



Toi Ora Live Art Trust General Manager's Report 2009

INSPIRING WELLBEING THROUGH CREATIVITY

This year's annual report follows our monthly Strategic Plan reporting format. It has been a momentous year for Toi Ora and Bernadette and I want to thank all those involved in helping to bring Toi Ora not only to our new home, but also in broadening our appeal and raising the communities awareness of who we are and what we do.

1) Develop an Appropriate Space.

- Our Official Opening was a huge success with many organizations and community members attending. (Over 100 people) Rebecca Yeend's first solo exhibition, in our new gallery, was a great completion of the past three years of work towards Toi Ora's relocation, and heralding a new era in the organizations development.
- Final Council sign off has been obtained. The last task was to paint the designated parking areas.
- A Storage Shed was obtained for free and located at the rear. Art storage shelves constructed by Greg has helped utilize the studio space as best we can at this point.
- We would like to develop other storage solutions with a possible mezzanine if we obtain further funding for this in the future.

2) Grow the programmes to continue to build a member led service where the culture is collective, dynamic and proactive.

- Andrew Blythe had another successful showing of his work at the New York Outsider Art Fair as well as sales in an exhibition called "HomeGrown", curated by Stuart Shepherd in Paris. Another solo show at Satellite Gallery called "BrainStorm", he also exhibited some works at the Auckland Grammar School Art Auction exhibition and the Satellite Christmas Show.
- We curated an exhibition at the North Shore Hospital, with support from Jane Hunter from the Hospital Foundation.
- Print Makers and Mosaic artists had a fantastic combined exhibition at Wall Gallery in August. A first for both art groups.

- Pathways Music group continue to attend on Monday evenings. Well supported with several Toi Ora members actively involved. An excellent collaboration.
- Hearing Voices Peer Support Network meetings are being held fortnightly here. Some Toi Ora members are attending these.
- Literatti Performing Poets have run workshops at Toi Ora over the year and utilise the space creatively on Sundays.
- Howling Dog, our end of year group show at ArtStation was very well attended and we have had great feedback and some sales. Over 1000 people attended the exhibition.
- Recording capabilities have been upgraded to a state of the art facility through a successful Frozen Funds grant. We are doing wonderful recordings and will now be able to complete the CD Compilation project early in the new year.
- Peter Finlay's book Blue Messiah will be launched in March 2010. The result of another Frozen Funds grant. This has been a great collaboration with local designer Gideon Keith, past and current creative writing tutors Judith White and Nancy Eisenberg, Toi Ora artist Simon Willis, and support from publisher Stuart Shepherd who has been organizing and advising on the printing and distribution aspects.
- We were unsuccessful with a collaborative funding application to Working Together More Fund. This was a targeted approach with Youth Town, ArtStation and ourselves to Pilot a diverse arts focused community based programme, designed specifically for youth at risk and young people from early intervention services.

3) Build human resources capacity.

- Had four AUT student placements over the year. Received positive feedback from all the students and the placement coordinator at AUT.
- Volunteer Auckland have been a great support with various database volunteers over the year. Continue with one currently helping out on a regular base. These placements have found it very useful in terms of gaining work experience and most have secured employment elsewhere as a result.
- Organised two popular series of weekend art workshops for members during the term breaks, facilitated by artist Thomas Pound.
- Cuts to Adult Education funding will impact on our ability to continue our development of these workshops, unless other funding sources are obtained. Wrote letters to Ministry of Education expressing our concerns and the impact these measures will have on our community. Also supported AAA with their lobbying efforts.
- Reviewed staff job descriptions and positions to reflect how the work undertaken by management has evolved over the last few years.
- Because of relocation funding shortfall two staff members have taken a temporary reduction in their hours to help compensate for this.

4) Quality Plan/Risk Management Plan.

- NDSA confirms our next audit on Tuesday 13th April 2010.
- Tutor/Staff training carried out over the year. Two Challenging Incidents Workshops facilitated by other providers, Stigma and Discrimination Workshop run by the Mental Health Foundation's LMLM team. and a Treaty Waitangi/Cultural Awareness Workshop held here at Toi Ora by our tutor/kaumatua, Don Soloman.
- Developing other training for tutors as required. Term tutor meetings to review and evaluate programme and organise events.

Financial Report:

- Present monthly financial reports to the board.
- Audited Accounts returned and approved.(see attached)
- Funding Appeal is still in operation as we have yet to secure the funding shortfall, currently standing at \$23,000. Eden Commercial Interiors have reluctantly agreed to a monthly \$1,000+gst payment. They would like Toi Ora to increase this next year.
- To hopefully resolve this shortage, we are waiting on the outcome of two outstanding funding applications. An ASB Community Trust Grant application and a MSD Community Response Fund application.

5) Practice Good Governance.

- Rhyl Stafford presented at last Board meeting and would be available to provide further Governance and systems support to Board if we were in a position to pursue this.
- We welcome Julie Walker our new Board member and farewell Colin Cleave. Thank you Colin for your wonderful stewardship over the years. You will be missed.
- We have been actively seeking new Board members and will continue in this endeavour in 2010. We are looking for people with passion, networks, and experience in business and the arts.
- Ongoing support from our patron Christine Fletcher has been appreciated.

6) Develop Monitoring Tools and carry out regular Evaluation.

- We undertake six monthly member and tutor feedback evaluations and an annual community stakeholders evaluation.
- Art Plans are being implemented where appropriate.
- Developing our database software and looking at how we will manage the MOH. PRIMHD reporting requirements being implemented over the next year. Costs associated with this development are still to be determined.

7) Increase fundraising activities to be sustainable and to foster growth.

We have had a very active fund raising year, beside the relocation we have received various grants to action our projects and events in 2009.

- Creative Communities Grant, \$2,300 for print making exhibition. Communities Group Assistance Fund of \$4600 from Auckland City Council for end of year group show Howling Dog.
- Lion Foundation and JR McKenzie Trust \$3000 a piece to support our Website and IT development.
- N.Z. Post. \$500 for Postage.
- TheMHs Gold Award A\$2,000.
- Frozen Funds Trust grant of \$30,000 to purchase state of the art recording equipment and music gear to upgrade our old worn out setup.
- ReThink Grant \$4,350 from Mind and Body Consultants for the Ponderings 2 publication, this will be compiled in the first half of next year.
- Chartwell Trust donated \$5000 for exhibitions this year.
- For Toi Ora's Funding Appeal we gratefully received the following donations from
Auckland Regional Consumer Network. \$3000.
Mason Clinic. \$500
Arahura Trust. \$500
Connectsr. \$1000
Judge Ken Mason. \$200
- Art an Object were unable to support us in the end, for a planned Art Auction to raise funds for the relocation shortfall. We will be looking at a substitute event in the new year.

8) Increase visibility of Toi Ora Live Art Trust.

- **Toi Ora's Gold Award for Consumer Provided Mental Health Services at the TheMHs Conference 09 in Perth was a fantastic achievement for the organisation.**
- Blue Messiah, by Peter Finlay, is near the printing stage, the Frozen Funds grant has enabled this exciting project to be completed. Nancy has been managing the project, Judith White edited the work, Gideon Keith from Seven Ltd has been employed to do the layout and design and Stuart Shephard is responsible for coordinating the printing and is providing advice for distribution and publicity.
- Peter Fay, an art collector, who has bought Toi Ora work previously, popped in when we were installing Rebecca's exhibition and was keen to look at a show of Andrew's work in Sydney.
- Toi Ora's four exhibitions this year and the associated publicity has helped to raise our community arts profile, whilst helping to promote our new location. We have had articles in the *Harbour News*, *NorthShore News*, *Ponsonby News*, and *Auckland*, the latter resulting in a surprise visit from **Judge Ken Mason**, who was very impressed with what Toi Ora has achieved.
- Promotional DVD of Toi Ora presented to us by AUT students.
- Hearing Voices Network AGM held here with Toi Ora entertainment.

- Fiesta in the Park for **World Mental Health Day** was a big undertaking, but a great community success and collaboration with other mental health services, as was the OctGig 09 at the Kings Arms during the same week. Great to have Mike Chunn's support and we received very positive feedback from stakeholders, participants, musicians and the community. We have reviewed the events and plan to build on this success further at next years Awareness Week.
- The MIND U theatre troupe had an over night trip to Dargaville to perform as an opening act for Mike King, who was presenting for Mental Health Awareness Week. The first traveling performance- and the first on a stage. The best performance to date ☺
- Attended Community Arts Conference in Rotorua. Good networking and contacts, as we plan with the Auckland Creative Space Network to put on a symposium in the latter part of 2010 with Whitecliffe College of Art and Design.
- Attended AAA forum in Wellington with the visit from Tom di Marie Director of Creative Growth Centre in San Francisco.
- Nancy edited and published Toi Ora Poetry 2008, creative writing class work as well as Make Poetry, a class collaboration for the Howling Dog exhibition.
- Anthony continues to enhance our website and develop this avenue as a spearhead to our promotional and sponsorship endeavours for next year.
- Toi Ora's group show Howling Dog was a wonderfully received exhibition, with over a thousand attending the exhibition, it also provided an excellent partnership with ArtStation this year.
- Toi Ora Music group performed again at Kelston for the Shared Vision Christmas Party.
- We had a good visit from Dr. David Chaplow Director Mental Health from the MoH. as part of his visit to the ADHB. He was accompanied by the new Planning and Funding manager Robert Ford and Julie Armstrong. It was intimated that the ADHB may be able to provide some one off support in the near future!
- Though art sales have been slow over the year, we have experienced a nice flurry in the last two months and weeks.... Painting, Prints and Mosaics, the proceeds providing some welcome income to those artists for their holidays.

Toi Ora has landed firmly on the ground, and we look forward to consolidating on the achievements of the past year. By responding to the needs of our members, being innovative, continuing to broaden our funding sources, and involving the whole community to a better understanding of mental health and the value of arts practice, we are making an impact.

Erwin van Asbeck
Bernadette Brewer

General Manager
Arts Manager