



Kāpiti Coast District Gallery

ANNUAL REPORT, 2024-2025

## **MAHARA GALLERY TRUST - 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.

**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 also served over a 5 year period as a board member of the Auckland City Mission and its social housing subsidiary. 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.

**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.

**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.

**Dr Warren Young** joined the board in 2024. Dr Young brings his previous experience as Chair of Arts Access Aotearoa to Toi MAHARA. He has spent 30 years working in, and studying, aspects of the criminal justice system. He has been an academic, senior civil servant, law reformer and most recently General Manager of the Independent Police Conduct Authority. In 2015 he was appointed a Companion of the Queen's Service Order for services to the law.

**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.

**Karen Radford** joined the Trust in March 2025. Karen is an experienced private sector board member, managing director and fundraiser who believes that focussing on differentiated, sustainable long term strategies maximises the opportunities for value creation. Karen is joint owner of Anzacare Ltd, based in Waikanae and before that was Development Director at Queen Margaret College responsible for fundraising campaigns for major capital developments for the school. Karen held the Managing Director position at Radford & Company for six years and before that was a policy analyst at New Zealand Treasury.

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### **BOARD MEMBERS – retired from the Board 30 June 2025**

**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.

## **Toi MAHARA ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

As the redevelopment of Toi MAHARA has proceeded in recent years through fundraising, design, construction and opening the Trustees and the Director and staff have faced many demands and challenges. 2024/25 - our first full year of operating the new gallery - has been no exception. But there has also been the exhilaration and satisfaction of developing the capacity of the new building to enrich cultural life in Kapiti, to benefit local artists and residents of all ages and to attract visitors from further afield.

Toi MAHARA has been able to make use of its increased exhibition space to mount a greater diversity of shows catering to different audiences in Kāpiti and beyond. This has resulted in several positive articles in national media, an exceptionally high satisfaction rating from visitors on the quality of their experience and a very welcome boost in sales of local artist's work.

Alongside mounting exhibitions and outreach has been the work to consolidate and tune building systems, to recruit and train staff, update administrative arrangements and to develop our website to give wider online access to our Field Collection holdings and information about Toi MAHARA exhibitions and merchandise.

Mahara Trustees and staff have also worked closely with KCDC staff to bring into operation the Joint Monitoring Committee provided for in the Gallery/Council Partnership Agreement to enhance collaboration and funding under an independent Chair. With the JMC now established the arrangement whereby a Councilor and Waikanae Community Board member participated in Trust Board meetings has come to an end. The Trust expressed its thanks for the contributions made to its work by Councilor Koh and Community Board member Begovich.

A detailed and more comprehensive account of all the work undertaken in the past year follows in the Director's Report. At this point it is appropriate to record the Trustees' appreciation for the energy, commitment and creativity which Janet Bayly has brought to her role as Director and to lifting Toi MAHARA's contribution to Kāpiti's cultural life to a new level.

As Chair I must express my sincere thanks to my fellow Trustees for making so much unpaid time and effort available for gallery governance, helping host events and fundraising. I must also, on behalf of the Trust and gallery staff, record our collective thanks for the support, Toi MAHARA has received from our Patron, artists, mana whenua, Friends, donors and partners in KCDC and beyond.

Gordon Shroff  
Chair, Mahara Gallery Trust Board

## TOI MAHARA – Gallery Director’s Report

The first full year of delivery in the redeveloped Toi MAHARA has been very rewarding for our talented, dedicated team to deliver a range of diverse exhibitions and a lively public programme which have drawn high levels of engagement with the public. A statistic snapshot of the year:

Visitors	15,371
Exhibitions	13
Events	147 including 27 workshops and 15 floor talks
School visits	327 primary school children
Facebook	2.7K followers
Instagram	1.6K followers

Internally we have continued to fine-tune building operations and systems, and externally to develop innovative new programmes and partners from across Kāpiti and the greater region.

Positive media coverage on the new gallery building included a 3 page profile in *Architecture Now*, July 2024

<https://architecturenow.co.nz/articles/modesty-and-verve/>

The Mahara Gallery Trust commissioned artist Miriama Grace-Smith to create a public artwork above the entrance to Toi MAHARA which adds depth and vibrancy to the town centre.

*It portrays the Aramoana pattern to represent the maunga, moana and waipuna of the Kāpiti area, and the pathways that the ocean and other waterways provide to many destinations.*

*The Kōtuku and white feathers in the hair of the wahine are an acknowledgement of Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai whānau. The wahine is planting a karaka tree which can be found in many areas on the Kāpiti Coast, and the planting of this tree symbolises Mahara Gallery as a safe space where Toi Māori and te ao Māori will be nurtured, cared for, treasured and grow.*

New commissioned artwork for Toi MAHARA, Miriama Grace-Smith, 2025



Over 150 Kāpiti-based, national and international artists' works were available to be purchased through our retail area and selected exhibitions. Sales exceeded budget expectations and generated further gallery income, with excellent management of supplier / artist relationships and budgets by Business Manager Vicki Jackways.

Visitors supported many local cafes and the gallery programme supported local businesses, suppliers and creative sector workers including designers, filmmakers, musicians, poets, installers, lighting specialists and signage companies.

Over the year te reo and tikanga became more embedded into the daily life of the gallery, with blessings and mihi whakatau given for each exhibition, and closing karakia. This has been strengthened with Toi Māori curator Kohai Grace on staff with Front of House Koarea Rameka supporting her, as well as bringing external cultural advisers in to support individual shows and projects.

Visitors spanned local residents regional, national and international tourists. Formal surveys, visitor book comments and anecdotal feedback indicated a high level of engagement and satisfaction with the quality and diversity of experiences offered.

95% of visitors rated their experience from 8 to 10/10, with 57% rating it exceptional (10/10) in Museums Aotearoa's annual national survey.

## EXHIBITION PROGRAMME July 2024 – June 2025

Toi MAHARA presented 13 diverse exhibitions in 12 months, growing our subscriber and social media reach to 2.7K users on Facebook and 1.6K on Instagram. Two 6 month brochures were produced and circulated in November 2024 and April 2025 with a total print run of 5,000, mostly circulated via Visitor Point throughout the lower North Island. Regular listings on arts specific websites, advertising in local and national papers and publications continued to extend the Toi MAHARA brand awareness generating interest and greater visibility for the public and artists alike.

Toi Māori, families, tamariki, youth and young professionals had a strong presence in the gallery throughout the year. There were deeply engaging solo exhibitions by Dr Huhana Smith ***Thirteen Months of Memories***, Hariata Ropata Tangahoe ***Ira Wahine*** and John Baxter ***Rua Pōtae***. The community work developed under 'Jobs for Nature/Groundtruth' was presented in ***Kei 'ea te komako e kō?*** recording a 3 year restoration project on Waikanae awa in partnership with iwi.

A three-year grant under the kaupapa *Kia Emiemi, to bring together*, from Council's Sustainable Arts Fund, will support delivery of an annual project until 2026 in partnership with Te Wananga o Raukawa. It includes an internship and scholarship as well as visiting artists delivering wananga in the gallery.

***He kete, he whiri, he tangata*** was the first show within this kaupapa and featured historical kete and photographs of Puketapu whanau. Kete by contemporary weavers sat on a unique platform made from korari stalks by Susan Barrett. A short film by Wiremu Grace documented weavers working and recorded the knowledge and stories of tupuna relayed by Ōtaki weaver Manu Carkeek.

*"This has been an amazing experience. Having never been a part of a team that plans an exhibition I wasn't sure what to expect. Having the opportunity to work alongside whaea Kohai has been a true honour and has provided me with an insight of what it takes to put something like this together."*

**Ezra Bevan**, Ngati Raukawa, Kia Emiemi intern and TWoR Year 2 student for Toi Whakarakai degree programme.

***Ira Wahine*** a monumental series of works tracing her matriarchal whakapapa, by Hariata Ropata-Tanghohoe, developed by the New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata, filled Te Manawa Toi from August to October.

<https://www.thepost.co.nz/culture/360461729/ira-wahine-pays-tribute-female-ancestors>

The inaugural **Toi MAHARA Young Artist's Exhibition** in Te Manawa Toi | Coastlands Gallery created the opportunity for young people to present their work in a professional setting, extended by awards valued at \$5,500 and sales of some work. The 45 artists were mostly aged 14 -17 and attended Paraparaumu and Kāpiti Colleges. The show spanned the 2025 Kāpiti Art Trail and drew art tourists from around New Zealand as well as attracting new families and younger audiences to the gallery.

<https://.nzherald.co.nz/kapiti-news/news/katie-godwins-deeply-personal-painting-wins-toi-maharas-inaugural-young-artist-exhibition>

Te Manawa Toi | Coastlands Gallery then presented **!Nature in Amami Oshima!** by international textile artist Yukihiro Kanai. It included six Kāpiti artists who workshopped with Yukihiro to create Tanabata Festival banners. The exhibition afforded many opportunities for cross-cultural exchange, including Waitangi Day and a mihi whakatau at Maoriland Hub. Future exhibition and sales opportunities were discussed for our weavers in Japan. Exhibition costs for this show and **Faces & Flowers, Patricia France and Dinah Hawken** were supported by a grant from the Deane Endowment Trust.

**Faces & Flowers, Patricia France and Dinah Hawken** in Ringa Toi | Artist's Gallery launched a new book of poetry Dinah Hawken published by Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington Press. Curator Vicki Robson received support private lenders around New Zealand as well as the Hocken Library, Dunedin, and renowned curator, editor, artist and poet Greg O'Brien.

<https://toimahara.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/FACES-AND-FLOWERS-RV.pdf>

Senior New Zealand painter Gerda Leenards followed in Ringa Toi with a focus on the severe environmental degradation of Lake Horowhenua. Gerda's floor talk in her show was well attended with an impassioned and lively audience.

In April, Ringa Toi | Artist's Gallery presented **Thirteen Months of Memories**, Huhana Smith with Ciaran Banks exploring memory loss in a context of environmental sustainability.

<https://toimahara.nz/news/thirteen-months-of-memories-sheds-light-on-memory-loss/>

Nelson potter Tom Baker followed with a smart contemporary show, **falling over tall rocks**. Tom was the second six-monthly 'Artist in Residence' from The Kilns, Te Horo.

Taonga Tuku Iho | Heritage Gallery presented historical photographic portraits of women of Ōtaki which attracted strong interest from Ōtaki whanau whose toi mahi also featured in **He kete, he whiri, he tangata**.

The touring show **A Vocabulary** by photographer Bruce Connew focused attention on colonial responses to the land wars through a contemporary lens and extensive documentation with an associated artist's book.



*Military historian Chris Pugsley ONZM giving a floor talk during A Vocabulary*

In Waipuna Toi | Community Space we opened our 12<sup>th</sup> annual children's project **Ngā Ngārara, Kapakapanui School children's creations** with artwork and poetry. Developed in partnership with Ngā Manu Nature Reserve and funded by the Philipp Family Foundation the project supported local artists Michelle Walton, Alex Rundle-Keswick and Writer's Practice.

Over summer we showed **Sue Soo, A tribute show** which delighted many visitors and raised \$3,600 from sales which her whanau donated to arts access group Te Ara Korowai Creative Wellbeing Centre.

<https://toimahara.nz/news/family-of-quirky-chinese-artist-delighted-at-tribute-exhibition/>

The year's exhibition programme finished with fifteen contemporary artists from The Holtom's Art Studio collective in Paekākāriki across a range of media. One artist, Francis Salote made a short film about each artist which played as part of the show.

## THE FIELD COLLECTION

The Field Collection was formally gifted to the Mahara Gallery Trust in November 2024. It has become the gift that keeps on giving, with a further donation for the collection's ongoing care and maintenance.

Donations of photographs and documents in 2024 related to the Field and Hodgkins families has also created possibilities for further research, exhibitions and external funding support. 15 works by New Zealand born, British-based illustrator Peter Campbell (1937-2011) were also gifted by the family estate.

13 Frances Hodgkins paintings and 7 other artists in the Field Collection were exhibited in Taonga Tuku Iho | Heritage Gallery for five months in ***Selections from the Field Collection***. In November Dr Pamela Gerrish Nunn gave a floor-talk to a large group on this show. The Field Collection continues to gain recognition as it holds the largest collection of Hodgkins' work outside Te Papa Tongarewa and city collections in Dunedin, Auckland and Christchurch.



*Summer Joys* by Frances Hodgkins (The Field Collection, Toi MAHARA, 2023-1-25)

## **A COMMUNITY ASSET**

Waipuna Toi | Community Gallery continues to deliver a dynamic and engaging public-facing presence for the gallery, particularly through the street-facing windows. It adds vitality to Mahara Place entrance and stimulates passersby with glimpses of workshops, school class visits, meetings, weaving demonstrations, live music and artists installations. However, its multifunctional nature presents ongoing operational challenges that require careful management to avoid conflicts between uses.

As the only space within the building suitable for hosting events with refreshments that also provides exhibition space, planning must carefully balance these functions. The small footprint of the building, combined with the interconnected nature of the gallery spaces—with no intermediate rooms or corridors—adds complexity, particularly when changing exhibitions during public opening hours.

The limited back-of-house and storage space creates additional logistical hurdles. Moving furniture and artworks safely within the confined space demands extra coordination and care. Technical requirements for new exhibitions, especially those involving sound or moving image, also bring challenges, with existing equipment often needing upgrades to meet the evolving needs of contemporary art practice. Future modifications to some of the technology will be necessary to improve flexibility and functionality.

Additionally, the upstairs galleries are subject to visitor number restrictions due to air temperature and humidity control requirements. While recent issues with the HVAC system appear to be resolved, the current environmental management system continues to place limits on the number of people allowed in the space at any one time. These physical and environmental constraints must be considered with each new exhibition and impact overall visitor capacity.

## **EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMMES**

Public Programmes Manager Kirsten Le Harivel developed a new education art experience in the gallery for 260 students from 12 classes (Years 1-4) from Kapakapanui School. It consisted of an art presentation and talk, followed by an interactive task. This was so well received that further organised visits and talks to the children will follow in 2025/26.

Year 7 & 8 Kenakena School students also visited the gallery for a guided tour, and there were visits from three Year 5 & 6 Waikanae School classes during the *Te Ngahere Nga Manu* art project preparation.



*Vicki Robson presenting a talk on the Portrait of an Unknown Child to Kapakapanui School children*

Architect and artist Hester Paul initiated a six-week pilot programme of gentle art-making sessions designed for people experiencing early dementia. Supported by the Wellington Dementia Society, the programme aimed to provide a safe, creative, and supportive environment. All immediate gallery staff underwent training so they could appropriately support participants. The sessions were also supported through a Kāpiti Creative Communities grant.

A second series was developed, and further funding is being sought to ensure the programme can continue.

In June, *Te Manawa Toi | Coastlands Gallery* was transformed into a vibrant, flexible space to host 33 community-focused events as part of *Live Art @ Toi MAHARA*. By temporarily leaving the gallery space empty of exhibitions, we opened the space to new audiences, strengthened community engagement, and contributed to the cultural vitality of Kāpiti.

Event highlights included a fundraising Quiz Night, a silent disco, and a variety of live music performances. A standout moment was the immersive and unique sound experience by Wellington-based group Moth Quartet. Another community favourite was a star-making workshop led by artist Ron Te Kawa, which drew over 100 visitors cutting, sticking, creating and laughing together.

In collaboration with Shoreline Cinema, we hosted a special fundraising screening of Dame Gaylene Preston's *Lovely Rita* followed by a Q&A with her at the gallery.

We deeply value our partnerships with many arts and culture groups across Kāpiti and our colleagues in the national arts and museums sector. We acknowledge the shared mahi and values we all add to support our communities and nourish creative thinking, making and expression in our collective daily lives.

***Ahakoā he iti, he pounamu – although it is small, it is a treasure.***

### **He Maimai Aroha**

Toi MAHARA lost several kaumātua, artists, good friends and supporters of the gallery this year. We acknowledge with deep sadness the passing of Te Rakauoteora Te Maipi (Koro Don Te Maipi), Mary-Annette Hay, Gabrielle Rikihana, Ray Mackle, Gordon H. Brown and Robyn Kahukiwa.

Moe mai ra e ngā rangatira.

## **FINANCIAL SUMMARY July 2024 – June 2025**

The 2024-25 finances reflect the first full year of operations in the new gallery. Of the total operating costs of \$746,424, nearly 70 percent (\$508,904) was staff related costs. Total operating revenue was \$758,378, resulting in a modest surplus of \$11,954.

We acknowledge the annual operating grant from Kapiti Coast District Council of \$605,000 (net after payment of rent for gallery premises). Operating revenue raised by the Gallery from exhibitions, grants for exhibitions and educational activities, retail sales, sales commission, its Friends and other sources totaled \$82,698. The Trust is committed to increasing its external fundraising and despite rising costs is not seeking any future increase in Council operational funding.

A pleasing development in our increased external funding was the receipt of a \$97,934 grant from the Field Trust for the ongoing restoration and management of the Field Trust collection, gifted to the gallery. These funds have since been placed in a long-term investment vehicle.

Likewise, the remaining funds from our earlier building fundraising totaling \$329,590 which have not been available for operational funding have now been designated as the Gallery Sustainability and Development Fund and placed in a long-term investment vehicle. The trustees have resolved that the investment earnings of this fund should now be available for operating costs, subject the value of the fund being maintained in real terms.

The Trust also received its first significant legacy during the year. The Trust proposes to further pursue legacies as part of securing its long-term financial sustainability. Unless otherwise specified legacies will be placed as a long-term investment in the Gallery Sustainability and Development Fund.

The Trust's audited Performance Report for 2024-25 which includes the annual financial statements is available for anyone requiring further detail. It can be accessed on the Charities NZ website – [charities.govt.nz](https://charities.govt.nz)

David Shand  
Treasurer, Mahara Gallery Trust Board



# Live Art @ Toi MAHARA Experience, Make, Enjoy, Explore

**5-29 June 2025**  
Mahara Place, Waikanae

**MAHARA**  
Kāpiti Coast District Gallery