

Sarjeant Quarterly



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June - August 2014



From the Senior Curator

by Greg Anderson

What an extraordinarily busy time it has been at the Sarjeant! Since the last newsletter we have opened our wonderful temporary site, *Sarjeant on the Quay*, at 38 Taupo Quay Wanganui.

The build up towards this momentous event occurred in many different ways including a 3am blessing of 38 Taupo Quay by John Maihi, attended by forty to fifty people (16 April); an interview that screened on *ONE News* (24 May); an interview about the Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment aired on Radio New Zealand's *Standing Room Only* programme (1 June); numerous public presentations about the Redevelopment were made by Nicola Williams, Jenni Giblin and myself; countless meetings were organised to make sure all of the public and private events leading up to the big day would run seamlessly; volunteer groups were put together and precisely marshalled so that we could staff all of our public activities; a Sarjeant presence has been established at the Saturday *River Traders Market*; and sponsors sought to provide special prizes on opening day.

Wednesday 21 May saw the first school group use our purpose built classroom at Sarjeant on the Quay and that evening we hosted our Members; volunteers and 1000 Stars supporters to a behind the scenes preview of the new spaces. The evening of Friday 23rd saw the official opening of the Gallery attended by Hon. Chris Finlayson Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and Mayor Annette Main as well as the unveiling of a plaque atop a specially chosen kohatu (boulder) outside the front doors of the Gallery. Saturday 24th was the biggest occasion though when Mayor



Annette officially opened Sarjeant of the Quay to the Wanganui public. The day began with festivities such as Chalk Your Art where groups of stars were drawn and decorated on the pavement from the Gallery to 38 Taupo Quay – prizes for the best work were donated by city businesses and the grand winner received a new iPad. Children from schools all around the town decorated balloons by way of celebration; and a constant supply of music over Saturday and Sunday was provided by a diverse and talented group of musicians. By Monday we had greeted more than 1000 people coming through our doors, with exhibitions by Jeff Thomson and Ans Westra getting us off to a flying start.

The success of this new chapter in the life of the Sarjeant is due to the enormous amount of hard work put in by legions of people but I would like to single out Nicola Williams, Lari Steward, Lynne Vinsen and Libby Wood for their particular devotion to making our opening and events such a success. Thanks too must go to our builders DML and teams of sub-contractors; Jackson's Flooring for their generous contribution; our architects Bruce Dickson and Elinor McDouall; Wanganui District Council property staff; Wanganui District Councillors and elected representatives; and of course to the dedicated Sarjeant and Council staff who worked so diligently to make sure our final product was polished and ready to go. music over Saturday and Sunday was provided by a diverse and talented group of musicians. By Monday we had greeted more than 1000 people

Members' News

by Libby Wood

A warm welcome to new Gallery Member Terry Coxon, Peter Richardson, Esther Tooman.

The Gallery is pleased to acknowledge the following as Corporate Members and Corporate Sponsors:

ASB Bank, Bryce Smith & Associates Ltd., Central City Pharmacy, ComputerCare NZ Ltd, Doyle + Associates – Chartered Accountants, GDM Group Ltd., Kensington Swan, Meteor Design & Print and OPD, Richard Millward & Associates, Nicola Williams, Pamela M J Williams, pattillo Ltd., Te Reo Irirangi O Wanganui – AWA FM, The Radio Network Wanganui, Pak'n Save, Wanganui Chronicle, Whanganui UCOL – Creative Programmes

We value the support of our Corporate Members and Sponsors and encourage you to utilise their services whenever possible.

Greetings Members

Well, where to start this Quarterly Report? There have been so many exciting things happening.

Firstly the Special Preview of *Sarjeant on the Quay* for our Members. This was a lovely occasion, as I am sure those who attended will agree and it was great to see the expressions on people's faces as they viewed the Gallery's temporary space for the first time. How fortunate to have Jeff Thomson and Ans Westra as the opening artists for this space.

You, the Members, nominated the Gallery staff as recipients of the River City Press "Bouquet of the Week" and this was duly presented

to them on 10 June. Thanks to River City Press, the Flower Room and the Grand Hotel for this recognition of these wonderful people.

"Art Fix" kicked off on 12 June and it is hoped that this informal discussion/coffee date will be a monthly fixture for those interested in making (more) sense of art on their own terms. Facilitated by Tom Turner, these friendly and relaxed sessions are held at 2pm on the second Thursday of each month in the Quay Gallery above the Information Centre. Bring pen and paper – and a friend if you like!

A programme of activities and entertainment celebrating the opening of Sarjeant on the Quay drew an enthusiastic response from the Wanganui public. At the Whanganui River Traders Market children created balloon art while older students and artists decorated a trail of chalk 'stars' on the pavement. After the cutting of a ribbon by Mayor Annette Main the crowd entered the fabulous building to a background of live music generously provided by local musicians for the duration of the weekend. The success of events like this can be largely attributed to the team of people who give of their time, expertise and resources to ensure proceedings run seamlessly from start to finish. Members were involved every step of the way, from "manning" the Sarjeant tent at the markets in the lead up, soliciting prizes for the competitions, blowing up balloons and supervising chalk artists.

Mention must also be made of the awesome team of volunteers who assisted with the hosting of the official opening event on 23 May. Gallery Members are also now providing an ongoing presence at the Saturday Market, providing information about the redevelopment project, encouraging visitors to the Sarjeant and sign-ups to Membership and the Thousand Stars fundraising initiative.



Far Left: Mayor Annette Main cutting the ribbon to officially open Sarjeant on the Quay

Left: Jeff Thomson, Hon. Chris Finlayson and Tauranga Art Gallery Director Penelope Jackson

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Education News

by Andrea Gardner
and Sietske Jansma

It has been wonderful having school children in our new classroom! They have been entering the new building with lots of ooh's and ahhhh's. They love seeing the big exhibition space with live fish looking out at them from Jeff Thomson's fish tank sculpture. The flock of colourful corrugated iron chooks also captivates their attention and has inspired them to create their own delightful 3D chicken sculptures. We have had many interesting conversations with them about roofing materials and poultry experiences!

We feel very fortunate to have a classroom with windows and a sink. The toilets are right outside the classroom door. Teachers and parents have seemed very pleased and comfortable with the new space.

With Matariki in the air we have taught a number of classes on Puanga, the star that can be seen from Whanganui and signifies the beginning of the Maori New Year. Students have made brightly coloured paper kites with long tails that actually fly!

We are looking forward to an exuberant time of art making, looking and talking with students in the new Sarjeant on the Quay.

(Transition Assistant introduction)

We are delighted to introduce four new Collection Transition Assistants to help us with moving our collection of over 5,500 artworks from the Sarjeant Gallery collection store to our temporary premises on Taupo Quay. These are temporary 21 month fixed term positions. The collection relocation will fully occupy our team until the end of 2015 as we pack for transport, fully document, and rehouse each artwork. It is a unique opportunity for our staff to see and handle every single art work, something that hasn't happened since the beginning of the Sarjeant collection. By the time the relocation work is complete every artwork will be documented on our computer database and will have a new location in the Taupo Quay collection store. The Transition Assistants have proven experience in working with similar projects and are making excellent progress readying the art collection for the move. Their positions are made possible by funding from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board.

Kimberly Stephenson

My interest in art and museums was fostered at Victoria University of Wellington, where I completed a Bachelor of Design in Interior Architecture, a Master of Arts in Art History, and a Graduate Diploma in Museum and Heritage Studies. Upon completing my studies, I joined the team at MTG Hawke's Bay in Napier, where I was involved in documenting and relocating parts of the collection in preparation for the opening of the newly refurbished museum building in September 2013.

The Sarjeant Gallery houses a rich and diverse collection of art spanning over 400 years of art history. It is an honour to join the staff at the gallery and to be involved in what is a once-in-a-life time opportunity to fully document and rehouse the toanga that it cares for.

Te Maari Barham

I feel extremely privileged to have been chosen as one of the four Sarjeant Gallery Collection Transition Assistants. Every week I am fortunate enough to work with three great team members as we uncover and document treasures from the Sarjeant Gallery Collection. After working in museums for the past three and a half years it is wonderful to be working with an art collection – something I always knew I wanted to do whilst studying Art History at school and university.



Earlier this year, I packed up all my worldly belongings and made the big move south from Auckland to Wanganui. My new home is proving to be a wonderful place to live and work - I couldn't ask for much more.

Ben Davis

I am privileged to be one of the four Collection Transition Assistants. I studied Film and Fine Arts with a particular interest in photography. Working with the Sarjeant's amazing collection is pretty much the perfect job for me. I have worked for various museums and art galleries - recently helping the Govett Brewster Art Gallery move their collection offsite. Prior to this role I was working on an inventory project at MOTAT.

I was born and raised in Taranaki and moved down from Auckland for this role. I am really enjoying living in Wanganui and being part of the Sarjeant team.

Jessica Kidd

After living away from Whanganui for some years, I'm thrilled to have such an amazing job opportunity in my home town. Art has been a life-long passion for me, and it's great to be able to use my qualifications and skills in the town I love.

Sarjeant
On the Quay


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Te Whare o Rehua
Whanganui

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Sarjeant Gallery is a cultural facility of the Whanganui District Council