



AGM. MANAGERS REPORT 2008.

Kia ora and welcome.

Toi Ora has had an exceptional year, where many of the objectives that were set through our Strategic Plan by the Board, members, and management, over the last few years, have now been realized, or are on the verge of success.

The Toi Ora Relocation.

Toi Ora is finally making the move.

We have signed the Head Lease for 6 Putiki St. a wonderful building just down the road. A lot of work and planning has gone into this and with the help of John Constable and staff from ConstableHurst Architects, we are now awaiting on Council resource and building consents to come through. The required alterations will then commence and will include a new mezzanine floor as well as a rear deck and two disability toilets. It is hoped that we will be able to move early in the new year!

Our patron Christine Fletcher and husband Tony Langbein, have also been very supportive, particularly in the initial phase when we were looking for suitable premises and securing the head lease.

After initial consultation and presenting a relocation proposal to the ADHB we were unsuccessful in obtaining their financial support in our relocation endeavors. We were however successful in receiving a \$45,000 ASB Community Trust grant, that has enabled the relocation process to continue. We are currently awaiting further assistance from them and other funding sources to complete the relocation of Toi Ora.

The new building will fulfill all the needs and expectations that were identified in the consultation and planning process. The new environment will place Toi Ora more firmly in the community as a progressive and attractive service for people with experience of mental health needs.

Policy and Organisational Development.

We are now able to sign off on our audit review.

This has been a very thorough process and Toi Ora enlisted the services of Gareth Edwards from Thinking Positive Ltd. He has done a fantastic job and we have taken this opportunity to review and update all of Toi Ora's policy and procedures. We have also received great advice and support from Keri Honner, Quality Consultant with the NDSA. She has ably guided the organisation through the audit process.

David Mamea our part time administrator has undertaken a thorough review of our administrative and financial systems and procedures, resulting in an improvement in all facets of our administration, he has been supported by Mark Dowd our Financial Advisor, who has been giving his services free of charge.

We have invested in a soft-ware package called "Focus On Fundraising" to properly collate and streamline our information and communication data base. The package apart from providing good systems for fund raising, analysis, and reporting, will also be used to develop a donor data base. It is also a very effective member data base system and information programme, which enables us to provide accurate and time saving reporting data.

The Toi Ora website has been ably enhanced with the expertise of our multi media tutor, Anthony Wareham. He has put in many hours to further develop the site to reflect the quality and success of what we do for all the world to see. We secured a small amount of funding this year for IT support and Anthony is able to resolve most of our day to day computer issues. We are however, in need of addressing some ongoing problems, which require further investment and we will endeavor to raise the necessary funding for this.

The Programme.

We continue to deliver 10 arts programmes a week and our membership has grown to 320 members registered and a term enrolment average of 100.

Our ethnic and gender demography also reflects that of our general community with equal gender and ethnic representation.

We are also working more closely with other service providers such as Waipareira Trust, Malolga Trust and Vakatautua, Affinity Services, and Maori Mental Health to name a few.

With growing member enrolment we are needing to diversify with extra tutor hours in some of the programmes. Weekend workshops are also an avenue to broaden our ability to deliver our service.

We have secured some additional funding from Community Education this year and for 2009 to cover for extra tutor hours to deliver on this. The new premises will be a better environment for programme development to occur.

We are currently looking into an exciting collaborative series of workshops that will involve members from the diverse art disciplines that we offer.

Designed by established artist Thomas Newman Pound the workshops will generate new approaches and opportunities for people to explore familiar and new mediums.

I would like to give my heart felt thanks to our excellent tutors who have provided great tuition and guidance to our members and often go the extra mile to help deliver our quality programmes.

There has been significant personal and artistic achievements for members, and I would like to acknowledge everyone in their commitment to achieve this.

Sales of art works have also been achieved with several purchases by the ADHB art advisor to add to their public art collection. This compliments a larger purchase made previously.

We are making serious efforts to diversify our points of sale opportunities to increase revenue for member artists and Toi Ora.

Conferences and meetings and supportive networks and exhibitions.

Toi Ora attended the TheMHs Conference, held in Auckland this year and two trustee/members and myself presented a talk on "Inspiring Well Being through Creativity", incorporating a continual screening of art images showcasing peoples work whilst we presented.

I attend the quarterly mental health NGO sector "Navigate" meetings, keeping me informed of funding, communication, and service trends within the sector, the ADHB and the Ministry of Health. There are also quarterly Creative Space Network (CSN) meetings that are very productive opportunities within the arts and disability sector here in Auckland.

Through CSN and our own projects we have also increased our communication with Arts Access Aotearoa (AAA) in Wellington. This is an important link as it represents a national body that we link into for support and promotional purposes.

One of our members has recently featured on their website with his story and art images, and Andrew Blythe has his art represented in their Outsider Gallery exhibition. This has resulted in one of his works now being on display with Internal Affairs in the Beehive.

We have also had an abstract approved to present at Momentum09. the International disability conference to be held in February in Auckland.

Camelia Petrus and Ian Baker from Tuatara Films have provided generous support producing a short Toi Ora doco. for their entry in the Mental Health Media Grants. It covers the many aspects of Toi Ora, featuring some member perspectives and can be accessed on our website. They plan to do a full production once funding has been secured.

Ian has also taken professional photographs of our art which has been used in various publications this year.

A growing number of members entered various exhibitions over the year. "Drawing Parallels" at Pablos's ROAR Gallery in Wellington and the Waitakere Art Awards, where a member received the Merit Contemporary Art Award of \$250 of art supplies. The Depot Arts Sale Exhibition to be launched at the Gallery in Devonport this month. We also have access to their members Tardis Gallery and another exhibition at ROAR, Mince Pies Christmas show.

Some of the highlights and events Toi Ora instigated this year

- "Strange Effigy" Andrew Blythe's first solo show at Satellite Gallery was held in August, A very popular and talked about exhibition, this was a fantastic success and resulted in lots of sales and exposure for Andrew and Toi Ora. Peter Fay from Sydney who has supported Toi Ora in the past and The Chartwell Trust have both made purchases.
- This has resulted in an exciting documentary about Andrew and Toi Ora, produced and directed by Tanya Black and Emma Williams from Attitude TV. to be screened on TV1. early in the new year.
- Stuart Shepherd wrote the foreword for a limited edition publication of Strange Effigy an art and poetry book of Andrew's work which we published for the exhibition.
- RAW VISION was the title of this years annual group exhibition at Depot Artspace in Devonport from 4th to the 16th Oct. A well attended and received exhibition, our first over the bridge! Over 50 art works including our mosaic art. Our thanks to Nikki from El Framo for their on going support in providing frames.
- Oct Gig 08. Celebrating Mental Health Awareness Week was an exciting night of top music from the sector with a relaxed lounge feel at the Wine Cellar. This was a joint effort between Toi Ora, The Regional Consumer Network, Mental Health Foundation, and CADS. The Oct. Gig was initiated last year with the help of the late Mahinarangi Tocker, and it is with her passion and commitment to music and destigmatising mental health that we are honoured to build this event up. So look out for next years Oct. Gig coming to you in MHAW09.....
- Our Mind U theatre troupe devised and wrote a piece called "A Chorus Line" specifically for the Hearing Voices Aotearoa/NZ AGM. This was filmed and the experience has resulted in the group being galvanized to greater theatrical aspirations.
- At Walsh Trust's Communication Hui, on International Mental Health Awareness Day, the 10th Oct. we again showcased our diversity of talent, with visual art on display. and 13 musicians, poets and the Mind U theatre troupe performing 'A Chorus Line'.
- We also lent out Toi Ora art to the Recovery Conference in Orewa on the same day.

- Stuart Shepherd continues to promote Andrew and other "outsider artists" from NZ at the New York Outsider Arts Fair. He has achieved this through the support of the renowned Phyllis Kind Gallery, and has now been invited to have his own stall at next years Fair. This will greatly enhance New Zealand artists' profile and help promote and sell work at an international level.
- The end of term Soirees are popular events which demonstrate and celebrate what members have been up to over the year. They are also a great way for friends, family, whanau, and the community to visit and experience what we have to offer.
- Look out for, and mark these dates in your diary now, Christmas end of term Soiree on the 18th December, as this will be our last at 19 Putiki St. and will be a grand occasion, and of course a great opportunity to buy original quality art presents at recession conscience prices!
- Grey Lynn Park Festival on the 22nd of Nov. We continue our presence at this years festival with a stall selling quality toi ora artist designed T shirts, mosaic and our art and poetry publications.

Conclusion

Toi Ora has developed a firm foundation and proven record to continue its longer term objective as a sustainable community enterprise. By growing the organisation we broaden our ability to be innovative, involving the whole community to a better understanding of mental health. We are well positioned as a thriving arts space, making an impact in this exciting and active arts hub of Auckland.

Erwin van Asbeck
Manager
Bernadette Brewer
Studio/Arts Coordinator

Toi Ora Live Art Trust

www.toiora.org.nz