on the technical but often quite critical details of built-in furniture and systems such as lighting and AV placement. She has also devoted time, with



help from new staff, to engaging more regularly with Whakarongotai Marae and with iwi in Kāpiti more generally.

Furthermore the Board has continued to engage with the Council on how best to structure operational funding demands beyond the current transitional financial year and the appropriate governance model for partnership between the Trust and Council as our focus changes from fundraising to actually operating the new Mahara. On going consultation with the Field Collection Trustees has been part of this process.

Overall, and notwithstanding the post Covid supply chain challenges, the entire redevelopment project has been a “happy ship” with constructive and positive relationships between the Board, Director, Council, architects, Crowe Construction and the many sub-contractors as well as with retailers in Mahara Place. All involved have been able to look past the occasional problem or inconvenience to the benefits to come from the striking new gallery building serving the wider Kāpiti district and the associated reinvigoration of Mahara Place.

## **Redevelopment Project**

In the Mahara redevelopment the key element, as the whakatauki says, is *he tangata, he tangata, he tangata*. I wish to record my appreciation for the support and entirely voluntary effort invested by all Board members in the project over the last year. It is timely to record the contribution of Kāpiti Coast District Council representative (and now Mayor), Janet Holborow. Janet served nine years as the Council representative on the Board and latterly chaired the Joint Steering Group of Gallery Board, Council and Field Collection Trust representatives which provided governance for the redevelopment project. The link she provided with the Council was invaluable. We have been pleased to welcome Cr Liz Koh as her replacement and the addition to our Trustees of Andrew Sexton with whose cooperation the operation of Mahara *Iti* was made possible.

Special mention must be made of the service provided over the last ten years by Kevin Ramshaw who stepped down as Secretary in March. Amongst his many contributions to the project Kevin was the

principal author of funding applications to most of our major institutional donors and the successful outcome owes a great deal to his skill and persistence. We are doubly grateful that he continues to provide advice and support for Mahara in the media and communications field. Lastly special commendation is warranted for our Director Janet Bayly, hitherto our only full time staff member, whose diverse workload and range of responsibilities has been enormously increased by the new demands arising from construction and planning systems and staffing to operate the new gallery. She has coped remarkably well with incessant calls on her time and attention but her ability to take leave due to her has been adversely impacted and that is something we will need to address in coming months.

In keen anticipation of the public opening of the new Mahara in late October I extend the Board's sincere thanks to all organisations and individuals who have supported this project since its inception over twenty years ago.

Gordon Shroff

Chairman

## Director's Review

The main focus of our second transitional year was the construction of the new Gallery, ongoing raising of funds and planning. Alongside this Mahara Gallery continued to maintain its presence in the community while reinventing its identity, strengthening its staff and building new relationships.

From two temporary office and gallery sites we delivered nine smaller exhibitions and a vigorous public programme across the district. Covid continued to impact on us all but this only deepened appreciation of the social, spiritual, cultural and economic values that the gallery embodies and delivers to Kāpiti.

Mahara was tasked with raising 2/3 of the cost of the rebuild. Approximately 1/3 was provided by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and the remaining 1/3 came from a Lottery Environment & Heritage grant, a number of public and private trusts, and Mahara supporters who were very generous with their donations, for which we are most grateful. Payment of \$1.73 million was made to the Kāpiti Coast District Council in June.

The latter part of the year was dominated by the preparatory work for the new Gallery, with significant support from KCDC staff including Sonja Williams, Rowan Cordwell and Andrea Healy. This included

- Furniture, fittings equipment for the new Gallery
- Development of a new visual identity by Catherine Griffiths, including signage and all areas of visual communications
- IT systems and website development by ButterPaper
- Bringing new staff on to develop future programmes
- Developing the staffing structure for the new Gallery
- Achievement of a Museum Hardship Grant for development of a future business and marketing plan, and strengthening of toi Maori projects
- Preparations for the opening ceremony
- Development of the 2023/24 exhibitions programme
- Input into Gallery construction issues, working with KCDC
- Negotiations with KCDC on the future gallery lease

## **Gallery Reconstruction**

Major work on the gallery reconstruction was completed within budget and substantially on time. There was some delay to the opening of the building due to Council landscaping of the ground surrounding the building which has greatly enhanced the utility of the new Gallery.

A Mauri Stone was gifted by iwi and placed in the whenua at the gallery entrance in February. The building was formally blessed by iwi on 19 April in a moving event organized by Council and supported by kaumatua Koro Don Te Maipi and iwi, two past and the current mayor, council staff, key private gallery funders and Mahara Gallery and Field Collection trustees.

## **Exhibition Programme, July 2022 - May 2023**

We were very pleased to be able to maintain our temporary off-site gallery MAHARA *iti* until late May 2023 with support from Andrew Sexton Architecture, curator Vicki Robson, artists and volunteers. Its attractive, accessible street-front exhibition and retail space maintained a lively Mahara presence in the community while the main gallery was being rebuilt. Anecdotal evidence indicated it made a difference to visitor's wellbeing over a difficult year. 3,103 visitors attended eight shows, including over Kāpiti Art Trail. Public programmes were also offered in MAHARA *iti* and across Kapiti. Audiences spanned children, youth and middle-aged professionals to senior citizens, across wide ethnicities and cultures.

Mark Amery reviewed Maungarongo Te Kawa's *Star Relations* show <https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/arts/300642979-te-hkoi-toi-a-winter-warmer-roadie>

*Te Aio o Te Ātiawa, Here-turi-koka* included three kuia from Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai marae. Ron Te Kawa also ran a workshop which produced bunting which brought colour and life to Mahara Place, as did hanging fish sculptures created by children with Yvonne de Mille.

## **Outreach activities**

From Ōtaki to Paekākāriki we supported artists, performers, film-makers and musicians to deliver a range of projects across the district for diverse audiences of all ages.

Over winter 2022 we developed and supported a public art project for a temporary ramp mural in Mahara Place with around 20 Kāpiti Art Studio artists living with disabilities.

17 Kāpiti artists exhibited at Seagrass Gallery in Ōtaki for a pop-up fundraising show in October, leading into the Kāpiti Art Trail.

Over 3 months of late summer *Live Art at Mahara* brought 15 vibrant interactive performances, live music and events to Mahara Place for over 1,000 visitors, funded by Waikanae Community Board. We organized a special screening of Luit Bieringa's documentary *The heArt of the Matter* in March in Paekākāriki.

Our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Mahara-Nga Manu partnership *Wai Ora, Water Life* started in May with day-trips to Nga Manu and MAHARA *iti*, followed by art and poetry workshops for Paekākāriki School children in June. Funded by the Philipp Family Foundation, it employed artist Michelle Walton, film-makers Himiona Grace and Julia Truscott, and poet Apirana Taylor. The resulting exhibition, book and film celebrating the creative work of 35 tamariki will feature in the opening programme in Toi MAHARA.

## **Exhibition Programme for 2023/24**

Curator Vicki Robson has developed the opening show *Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho, Kāpiti Treasures* for Toi MAHARA. It spans mana whenua, pakeha and Chinese stories of the first century of settlement in Kapiti from the 1830s. Works from the Field Collection will be shown alongside taonga loaned from Te Papa Tongarewa, Pataka Museum, Ōtaki, Paekākāriki and Kapiti Coast Museums, and significant private and whanau collections.

The opening programme of exhibitions span Kāpiti district, with artists and projects from Ōtaki to Paekākāriki; including *Whiriwhiria*, Ōtaki Weavers Collective in Ringa Toi, Artists' Gallery; *Wai Ora, Water Life*, Paekākāriki School Children's Creations, in Waipuna Toi, Community Space; and *Arotake Toi, Mahara Arts Review* in Te Manawa Toi, Coastlands Gallery.

## **Iwi Liaison**

The Museum Hardship grant funded weaver, curator, educator and museum developer Pip Devonshire to attend various hui, support visits to private collections, and plan an annual toi Māori exhibition and public programming for the re-opened Toi MAHARA from 2024-2026.

She achieved a Sustainable Arts grant spanning 2024-2026 for toi Maori exhibitions, a student internship and student scholarship with the Toi Whakarakai programme at Te Wānanga o Raukawa

Council funding was also confirmed for a Toi Māori curator role and consolidates a strong commitment to strengthening the presence of toi Māori and supporting matauranga Maori through ongoing partnerships and programming in Toi MAHARA.

## **Staffing Developments**

Two new contracts were created in November for a Curator (half-time) and a Business Development Manager (half-time) to 30 June 2023. This meant we needed an advance on the 2023-24 grant by May 2023. The contracts are short-term until future Council funding is confirmed through the 2024 Long Term Plan.

Victoria Robson brings a strong artmuseum history of exhibitions and publications to Mahara, including 11 years as Curator International Art at Te Papa. She has delivered advice, support and prior projects on the Field Collection and other exhibitions to Mahara. This year she produced content for the development of Collection, Stage 2 of the new website; advised the Field Collection Trust and Mahara Gallery Trust on collection matters; and

the design team on lighting, storage and display furniture required for Toi MAHARA.

Sandra Smillie brought experience managing logistics to the Business Development Manager role, alongside an arts background. She supported the delivery of MAHARA *iti* and the redevelopment of the website; developed a visitor, retail and merchandising strategy for Toi MAHARA; and supported the renewal of the Friends of Mahara to increase future sustainable funding income.

There was some staff movement, with part-time administrator Tracey Hall leaving to return to publishing and supporting Books & Co in Otaki, and accounts administrator Kathryne Simonsen retiring. We have greatly appreciated their contributions and hard work in recent years as we transitioned towards the rebuilding project. Alex Rundle-Keswick has supported the website rebuilding project with great skill, and we gratefully acknowledge Libby Richardson who joined us to manage our accounts in late April. Our small and largely part-time team has continued to deliver high-quality outcomes and support for Mahara while working in challenging conditions, for which we are extremely grateful.

Council seconded Sonja Williams to support the gallery as Transition Manager from early May for our final months in preparation towards the gallery reopening; the development of the Business Plan 2023-2024; and recruitment of new staff.

## **Website, IT and Visual Identity**

Another important project coming to fruition this year was the delivery of a new visual identity and rebranding of the gallery as Toi MAHARA.

Commissioned by the Mahara Gallery Trust, and funded in its early stages by a grant from Wellington Community Trust, the visual identity developed by Studio Catherine Griffiths was further workshopped and refined as the building project progressed. It was further developed for the website rebuild commissioned from Peter Johns (ButterPaper) alongside signage

and wayfinding for the new gallery building, with support from iwi and disability access advisers.

Stage 1 of the website was delivered in May and Stage 2 focused on the Field Collection. It was nearing completion by 30 June in readiness for a soft launch of the new visual identity alongside it.

Stage 1 of a planned upgrade of gallery's IT assets proposed by IT adviser Jack Penman was achieved with a grant of \$25,000 from Waikanae Community Board's Capital Improvement Fund by the end of June.

## **Finances**

Audited financial statements for 2022/23 will be available in November, 2023 in the annual Performance Report which is submitted to Charities NZ. During the year the Trust received an operating grant of \$323,000 from KCDC comprising baseline funding of \$224,000 plus \$100,000 "Better Off" funding received from the government, which was the major source of operating revenue. Expenditure on staff at \$226K,000 was about 50 percent of total operating expenditure.

## **Acknowledgement**

Huge acknowledgement is due to Mahara Gallery Trust Board secretary Kevin Ramshaw who resigned from his role in March after ten years in which he supported gallery staff and Mahara Gallery Trust Board through massive volunteer hours. His skills as a writer and public relations expert were invested primarily in the time-consuming task of preparing major funding applications to government agencies and seeking support from various trusts and individuals. We are all in his debt.

Janet Bayly  
Te Ringa Hautū Toi | Director  
Toi Mahara



## Mahara Iti Exhibitions - 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

\*note that Safe Space Exhibition started in the last financial Year.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Exhibition Title</b>	<b>Artists</b>	<b># Visitors</b>
1 Jul- 15 Jul 22*	<i>Safe Space</i>	Birgit Moffatt	97
18 Jul - 9 Sept 22	<i>Star Relations</i>	Ron Te Kawa	400
17 Sep - 31 Oct 22	<i>Tūmatakahuki Te Aio Atiawa: Here-turi-kōkā</i>	Various	408
1 Oct - 29 Oct 22 (Sat)	<i>MAHARA Pops up at SEAGRASS Gallery</i>	Various	81
31 Oct - 17 Dec 22	<i>From Dark to Light</i>	Various	799
19 Dec 22 - 17 Feb 23	<i>Pranam</i>	Sophie Saunders	426
20 Feb - 8 April 23	<i>Lost Objects &amp; Beckoning Land</i>	Kath & John Foster	410
11 Apr - 26 May 23	<i>Robin Rogerson A Tribute</i>	Robin Rogerson	482
	<b>9 Exhibitions</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3103</b>

<b>Month</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>#Attendees</b>
July	Launch of Kapiti art Studio ramp mural	15/07/2022	25
July	Bunting Workshop with Ron Te Kawa	16/07/2022	5
July	Friends Event (Rebecca Bond Guest Speaker)	17/07/2022	20
July	Opening of new show - Ron Te Kawa	18/07/2022	27
September	Book Sale Week	July	46
September	Opening Event (Saturday) for Tūmatakahuki	17/09/2022	70
September	Seagrass Artist drop off event	24/09/2022	26
October	Seagrass Opening event (3.30-5.30pm)	1/10/22	63
November	From Dark to Light Opening Event, Mahara Iti	4/11/2022	66
November	Kapiti Coast Arts Trail Weekend #1 (5/6)	5/11/2022	109
November	Kapiti Coast Arts Trail Weekend #2 (12/13)	12/11/2022	150
November	Friends Artist Talk + Strategy (Sandra Smillie)	27/11/2022	15
December	Pranam Opening + Christmas event	22/12/2022	47
January	Market Table, Diane Connal + Harriet Bright	31/01/2023	20
February	Jess Deacon	3/02/2023	70
February	Mr Fungus + Play on Words	11/02/2023	50
February	Play on Words - Jazz Trio	11/02/2023	40
February	Lost Objects and Beckoning Land Opening	23/02/2023	18
February	Kanae Workshop - Yvonne De Mille	25/03/2023	36
March	Michelle Scullion + Kevin Watson (Music)	3/03/2023	70

March	Robotics Wars - Jack Penman	9/03/2023	12
March	House Installation - Kapiti Art Studio	14/03/2023	80
March	Robotics Wars - Jack Penman	22/03/2023	40
March	Market Stall, Kirsty Glasgow + Sarah Shaw	21/03/2023	20
March	The heART of the matter - Film Fundraiser	19/03/2023	73
April	Sally Morton Dance	1/04/2023	25
April	Geoff Culverwell Trio	1/04/2023	45
April	Market Table, Rebecca Bond + Roger Smith	4/04/2023	18
April	Kapiti Community Choir	4/04/2023	50
April	Avenal McKinnon Memorial Event	8/04/2023	56
April	REACT Childrens Workshop	13/04/2023	104
April	Accessible Dance Pane-iraira, Kapiti Art Studio	13/04/2023	63
April	Robin Rogerson Exhibition Opening	13/04/2023	81
April	Blessing - New Gallery Building (KCDC)	19/04/2023	60
April	Frances Hodgkins Birthday Curator Floor talk	28/04/2023	25
April	Enid Paints a Portrait, Stringbean Puppets	28/04/2023	30
May	Wai Ora - Water Life Project workshop	2/05/2023	18
May	Wai Ora - Water Life Project workshop	9/05/2023	27
May	Art Workshops	18-26/05/2023	84
June	Poetry workshops	14-30/05/2023	42
<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>			<b>1861</b>