

ACN Activity overview for the July 2018 – June 2019 Financial Year.



Objective: Arts advice & promotion, locally and regionally:

Enquiries:

ACN has maintained the position of being the 'go-to' organisation for enquiries, advice and assistance on a wide range of creative aspects. Over the period ACN effectively responded to a minimum of 200 email enquiries per month, over and above enquiries received regarding Refinery ArtSpace business. Personal visits to the office average 100 in any given month. It is extremely rare that we are unable to assist with any enquiry and feedback remains extremely positive on the services we provide. ACN is accessed by a wide cross section of the community and visitors seeking information and advice on a diverse range of enquiries.

Database:

ACN has the capability of sending information to and/or calling for expressions of interest from a wide spectrum of the creative community, the ability to identify, locate and target artists with project related specific skills/experience is often key to success for many projects (particularly those with short windows of opportunity). Positive feedback has been received on ACN's ability to efficiently assist external project managers, visitors and other stakeholders in identifying and providing referrals and contacts for personnel sought.

Notwithstanding, we acknowledge that our existing resources and knowledge base needs consolidating to ensure future personnel may easily access this valuable resource. Over the period ACN has initiated the development of a new extended artist database, however the workload of staff has limited efforts in this area over the past year. ACN plans to tackle this mammoth undertaking in the coming year as has allocated \$1,250 for additional staffing to enable this to happen.

Promotion of local art activity and opportunities:

We have experienced steady growth in subscriber numbers to our monthly newsletters which has now exceeded 1000. Over the period we have rebranded these utilising Mail Chimp to provide a cleaner more professional look.

ACN has maintained production of Monthly Arts Calendars detailing arts events, exhibitions, presentations and artist's opportunities which staff research, collate and publish in printed hard copy poster and leaflet formats which have been distributed primarily in the Nelson CBD and are also supplied to other organisations across the Top of the South Island for self-printing and display each month.

Promotion has increased through the steady growth in visitors to our website which now regularly receives between 1200 -2000+ page views per week, approximately half of which are unique visitors. Complementing our website hosting, ACN's social media presence has been maintained through Facebook. Instagram and Twitter platforms

In addition to our own on-line activities, ACN regularly utilises other on-line avenues to promote Nelson events and opportunities. These include but are not limited to: Nelson's 'It's On' Directory, The Big Idea, Artist Alliance, National Network of Community Arts Councils, etc. Monthly promotion of Refinery shows are placed on It's On along with specific community participatory events presented by ACN.

Paid advertising is undertaken for specific events/publications.

Support for Nelson City Council Public Arts Projects:

Protocols for consultation have thwarted efforts to progress public artworks over the period and whilst ACN have provided support and administrative services to initiate projects these have fallen over at the last moment. ACN congratulate Nelson City Council on the development of the Iwi-Council Arts and Heritage forum: Te Ohu toi Ahurea. ACN are aware that this is the first time Nelson has had an arts consultation forum that engages all local Iwi and are excited with prospects for future projects.

Nelson City Council art projects assisted/delivered by ACN during the period have included:

- Chorus Box Mural artist identification/liaison (NCC/Chorus)
- Harakeke Woven Flowers for Heritage Week Celebrations at the Church Steps
- Concept/Development for city wide arts projects
- Brief development, promotion and implementation of the call for EOI's and selection process for the Haven Rd Project (NCC/NZTA)
- Pop-up CBD Arts Activations programme
- Stoke Library emergency murals
- Support for the Elmer Turner Library 'Poster competition'
- Brief development for 'City Flags' project to be delivered in 2019/20

ACN look forward to supporting and delivering upon Nelson City Council Art Projects planned to be implemented soon in the next financial year, which include:

- Artwork for Public Building: Murals for Council Spaces
- The CBD Flag Project
- Further CBD Arts Activations

Involvement in Community Art Projects:

Collectively, ACN personnel provide a knowledgeable and vastly experienced creative resource enabling the organisation to champion original and innovative opportunities that contribute to a sustainable environment for the arts to flourish in the region. The organisation is readily poised to professionally create and establish community beneficial events. Health and Safety Management Plans are tailor made to each event to ensure best practice is achieved in the varying undertakings and work environments. Examples of events undertaken over the period include:

Found Faces Project - This initiative engaged and provided interest from the public by challenging people to look at natural and everyday things in a different way to discover the 'faces' that surround them in their daily life. Initiated in the previous year this concluded early this year with the siting of a 120 x480mm photomontage mural sited on the front of the old Mediterranean Foods building.

Changing Threads National Contemporary Fibre Arts Awards - A nationally subscribed event showcasing this genre at The Refinery ArtSpace. 2018 saw the successful delivery of the 10th Anniversary Showcase to which many of our region's practitioners were represented (and several were recipients of Awards). This event is popular with locals and draws visitors from around the country and contributes toward underpinning Nelson's reputation as a centre of the arts.

Parihaka Poi Making Workshops – ACN liaised with Ngā Manu Korihi mai Whakatū Parihaka Network to deliver a workshop on how to create and use Parihaka Poi. Maata Warehoka from Parihaka was engaged to tutor the workshop with the vision that every person in Aotearoa can use poi on Parihaka Day (November 5th) for which a community poi event will take place. Whilst this offered specific poi making, skills learnt can be translated into making other durable machine washable poi for more general use. Participants also learnt how to make harakeke poi.

Kanikani Manawaroa Poi Workshops – ACN partnered with Liz Byrne to deliver a series of classes on poi making and performance. Supported financially by ACN, these were open to and freely accessible for beginners 12yrs + who identifies as female absolute at the Victory Community Centre.

RAW 2: work outside the edge – An ACN initiated a national call inviting submissions of 2D & 3D artworks for a second special exhibition which aimed to showcase works; created by people who have no formal or traditional art training, that expresses individuality and inventiveness and that are 'RAW' – uncooked by cultural and artistic influences. The call for entries has been made and the show will take place at the Refinery ArtSpace, Nelson in October 19 to be included in the Nelson Arts Festival events. ACN are thrilled to work alongside the Festival team in providing a high-profile event for these artists, for whom such opportunities rarely (if ever) occur.

Transformers 2 - An Arts Council Nelson initiative repeated for a second year due to public demand. The project is intergenerational where people of all ages in the Nelson Tasman region were challenged to create a 3D object derived from a child's drawing or painting. Promoting accessible creative interaction, there were no rules – we simply wanted people to take part and give it a go. Despite having been asked by so many people to re-run this project the final number of pieces actually submitted were lower than the previous year. Works were sufficient to create a small show which was displayed at the Emer Turner Library and then toured to Stoke and throughout the Tasman region.

CD Weaving Project – ACN initiated this community arts project with the aim of creating a large installation to be gifted to and sited within the new Greenmeadows Centre in Stoke. The involved facilitating the making and gifting of hundreds of individually woven CD's to be installed together to create a wonderful large public artwork by and for the community. ACN developed 'how to' guides accessible from our website, promoted the project widely (but with a particular focus on Stoke residents and groups), provided materials and delivered freely accessible workshops in the community (including Stoke Library & Greenmeadows).

The project captured people's imagination and provided a vehicle for people to contribute towards gifting something to their new community facility. Over two hundred weavings were produced. The large response has led to two artworks being installed at the centre. A medium sized work (1200x2000mm) was sited in time for the centre's open day, the larger work will be installed once a hanging system is in place in the main corridor section of the building. (Hopefully July 19).

Armistice Day Project - to acknowledge Nelsonians engaged in the WW1. ACN undertook wide community outreach to encourage and foster the making of over 2000 woven harakeke flowers. Engagement was successful across all ages from school students through to old folks' home

residents. The Whakatu Marae was approached separately and invited to make flowers to represent the Māori Battalion members. ACN promoted the project and created a downloadable template/step by step instruction sheet which teachers/activity organisers could utilise to engage students/residents etc. ACN facilitated the identification of tutors and project workers to deliver several workshops in community spaces (libraries / women's house /victory /retirement homes, etc) and co-ordinated the collection, delivery and installing the display.

In the Frame – initiated in previous years, ACN has maintained the rotation of children's images in the permanently sited frames in Trafalgar St and by the entrance of the Elmer Turner Library. ACN hope to develop this project later in the year to include images selected from submissions to the 'RAW 2' Event in October.

Before I die Project – An International project created by US Artist Candy Chang which ACN wished to bring to the region. In these days of distraction and polarization, the Before I Die project offers a modern ritual that restores perspective and invites us to consider the things which connect us.

The Nelson project involves creating a self-standing structure upon which the community may share their aspirations in chalk for public viewing. The boards can be cleaned from time to time to keep them fresh and allow for new comments from others. The structure is also able to be easily dismantled, moved and re-erected in different locations. Whilst initiated earlier in the year this project was put on hold following the Christchurch Mosque attacks. The structure is complete and shall be installed in Mid July 19.

Please also refer to Refinery ArtSpace Report for other community initiatives undertaken/supported by ACN over the year.

Sector Collaborations:

ACN has maintained strong ties in working collaboratively with a cross section of the arts and wider communities. The composition of the incoming ACN Executive Committee (October18) enables direct links and opportunities with other groups/organisations including: Nelson Youth Council, Community Art Works, Magenta Creative Space, Nelson Arts Festival, NMIT, The Suter, Nelson Provincial Museum, The Quiet Dog Gallery, Creative Journeys and Light Nelson. Indirect links from these are plentiful and provide ACN with a good understanding of community needs.

ACN's Management of the Refinery has enabled the organisation to greatly extend opportunities to work collaboratively and support artists and community members realise their aspirations.

ACN has welcomed attending regular arts and community hui throughout the period; these have included:

Te Taihu Maori Partnership and Investment Forum - This forum provides poignant networking and information between major funding providers with an emphasis on Māori opportunities.

City Centre Korero Group – which includes RDA, Uniquely Nelson etc.

Tasman and Nelson City Creative Communities Schemes Assessment Committees

Nelson City Council Staff/Departmental meetings and collaborations include: Arts & Heritage Team Leader and advisors, Libraries staff, Ian Wallace (Christmas Decorations & Arts Fund), Events Team, Alan Gray CBD Redevelopment/Enhancement, Greenmeadows Centre etc.

ACN has undertaken dialogue/consultation with the following over the period: Ghost Light Theatre / Ngā Manu Korihi mai Whakatū Parihaka Network / Nelson Fringe Festival/ NCMA / Makeshift Spaces / NMIT / Light Nelson Collective / Motueka & Golden Bay Arts Councils/ Nelson Sister Cities / Arts@203 Collective / NSAS / Nelson Arts Festival / Community ArtWorks / Nelson Improv Group, to name but a few.

ACN's administration of the Nelson City Creative Communities Scheme puts it in an ideal position to regularly network and be aware of the ideas and creative aspirations of the community. This also identifies needs of projects that may not be supported through the scheme, but which ACN can assist with in other ways. One example of this is the Kanikani Manawaroa Poi Workshops, which because of time constraints, would not have happened if ACN had not offered staff resources and financial assistance from its own funds.

National Networking - ACN maintains links with other Community Arts Council's around the country, Local Authorities' Arts Advisors, Creative New Zealand and other arts organisations nationally. The sharing and receiving of advice and information provides opportunities to nationally promote events and opportunities happening within the Nelson region, as well as identifying national opportunities for our local artists development.

Efficiency & Leadership – For the 18/19 year, ACN was governed by a board of eleven Executive members:

Barbara Franklet (Chair), Lee Woodman (Secretary). Gill Starling (Treasurer), Emma Barnes-Wetere (Youth Rep) and Community representatives: Josephine Cachemaille, Faye Wulff, John Cohen du Four, Kay van Dyk, Amanda Raine, Anne Pokel and Sophie Kelly.

Each brought individual experience and skills to the table and collectively contributed a diverse and valuable knowledge to the robust governance of the organisation. During their term they developed and implemented annual plans, budgets and reviewed major policies such as Health and Safety. The wealth of professional experience, arts and organisational affiliation of the current membership ensures that best practice is facilitated and adhered to. There were no Health and Safety incidents to report upon for the period.

ACN has maintained the employment of Lloyd Harwood (Full-time Community Arts Manager), Ann Braunsteiner (part-time Refinery ArtSpace Manager) and Heidi Lucas (Part-time Arts/Financial Administrator)

Contractors have included John Roughan (Cleaner) and Lee Woodman and (Gallery Technician) on a casual 'as needed' basis. Other services contracted include: Cleanlink and Spider Ban Pest Control.

The Executive have overseen staff in both operational and financial activity and personnel work regularly and closely with the organisations financial 'Reviewer' (Jorgensen's) on the day to day financial systems management. ACN have full confidence in the robust financial control systems that have been established and are adhered to.

Please do not hesitate to contact Lloyd Harwood should if you would like any further information regarding ACN's activity.

Report Author: Lloyd Harwood. July 2nd 2019. Arts Council Nelson Community Arts Manager

On behalf of the ACN Executive Committee.