



# ANNUAL REPORT

July 2022 - June 2023



## Our Mission

"To Promote, grow, encourage and develop artistic talent throughout the Kaipara region"

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## A year review

We have had a wonderful year free from Covid restrictions and being able to operate at full capacity.

We saw growth in visitor numbers, member artists to the Art Centre, community participation and new programs on offer for our local region.

In September 2022 we were quite shocked to hear that Council were to start major construction works on our building without giving us any notice. We were informed the Art Centre would remain open as the works were on surrounding offices. However that was not the case. After many meetings we discovered the Art Centre would be closed for the duration of two months, which has now extended to be nine months. We would like to confidently say we will be back in our building at the stipulated date of mid August 2023, but we are also preparing that there could be further delays. This has made planning difficult and we have had to cancel significant workshops and exhibitions we had on our calendar.

After looking at available offices in Helensville to have a temporary space while we were out of our building, we were disappointed to hear the cost and requirements of these spaces and we were preparing we would have to be closed. Art Centre Board member reached out to The Helensville Museum Te Awaroa who were happy to offer us a temporary space. We were encouraged by their generosity and community spirit.

When Council informed us construction will take longer, the lovely people at the museum were more than accommodating to continue our time with them. We now have had 5 exhibitions at the Museum, 7 workshops and free community days. We are humbled by local services coming together during a difficult time for the Art Centre and the outcome of our time here will be long lasting connections and future collaborations.

## EXHIBITIONS JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023

### **Matariki**

**1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

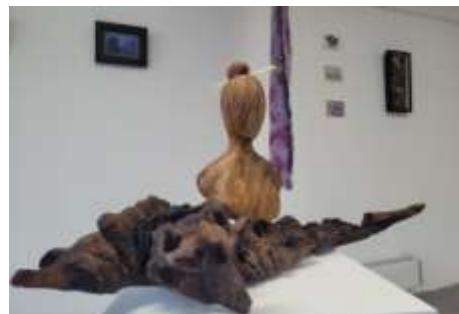
#### **Main Gallery 'The Artwork of Matariki'**

From symbolic reference to star clusters, cultural reference to the seven sisters, and social reference of coming together and planning for a new year ahead. Matariki encompasses a range of meaningful allegories that can be interpreted through any individual art practice. 8 artist contributed to this exhibition, one local carver had exquisite traditional Maori works in the show along with a piece titled 'Hand of God' caved out of Kauri gum.

#### **Media room Gallery 'Installation of Stars'**

Artists participated in Jo Dixey's workshop to create origami and fabric stars for this exhibition, alongside other artists also included in this installation. Media ranged from stitch work, Pyrography, origami and mixed media. Children thoroughly enjoyed this show as we lit up the room and it was interactive for kids to jump and touch the stars.

We sold a total of 6 works totalling \$775, commission to the artist \$581.25. The opening had a great turn out and a total of 208 people viewed this exhibition.



**Cindy Vida**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022**



Cindy's new 'Dawn' Series came after a very difficult season battling with depression. The series was birthed from waking early in the morning and driving around the local area noticing the first dawn light, new colours and stimulating new hope.

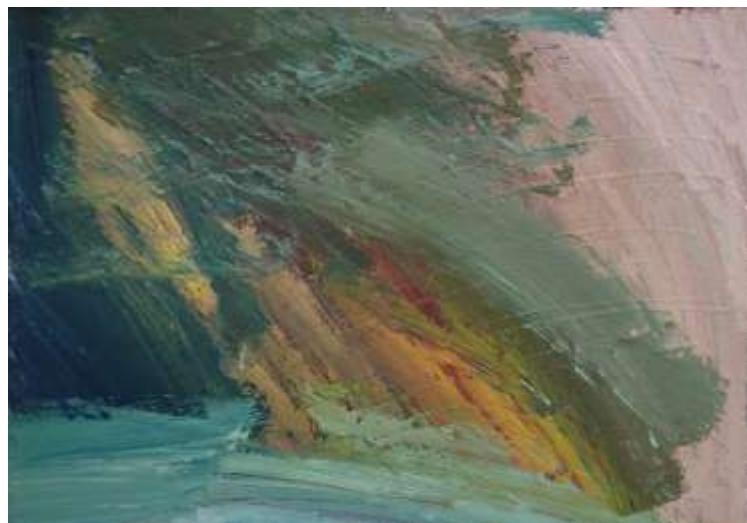
Cindy had 50 people come to her opening event where she performed an original song. Coinciding with her exhibition, Cindy did an artist talk where she made 6 sales. In total Cindy had 226 people visit her exhibition, she made a total of 8 sales \$2550, commission to the artist \$1912.50.

Cindy ran a 3 part workshop series teaching abstract landscape painting for this exhibition.

**Thomas Hogan**  
6<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022



Mt Tabor student Thomas Hogan's exhibition 'Intuition' was in our Media room gallery. Thomas had 26 attend his private opening event and sold one work.



**Intuition**

The spontaneous paintings of Thomas Hogan

August 6th-27th

Art Centre, Helensville, basement of  
War Memorial Hall, 49 Commercial Road,  
entry & parking via Porter Cres.

Open 10-4.30 Wed-Fri, 10-2 Sat



Art Centre  
Helensville

## **Storyboard members**

**2<sup>nd</sup> September – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022**



The theme 'Storyboard' fits into all art practices. As a member's exhibition this provided the artist an opportunity to present their work as a 'body'. It is valuable in terms of future prospects of working towards a solo exhibition.

Member artists within this genre had a 1x1 meter measurement of wall space to exhibit their works in progress. Included in the exhibition were drawings, text, print and colour development.

Local art shop 'Takapuna Art Supplies' sponsored People's Choice award with a generous voucher of \$50. 18 member artists entered into this exhibition and 12 people attended the opening.

During this show we had an 'open studio' corner set up in the gallery. This was to encourage our community of any age, to come and continue making storyboard works that were to be included in the show on an allocated gallery wall space."

## **Mike Rowland**

**5<sup>th</sup> October – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022**



Local realist painter Mike Rowland is well known to the community being one of the Arts Trail artists.

Mike has an incredible skill set that draws on the great masters such as Edouard Vuillard and Manet, yet incorporating a unique compositional style denoting a fantastical world not quite unlike the surrealists.

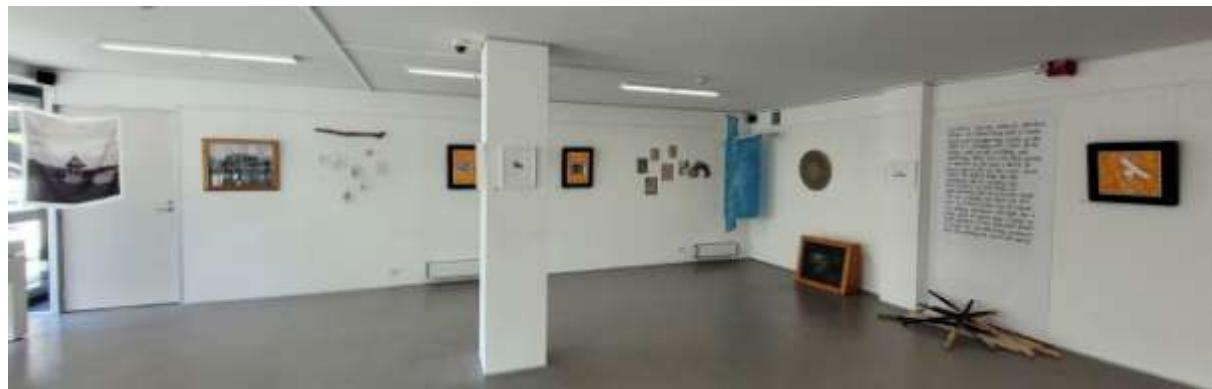
In a recent visit to Mike's studio I felt like I was walking through a modern surreal version of the Sistine Chapel.

Mike Rowland's fantastical paintings captivated our audience. With one remarkable sale totaling \$3000, artist's commission \$2250, Mikes show was a record breaker for the Art Centre. Mike's exhibition was on display for Arts in the Ville which saw over 100 people through the gallery each day during Labor weekend, a total of 2718 visitors for the month. Mike had a lovely gathering event which drew on visitors across Auckland, 48 people attended the opening.



## **Scorched Earth Pop Up**

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022**



The works in this exhibition were emblematic of environmental changes specific to Helensville local region. Artists Sean Thompson, Hannah Rose Arnold and Katie Arnold represented these thematic concerns through their given medium.

'In Scorched Earth, three emerging artists from the small rural town of Te Awaroa Helensville utilize printmaking, photography, sculpture and installation to interrogate the area's social and environmental histories.

Through the deconstruction of local colonial iconography, the artists confront the idolization of colonial past in the face of ongoing environmental degradation. By exploring how connections to the land influence our sense of place, this exhibition considers the powerful role of landscape in shaping identity. (ST)

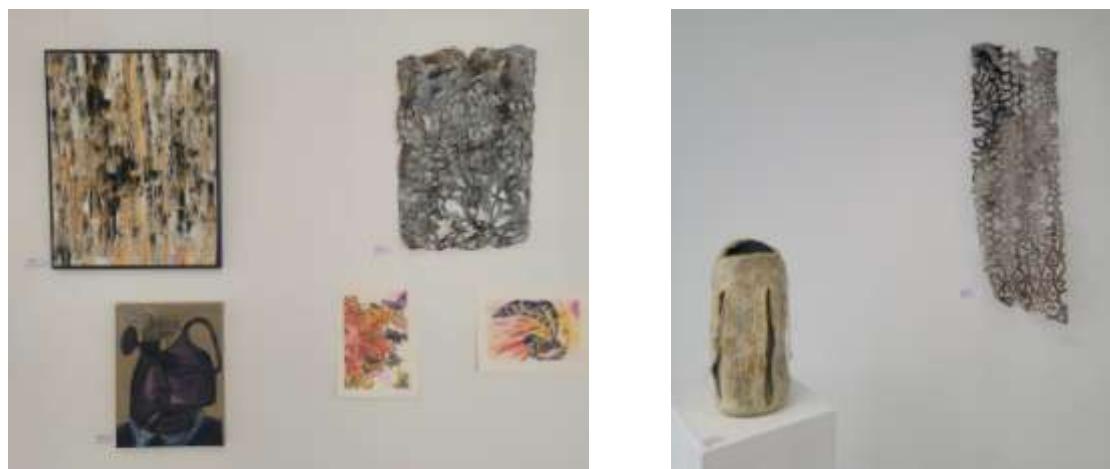
25 people attended the opening, a total of 7 works sold for this one week only show totalling \$540.

## **Cash and Carry**

November - December 2022



Our Cash and Carry Christmas exhibition was cut short as a result of being informed at short notice we will have to close the building early, we still sold 9 works totalling \$1319, \$989.25 commission to the artists. This was encouraging as we had 57 visitors this month due to early closure. Visitors commented on how lovely displayed the exhibition was. Comments on our exhibition include Louisa Vevers "Amazing talented people".



We created an online catalogue through our facebook page to generate more traffic viewing the exhibition and additional avenues for people to buy artwork. It gave more exposure and outside our local region enquired of the artworks.

**‘Our Aotearoa’**  
**Collaborative members show with Kumeu Arts**  
**25<sup>th</sup> January – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023**



Our first member's show of 2023 was a collaborative exhibition with neighbouring Art Centre, Kumeu Arts.

When Kumeu Arts heard we had to close the Art Centre, we worked together on devising combined shows so that the Art Centre Helensville was still able to offer their service to the member artists.



10 Art centre Helensville member artists entered this combined exhibition totaling 144 works entered into this show. We had 150 visitors through.



**Diana Peel**  
8<sup>th</sup> February – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023



We invited Diana to have an impromptu exhibition while we set up at our new location at the Helensville Museum. Diana ran Oil Painting with Palette Knife workshops to start 2023 with. These workshops were very popular.

We have now run 5 oil painting workshops with Diana, all have been fully booked. Each class have come away with finished paintings and learning new skills.

Diana's enthusiasm makes these classes vibrant and provides a social outlet for members of our community. These classes will continue as we move back into the Art Centre building.



## Reflections at the Museum

8<sup>th</sup> March – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023

‘Reflections at the Museum’ pays tribute to our temporary home for the past few months. This has proved to be a lovely connection, providing an ongoing ‘sharing of breath’ between Helensville based contemporary art and the town’s historical artifacts, additionally the RSA who has a temporary display beside our gallery.

Artists have created literal pictorial references, still life paintings and drawings, or contemporized the theme by challenging its physical representation. Jeff Thompson’s take on war badges and pins, David Bailey’s diorama *‘The Four Gods of Chaos Show the True Face of War’* both manipulate historic reference through personal translation of their art practice. This exhibition was open to anyone in the community.



We had two new artists join as members as a result of this show, one a local mum who commented 'it is great to have something creative to participate in the area.' 13 artists entered into this group show and 25 people attended the opening. We ran free workshops encouraging artists to come and reflect on imagery at the Museum, and to take away inspiration to create works for the show. People commented that it was great to socialise with other artists, to reflect and draw, artists who participated displayed their works in the exhibition. We sold 6 works totalling \$555 and had 206 people through the gallery.



**'New Works'  
members  
12<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April**



This Member's Show was for new works (created in the past 2 years) which have not previously been shown at the Art Centre Kaipara.

Despite the smaller location at the Museum, we had a significant turn out of entries. The Gallery was presented in a 'saloon style' hang with works reaching the tall ceiling. We had lots of comments on the Curation of this show, the colour and enthusiasm stole attention of the public. We sold two works in this show and 105 through the gallery.



## Kit Dean and the Museum Archives

*Auckland Festival of Photography*

10<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023



The Art Centre Helensville is temporarily based at Helensville Museum Te Awaroa. As a result we have been privileged to view art in a different context. Utilizing the Museum's symbology and reflecting on preserved subject matter, has challenged the idea of how we approach and curate shows, significantly photography.

Local photographer Kit Dean's practice is environmentally based with a focus on structure and space. Visual aspects of Dean's work are consonant with the static nature of the Museum photographic archives. These two projects will present 'resistance' thematically through the art of preservation and contemporary inclusion.

**Festival of Photography**  
**'In Focus'**  
Collaboration with Kumeu Arts  
30<sup>th</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023

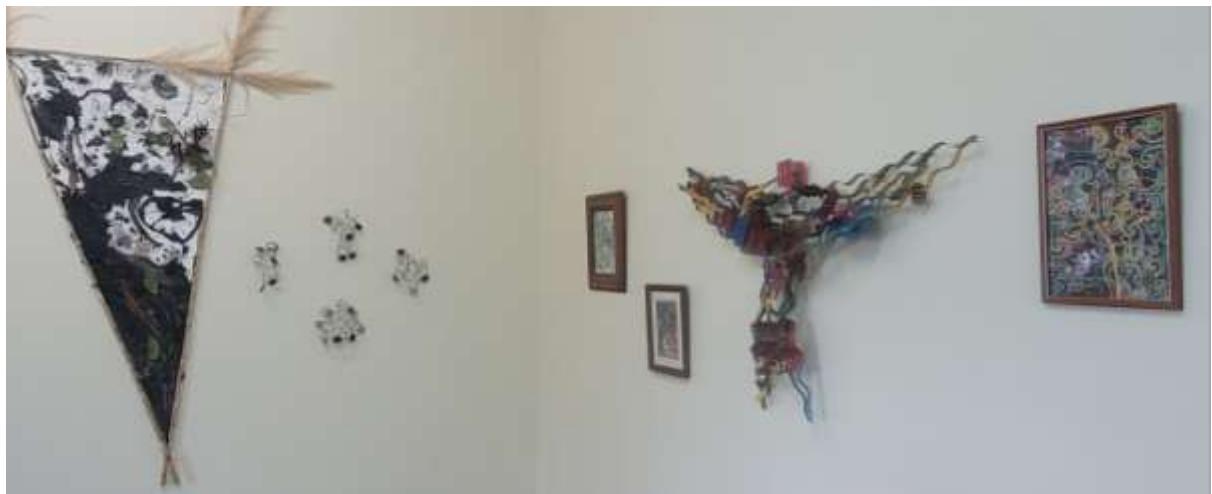


Member artists of Helensville were invited to collaborate in another exhibition at Kumeu Arts. As our Festival of Photography exhibition was held at the Museum, we didn't have the space to open the exhibition up to our community. We held a wonderful exhibition at the Museum of solo artists Kit Dean, our collaboration at Kumeu was to extend the opportunity for Helensville photographers to enter their work into Auckland's well established Festival of Photography.

Two members of Helensville entered this show. The opening night had 70 people at the event. We are grateful to Kumeu for another collaboration of the art centres.

## **Matariki**

**8<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023**



Matariki at the Museum was full of wonderful weekend free events. Some on offer by the art centre and others held by the staff at the Museum. There were talks on Matariki, creative craft workshops and an exhibition by 3 Helensville artists; Colin Harris, Jeff Thomson and Helene Blomfield.

The winter month has been very quiet while we are at the Museum. The cold weather and challenges of operating in a historical building with limited facilities meant we had to shorten our opening hours.

This month our visitor numbers were low due to these conditions, however we were encouraged to see the public come out for our Matariki events. Artwork from these workshops were added to our gallery wall.

## **WORKSHOPS JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023**

Cindy Vida ran a 3 part abstract landscape course during her exhibition



Creative Matters Holiday Programmes



**Willy Coenradi Print Making**



## Diana Peel Oil Painting with Pallette Knife



## Free Workshop days



## **Looking ahead**

Although the art centre has faced significant challenges being vacated from our building, we have had the time to re-evaluate the future of the art centre and its service to our community.

Operating from the Helensville Museum has provided opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring organizations, the Museum and also Kumeu Arts with joint exhibitions.

As we look ahead we acknowledge the gap in our community is regular art classes and creative groups that will better serve the needs of individuals.

While we are still uncertain of the date we are to return to our building, we will be holding regular free drop in short classes, groups and workshops. The aim of this is to gage the need in the community of which classes are most effective, and as we plan our return to the art centre we will establish these classes as regular modules to work from. Our line up so far is;

- Free Friday workshops with member artists of the board. Each board member will provide a short introductory workshop into a particular creative method.
- “Try July” is a 6 week course, 2 hours on Saturday’s introducing the basic methods of drawing and painting skills. This is designed for members of our community who have not had the courage to enter classes that seem too advanced, but want to learn creative skills to get them started.

## **Return to the Art Centre**

As we plan to return to our building we will have a grand opening launching our new logo and sign design. Board members have been hard working on this design and have come to a finalised logo which will be released later this year. The grand opening will involve our member artists who have been patient while we have had setbacks due to the conditions of being closed.

## Synopsis

### Numbers

Between July 2022 and June 2023 Art Centre Helensville had:

- 31 Programmes on Offer
- 47 Participants in Programmes
- 4579 Visitors to our Centre
  
- Membership **56**
- Mailchimp database **678**
- Facebook followers **1224**
- Instagram followers **251**

### Sales

Between July 2022 and June 2023 Art Centre Helensville had

#### **Total for exhibitions**

- 41 works sold
- \$9024 total in sales
- \$6734.25 total in commission to artists

#### **Total for retail**

- \$950
- \$688.75 total in commission to artists

Since November 2021 the Art Centre has

- Instagram site click [here](#)
- website click [here](#)
- To view our Facebook progress click [here](#)

## Goodbye Leda Daniel

This year we said goodbye to chairperson Leda Daniel.

Leda has been a solid rock as chair of the art centre for many years. She weathered the challenges of Covid, held the art centre together when there were gaps in management.

Leda contributed a significant amount of her time to ensure Art Centre Helensville continued serving the community despite difficult times.

Leda was a spearhead for the positive direction the Art Centre is now moving in. We wish Leda the best for her future and in her continued art practice. She is still a well established artist and member of the community and we are delighted to continue having her as a member artist and companion to the art centre.

Well done on all your hard work Leda! You will be remembered and treasured.



## Thanks to our grant funders

We would like to acknowledge and thank our grant funders for helping support what we do in our local community. Without these funds the art centre would not be able to provide a creative outlet in our community, a place for learner and experienced artists to exhibit their work, a welcoming environment and a centre that outreaches to the people of the Kaipara region.



Thank you for being a part of a growing and thriving art centre in Helensville.