



# Whangārei Art Museum Trust

Supplementary Report | 2019-2020

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S JOINT REPORT	3
HIGHLIGHTS	5
PERFORMANCE MEASURES	6
Governance	6
Operations	9
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	11
HUNDERTWASSER ART CENTRE WITH WAIRAU MAORI ART GALLERY	15
WHANGĀREI ART MUSEUM	16
Curator's Report	16
Community	17
Exhibitions	20

## CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S JOINT REPORT

It was a momentous year involving great progress and resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges.

The 12 months since July 2019 were marked by tremendous developments, and much was accomplished. This happened despite two enormous challenges – a multi-million-dollar construction cost over-run on the Hundertwasser Art Centre and secondly, the Covid-19 global pandemic, which caused a temporary closure of the site and our galleries, as well as profound, ongoing health and safety changes to our visitor practices.

During this period of tumult, we remained committed to delivering an iconic building and inspiring art experiences to the people of our region.

The construction cost over-run of the Hundertwasser Art Centre project was due to a combination of factors which could not have been foreseen – the building's unique complexity and the discovery of asbestos on the site, combined with increased local government engineering requirements - operating as we do, in a more risk-averse construction environment. In response to this financial challenge, a strategy for revenue generation was initiated, in order to raise the needed funds from government, philanthropic and corporate sources. The result was outstanding, with welcome support received from the Provincial Growth Fund, the New Zealand Lotteries Commission and Pub Charity. This allowed the Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery to complete core construction and to commence external tiling and brickwork in accordance with the Hundertwasser Foundation's exacting standards.

An overview of our brand was undertaken to unite Whangārei Art Museum, Hundertwasser Art Centre and Wairau Art Gallery under a common ethos – bringing cohesion and structure to their complementary offerings. In doing so, each entity's unique attributes and purpose were identified. In the process, we recognised there was an opportunity to create an art precinct which helps revitalise the city, while transforming and enriching people's lives through the experience of art and nature.

A positive working relationship has been established with the trustees of the Wairau Maori Art Gallery, with discussions underway for an exceptional first year of exhibitions when the building opens in December 2021.

At Whangārei Art Museum, visibility remained a core issue, with a lack of available signage on the exterior of the building, and a confusing entry lobby which also accommodates an information centre. Despite this, a series of quality exhibitions attracted strong and enthusiastic audiences. James Mollison's photographic exhibit *Where Children Sleep* was especially successful with over 5000 visitors, including many young people. The show garnered considerable word of mouth on social media and raised more than \$2000 for Variety – the Children's Charity.

An exhibition of photography from the Hundertwasser site by local artist Sue Shepherd, captured the faces and efforts of the locals whose physical work and artistry has enabled the building to progress. This brought together the artistic and community objectives of both Hundertwasser/Wairau project and Whangārei Art Museum.

WAM launched a dedicated interactive space, with an exhibit titled *The Plant Room* from Whangārei creative technologists and artists, AwhiWorld.

*Shared Stories* from Trent Morgan and Kim Groeneveld, an interactive installation that enables hands-on creativity from visitors, continues to be popular with families.

A portrait exhibition titled *Face to Face* showcased works from WAM's collection, including an iconic painting by Charles Goldie.

*The 80s Show*, with paintings from the Fletcher Trust Collection, gave Northlanders the opportunity to enjoy works by significant New Zealand artists such as Philippa Blair, Julian Dashper, Dick Frizzell and Max Gimblett.

A powerful exhibition of Tony Fomison works titled *Lost in the Dark*, attracted a strong response from visitors. The exhibition was extended beyond its original dates, following the closure of the gallery due to the coronavirus.

During lockdown, a range of communication strategies enabled regular online engagement with our audience. We launched a 'backyard bubble' iteration of The Plant Room, wherein images of nature uploaded by the public were transformed into digital forms.

Whangārei Art Museum used the opportunity of a renovation in Gallery 2 to screen four feature films, with sell-out audiences enjoying each hosted evening. Artist talks and a musical event attracted large turnouts.

WAMT has broadened its scope and ambitions, as we move steadily towards the realisation of a broader remit. Our sincere thanks to the staff for their dedication, hard work and creativity in taking on diverse demands and realising the opportunities provided over the last year. We are inspired by our loyal community of art lovers who continue to engage with our activities, including the growing number of volunteers who help us present outstanding artistic experiences to all our visitors.

**Thomas Biss**

Chair

Whangārei Art Museum Trust

**Kathleen Drumm**

Chief Executive

Whangārei Art Museum

Hundertwasser Art Centre

Wairau Māori Art Gallery

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Core construction completed** on the Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Maori Art Gallery

**\$7.3 million raised** for the Hundertwasser project

**Over 500 people employed** on the Hundertwasser project

**18,215 visitors** to Whangārei Art Museum

**9 exhibitions** at the Whangārei Art Museum

**16 community engagement events** at the Whangārei Art Museum

**4 Northland artists** exhibited at our galleries

**46% increase in social media followers** for Whangārei Art Museum

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### Governance

Performance Measure	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	Action/Outcomes
<p>To operate within agreed financial budgets (requires performance objectives to match available funding)</p> <p><b>Required for WDC Annual Operating Grant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solvency</li> <li>• Appropriate level of reserves (3+ months of operating budget)</li> <li>• Appropriate level of cash in bank</li> <li>• Appropriate oversight (skilled bookkeeper, reviewed or audited accounts)</li> <li>• Confirm operations are funded from multiple sources including self-generated income</li> </ul>	<p>Within budget to 31 December 2018</p>	<p>Actual spend ≤ budget</p> <p>Six monthly financial report with brief narrative</p>			<p>Achieved.</p> <p>The Trust ended the year in a favourable position. Unbudgeted interest earned on HAC funds was used to support the WAM gallery budget overrun. Further details may be found in the Financial Statements at the end of this report.</p> <p><b>Requirements for WDC Annual Operating Grant:</b> All requirements have been met.</p>
<p>Six monthly reporting on WAMT achievement against 2019/20 action areas under strategic objectives as set out in this SOI</p> <p><b>Report should also include information required for WDC Annual Operating Grant:</b></p>	<p>New measure for 2019/20</p>	<p>Six monthly narrative report</p>			<p>Achieved.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Legal status is current – confirm registered charitable trust, register is kept up to date, and operating in accordance with Trust Deed</li> <li>● Business planning in use with evidence of reviewing progress against plan</li> <li>● Evidence of collaboration</li> <li>● Steady operation – report on any significant changes including financial, operational, or governance changes</li> <li>● Positive impact – activities positively impact on the community and provide value for money for the ratepayers</li> <li>● Alignment – with WDC Community Outcomes</li> </ul>		<p>Confirmation required to support application for WDC Annual Operating Grant (cover in first six monthly narrative report above)</p>	<p><b>Legal Status</b> WAMT is a registered charitable trust. The trust register is currently up to date and the trust is operating in accordance with the Trust Deed.</p> <p><b>Business Planning</b> A five-year strategic plan is in place, reviewed annually by the Board. The CE reports monthly to the Board against forecast activity.</p> <p><b>Evidence of Collaboration</b> An MoU has been agreed with the Wairau Maori Art Gallery Board, signalling a strong, working relationship which will support gallery operation. WAM has been encouraging school visits to the gallery and teamed up with Variety – the Children’s Charity to run a public programme which raised over \$2,000 for Northland children.</p> <p><b>Steady Operation</b> Sharon Morgan now serves as a Board appointed trustee and Ken Couper as a WDC appointed trustee. This raises the number of trustees to 6, in keeping with the requirements of the Trust Deed. The WDC appointment of a Hapu representative as trustee is in progress.</p> <p><b>Positive Impact on Community</b> WAM continues to attract a growing number of visitors to the Museum, although this year’s numbers were adversely impacted by Covid-19. Offerings have been extended to include film evenings and workshops. Newly developed gallery spaces are allowing a greater diversity of exhibitions, featuring local artists, interactive</p>
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		<p>components, and WAM's permanent collection, alongside exhibitions of national significance.</p> <p><b>Alignment with WDC Community Outcomes:</b>  <b>Positive about the future</b>  The new HAC/WMAG will be a significant, added attraction to the city centre for both visitors and locals and will stimulate flow on opportunities for other businesses.</p> <p><b>Caring for the environment</b>  The HAC/WMAG incorporates a roof top garden which will merge into the new Town Basin Park being developed by WDC, adding to the green, open spaces of the downtown area. The building itself exemplifies Hundertwasser's philosophy of art and life in harmony with nature and will stimulate visitors' connection with the environment.</p> <p>WAM has undertaken a waste audit and begun implementing recommendations.</p> <p><b>Proud to be local</b>  Both the HAC/WMAG and the WAM provide opportunities for the community to engage with art in its broadest sense. Local artists are showcased, and activities targeted to a variety of demographics.</p>
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## Operations

Performance Measure	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	Action/Outcomes
Quarterly reporting on achievement against the 2019/20 HAC project objectives as set out in this SOI	New measure for 2019/20	Quarterly narrative report with financial information specific to the HAC project			Achieved. Reports on the HAC project have been provided to council for all four quarters by the 20 <sup>th</sup> of the month following.
Annual review of WAM operation hours, and exhibition numbers to meet agreed funding	Completed	Six monthly narrative report			Achieved. Exhibition numbers and budget agreed 25.07.2019. Operating hours assessed and no changes made to existing hours. Reported in the six-monthly narrative report.
WAM collection management undertaken	Completed	1,000 works reassessed annually  Cover in second six monthly report			Achieved. The WAM collection has been reviewed as part of the Collection Management Project. The photographic collection was reviewed in FY20. A new target, more appropriate for BaU, has been set for 2020/21 and ongoing.
<b>Additional measures required for WDC Annual Operating Grant for Whangārei Art Museum</b>					
<b>Amenity development</b> Continue to improve the WAM visitor experience thereby promoting the arts and contributing to the wellbeing and economic growth of the district	New measure for 2019/20	Annual survey demonstrates improvements in how Whangārei Art Museum is regarded. Cover in first six monthly narrative report			Not achieved. WAM was unable to participate in the annual Museums Aotearoa survey, as it was scheduled to be delivered during the Covid-19 lockdown.  WAM improved visitor experience by utilising the newly developed gallery spaces to bring a greater diversity of exhibitions to the community, featuring local artists, interactive components,

			and WAM's permanent collection, alongside exhibitions of national significance.
<b>Community engagement</b> Strengthen community engagement through programmes, events and collaborative initiatives including an educational component.	New measure for 2019/20	Evidence of three programmes, events or initiatives developed or in development annually. Cover in first six monthly narrative report	Achieved. Multiple film evenings, workshops and gallery talks were held during the current year. See the Curator's Report on page 16 for details.
<b>Growth</b> Grow awareness of and attendance at the Whangārei Art Museum	New measure for 2019/20	Agreed annual percentage increase to visitor numbers. Cover in first six monthly narrative report	Not achieved. Visitor numbers were on track to exceed FY19 until the closure of the gallery during the Covid-19 lockdown. By end March 2020, 16,096 people had visited WAM, compared with 14,763 the previous March. Total visitors for FY20 were 18,215, compared with 19,250 for FY19.

#### **Drafting Note**

More work is required to confirm some measures. The intent is to refine the measures further to align with Council's requirements for Annual Operating Grants, to reduce duplication of reporting by the Trust.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strategic Objective	Action areas	Action/Outcomes
<b><i>Creating brand and identity</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Undertake a comprehensive brand redefinition to support the transition of WAM and Hundertwasser into 'one organisation', ensuring the Museum's identity is maintained</li> <li>▪ Consider positioning in the wider NZ context, to provide WAMT with a more visible leadership role in the creative arts sector</li> <li>▪ Promote Wairau Maori Arts Museum to become a destination of regional and national significance</li> <li>▪ Increase visibility and visitor engagement by improving the entrance to, and arrival experience at the Art Museum</li> <li>▪ Improve signage from State Highway to attract visitors</li> <li>▪ Put on shows and events that attract people to Whangārei, as the creative hub of Northland</li> <li>▪ Explore new premises for a city arts centre to showcase arts of the region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A brand exercise was undertaken, to unite all three of WAMT's offerings under a common ethos, within an art precinct. Each of the three has been individually defined in terms of its unique purpose, ensuring the Museum's identity is maintained.</li> <li>● Discussions with Wairau have progressed on plans for the first year of exhibitions, once the Gallery opens.</li> <li>● Signage on the State Highway will be addressed with NZTA when the Art Centre is closer to completion.</li> <li>● The Art Museum's programme has included art exhibitions, musical performances and film screenings, attracting local and national visitors.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Partnering with others for the benefit of our community</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthen relationship with Whangārei District Council, including agreement of our mutual objectives, how we will work together to achieve these</li> <li>▪ Build constructive relationship with Creative Northland, and other parts of the creative sector in Whangārei, to support the district to become the cultural destination of the North</li> <li>▪ Support Whangārei District Council with development of the draft Whangārei Arts Culture and Heritage Strategy (2019)</li> <li>▪ Develop wider consultative relationship with Tangata Whenua representatives</li> <li>▪ Develop practical working relationship with Wairau Maori Arts Board to support gallery network operation</li> <li>▪ Partner with NorthTec to amplify WAMT's educational role in the community, and as a pathway for Rangatahi into arts and culture</li> <li>▪ Partner with the community to amplify educational role including utilising WAM as a resource for school art curriculums, school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Many meetings with WDC staff and councillors have taken place during the period under review, towards building greater understanding and collaboration. Following the lockdown due to Covid-19, a planned presentation to Council in April 2020 was rescheduled for later in the year.</li> <li>● Meetings were held with Creative Northland. At a site visit, WAMT hosted the Chief Executives of both Creative Northland and Creative NZ.</li> <li>● Board members of WAMT provided input towards the draft WAC&amp;H strategy.</li> <li>● WAM staff met with local tohunga and tangata whenua on both formal and informal occasions. A good working relationship has been established.</li> <li>● The possibility of a NorthTec student being employed as a business intern on the HAC project was explored.</li> </ul>

	<p>holidays programmes, and family workshops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School groups and families have visited our exhibitions, notably the James Mollison ‘Where Children Sleep’ show which attracted considerable positive comment across all ages and demographics.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Achieving sustainability</b></p>	<p><b>Good governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NZ Institute of Directors “Four Pillars of Governance”</li> <li>▪ Performance review of trustees</li> <li>▪ Trustee skills matrix to identify skills required to support strategic direction</li> <li>▪ Monthly, documented board meetings</li> </ul> <p><b>Long term and annual planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Long term strategy</li> <li>▪ Annual planning to support strategy</li> <li>▪ Monitoring of progress and KPIs</li> <li>▪ Annual report completed at end of financial year</li> </ul> <p><b>Health and safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NZ Institute of Directors Health and Safety Guide</li> <li>▪ Trustees have knowledge of and commitment to health and safety</li> <li>▪ Ensure CEO exercises due diligence in relation to health and safety</li> </ul> <p><b>Being a good employer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WAMT employees have regular performance reviews which form part of their Professional Development &amp; Training Programme</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annual update of Strategic Risk and scoring in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009</li> <li>▪ Appropriate Insurance – independently assessed</li> <li>▪ Areas for internal audit and review identified annually</li> </ul> <p><b>Legislative and Trust Deed compliance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All legislative requirements met</li> <li>▪ Clean opinion -as part of Annual audit by Audit NZ</li> <li>▪ LGOIMA requests are answered within statutory timeframes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Good governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Once WDC advises the Hapu representative, the Board will have a full complement of trustees, covering a broad skill base. This is now expected to take place in the next financial year.</li> <li>● The trustee skills matrix was reviewed by the Board in June and will be reassessed in 2021 before the HAC becomes operational.</li> <li>● Monthly, documented board meetings were held.</li> </ul> <p><b>Long term and annual planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Board reviewed the 5-year Strategic Plan in February 2020.</li> <li>● Trustees participated in a workshop to review the Strategic Overview, developed by the CE, which sits under the Strategic Plan.</li> <li>● Annual planning was guided by the HAC project timeline.</li> <li>● Progress on tasks was monitored at Board meetings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Health and safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● H&amp;S is a standing agenda item at Board meetings, the monthly Business Management Group Meeting (overseeing the Hundertwasser Art Centre Project), and WAM monthly staff meetings, chaired by the CE.</li> </ul> <p><b>Being a good employer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Processes for performance reviews are in development.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Effective financial management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monthly accounts prepared by WDC and approved by WAMT Board</li> <li>▪ Full GAAP accounting reporting</li> <li>▪ Annual audited accounts</li> <li>▪ Monthly forecast review of exhibitions budget by WAMT</li> </ul>	<p><b>Risk management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All appropriate insurance cover is in place.</li> <li>● A comprehensive risk register is kept updated for the HAC Project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Legislative and Trust Deed compliance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Legislative requirements for this financial year have been met to date.</li> <li>● Two LGOIMA requests have been received and answered within the statutory timeframes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Effective financial management</b> Achieved.</p>
	<p><b>Financial Sustainability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with Chief Executive to review operations to align with single entity, and available funding</li> <li>▪ Review organisational structure</li> <li>▪ Review Hub Gallery service profile, including number of galleries, operating hours, and complementary services such as stocking merchandise from local sources that complement the gallery</li> </ul>	<p><b>Financial Sustainability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pre-opening and operational budgets were developed by the CE and approved by the Board.</li> <li>● Staffing across WAMT has been reviewed and budget allocations approved by the Board. Two new roles relating to business development and marketing were developed and filled.</li> <li>● Conversations with WDC about WAM’s use of the various spaces in the building are ongoing.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Operational efficiency and effectiveness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish operational level relationships and MOU with Whangārei District Council</li> <li>▪ Compliance with LGA Statement of Intent preparation and reporting requirements</li> <li>▪ Develop marketing and communications plan</li> <li>▪ Monitor visitor numbers and conduct annual visitor survey</li> <li>▪ Build up volunteer base to support both governance and operations</li> <li>▪ Identify fundraising opportunities</li> <li>▪ Develop business cases as required, targeted at specific Funders and Sponsors</li> <li>▪ Collections management - reassess collections, including core works, renew collections management policy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Operational efficiency and effectiveness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Board is compliant with all LGA Sol requirements.</li> <li>● A marketing and communications strategy was prepared, along with a pitch plan for media.</li> <li>● Visitor numbers are monitored and tracked against previous years and exhibitions. WAM participates in an annual survey run by Museums Aotearoa, although this was not able to be undertaken in FY20 due to the Covid-19 lockdown.</li> <li>● The volunteer base has been actively developed showing a dramatic increase in community involvement. WAM began the period with just one volunteer and had 16 in place by the end of FY20, who provided invaluable</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Storage of works - look at options to improve storage, including the controlled environment, and areas to accommodate touring shows</li> <li>▪ Lighting - upgrade lighting as funding becomes available, develop business case for future capital investment</li> <li>▪ Exhibitions – work with Council to promote and run quality events, reach out to new audiences, and grow visitor numbers</li> <li>▪ Air conditioning – upgrade air conditioning to meet required Gallery Standards for Air Control, develop business case for future capital investment</li> </ul>	<p>support in the gallery and behind the scenes. Volunteers also play key roles in the HAC construction project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A revenue generation group was formed to identify and apply for funds for the HAC project. The group met weekly to strategize and plan, until the gap in the HAC funding was achieved.</li> <li>● A part-time Registrar has been employed at WAM to manage the collections and ensure WAM operates within industry standards.</li> <li>● New lights have been purchased, to improve lighting quality in Gallery 2.</li> <li>● A new supplier has been identified and a maintenance check of the AC units has been arranged.</li> </ul>
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## HUNDERTWASSER ART CENTRE WITH WAIRAU MAORI ART GALLERY

The project faced considerable challenges during the period, due to a substantial construction cost over-run and the impact of Covid-19. While the obstacles were significant, plans and procedures were put in place to mitigate these temporary setbacks.

Money was raised from central government, community funds and donations. This welcome additional support covers the cost of the construction over-run; the fit-out; insuring and transporting Hundertwasser artworks from Europe to Whangārei; costs associated with the impact of Covid-19; and the living rooftop and sculpture installations.

Core construction is complete, with 'finishings' (tiling and brick work) underway. The goal is to deliver an exceptional cultural destination that transforms people's lives through the power of art and nature, while supporting economic growth and development for the region. Northland Inc has calculated the HAC's direct economic impact for Northland at \$37 million, with an ongoing impact of \$26 million per annum.

The project has proven a significant driver of employment, with 84 people working on aspects of the build at the end of the period in review. In June 2020, Trigg Construction estimated that more than 500 people have been employed for as much as a few hours to many days and weeks on the project - from road construction and services diversions - to demolition, asbestos removal, air testing, piling, earthworks, subfloor waterproofing, ground beam steel fixing, wall construction and steel fixing, plumbing and draining, concrete supply and concrete pumping, precast manufacturing and installation, plastering, tiling, bricklaying, roof waterproofing, project management and administration.

At the end of the period, we also acknowledge the many hours invested by over 100 volunteers, who have contributed towards the project.

Due to the cost over-run and Covid-19, we reforecast completion and opening dates. The Hundertwasser Art Centre is rapidly rising from the ground and will open to the public in December 2021.

# WHANGĀREI ART MUSEUM

## Curator's Report

### Overview

The first half of this financial year saw the implementation of a new exhibition programme and exhibiting spaces. A diverse schedule showcased leading national and international artists (T), WAM-curated exhibitions of Northland artists (N) and our collection (C), and exhibitions coinciding with community specific events (COM). There was also an emphasis on educational components and public programmes in conjunction with these exhibitions.

*Where Children Sleep* by international photographer James Mollison was particularly successful. Over 5,000 visitors came through the doors, including school groups. We teamed up with Variety - the Children's Charity on an associated public programme, raising over \$2,000 for Northland children. This was followed by *The 80s Show* and *Tony Fomison – Lost in the Dark*, both of which showcased a selection of works by New Zealand's most notable art figures. Whangārei Art Museum was the first venue in the country to host *Tony Fomison* outside of Te Papa.

The Younghusband Gallery reopened in December with new exhibiting spaces. The inaugural exhibitions showcased our collection as well as two exhibitions by Northland artists. The response to the Gallery changes has been overwhelmingly positive. The reconfiguration of the Younghusband Gallery also enabled us to better utilise the space for public programmes and events including film screenings, live music events and corporate venue hire.

During lockdown, strategies were developed to engage with our audience online. *The Plant Room* exhibition positioned itself perfectly for an outreach public programme. This involved the community photographing flora and fauna from their backyards - resulting in a lockdown 'backyard bubble' iteration of *The Plant Room*, wherein these images were transformed into digital forms in the exhibition. This opened concurrently with the Museum's reopening to the public. All exhibitions which opened before lockdown commenced were able to be extended into the next financial year. Notably, we secured an extension of *Tony Fomison* from Te Papa.

### Exhibition Schedule for 2019-2020

Mair Gallery	Younghusband Gallery
Malcolm Harrison (T) A Celebration 3 June – 25 August 2019	Kanohi ki te kanohi, Face to Face © From the Collection 6 December - 6 March
Where Children Sleep (T) James Mollison 31 August - 1 December 2019	Shared Stories (N) Trent Morgan and Kim Groeneveld 6 December – 8 November 2020
The 80s Show (T) Painting from the Fletcher Trust Collection 6 December 20–9 - 23 February 2020	The Plant Room (N) Awhi World 6 December – 3 November 2020
Tony Fomison (T) Lost in the Dark	Filani (N) My name comes from this place



Mair Gallery	Younghusband Gallery
28 February - 24 May 2020 <b>*Extended to 16 August</b>	12 March - 10 May <b>*Extended to 5 July</b>
Eight (C) Staff Selections from the collection 28 February - 24 May 2020 <b>*Extended to 16 August</b>	

## Collection Management

The Collection Management Project has been successfully concluded. All collection objects, including photographs, have been reviewed and rehoused, accessioned, and their object records updated in the database as required. The Collection Management Policy has been updated along with policies and procedures for working with the collection, bringing them into line with industry standards.

It is crucial that WAM now maintains and builds on this, in order to ensure the ongoing safety of the existing collection, all touring works on display at WAM, and any new works acquired. To achieve this, WAM has employed a part time Registrar who manages loans, acquisitions and deaccessions of works, ensures the care and preservation of the collection, and oversees the logistics for all incoming and outgoing art works. The creation of this role ensures that WAM remains current with all regulatory requirements and standards in the sector.

## Community

### Engagement

Community engagement has been strengthened through programmes, events and collaborative initiatives, some organised in conjunction with exhibitions, with several including an educational component.

Exhibition Public Programmes	
Malcolm Harrison	Creative Compositions
Where Children Sleep	Variety the Children's Charity collaboration
Shared Stories	#sharedstories campaign
The Plant Room	Awhiworld Artist Talk (online)
The Plant Room	Community Outreach (Lockdown)
My name comes from this Place	Filani Macassey Artist Talk (online)
Tony Fomison	Response wall
Other Programmes	
Workshops	Creative upcycling
Film Screenings	Four feature films over four weekends
Film Screening + Directors Talk	Bellbird
Sunday Sessions – Live Music	Little Ripples album release

## Volunteers

WAM has actively sought to increase volunteer participation over the past year and now has an enthusiastic team of people, contributing to a wide variety of gallery activities. Five to six volunteers come in on a weekly basis and other volunteers assist as needed, usually during the weekends and evenings. Activities include organising and hosting events and public programmes, gallery hosting, archiving, assisting the collections manager, installing and de-installing exhibitions, and marketing.

Month	Number of volunteer hours	Number of active volunteers
October	18	1
November	34.25	4
December	44.5	5
January	47.5	7
February	71.5	11
March/April/May	71.5	16
June	92	16

## Visitor Numbers

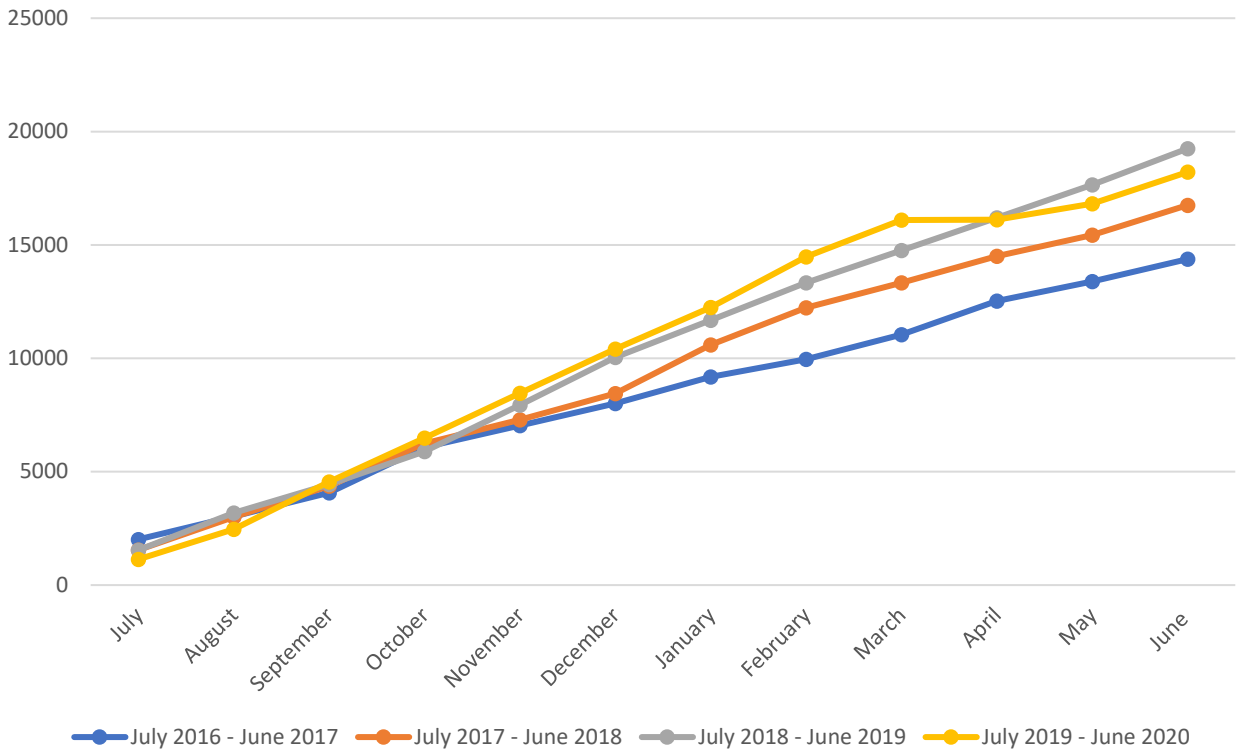
A multipronged strategy has been implemented to raise awareness and increase attendance at WAM, including additional exterior signage throughout the Town Basin area, an increased presence on social media, and the development of community events.

Visitor numbers showed a continued upward trend, and prior to the Covid-19 lockdown, were on track to exceed 20,000 for the year. By end March 2020, 16,096 people had visited WAM, compared with 14,763 the previous March. Total visitors for the year reached 18,215, compared with 19,250 for the previous year.

The ongoing impact of the pandemic on future visitor numbers is unclear, as New Zealand faces a period with almost no international visitors. We are forecasting visitor numbers at the 2017/2018 level, although this may prove unduly optimistic. WAM's focus will be on growing local visitor numbers.

YEAR		FORECAST	ACTUAL
2014/2015		Unknown	8,840
2015/2016		10,000	12,891
2016/2017		14,000	15,106
2017/2018		15,400	16,756
2018/2019		17,343	19,250
2019/2020		20,213	18,215
2020/2021		16,500?	

### Cummulative Visitor Comparative



## Exhibitions

### Malcolm Harrison | A Celebration

3 June - 25 August 2019

*Total in Gallery visits over exhibition period – 3517 (This includes some visitors from the previous financial year, when the exhibition opened.)*

A selection of works from the estate of nationally-acclaimed textile artist Malcolm Harrison. Showcasing his finely developed craft across numerous genres, the exhibition featured painted works on paper, small sculptures, assemblages, poetry, illustrations and writing for children's books.



### Selected visitor feedback

"It's gorgeous! So much detail and time spent on each piece!"

"We love embroidery and his running stitches are amazing."

"I've heard about the lovely work from the patchwork grapevine."

"Some of his work seems so dark - technique wise it's great but some of the themes are a bit dark to me (Kissing Death)".

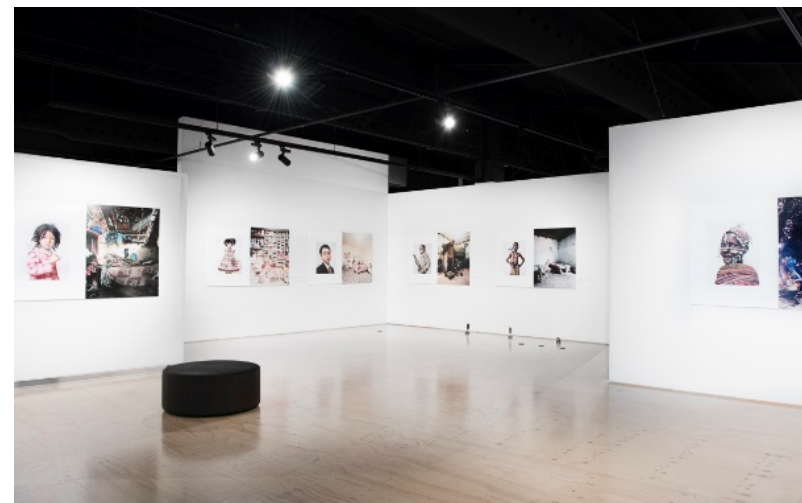
## Where Children Sleep | James Mollison

31 August - 1 December 2019

*Total in Gallery visits - 6162*

The diverse living situations of children across the globe were highlighted in this ground-breaking project by Kenyan-born, Italy-based photographer James Mollison. Featuring candid images of children in the places where they sleep, the exhibition comprises 25 images and moves from the stone quarries of Nepal to provincial China and downtown New York.

*Toured and developed by Expressions Whirinaki.*



### Selected visitor feedback

"This is the most striking exhibition I have ever seen."

"Loved it. Amazing images. Looking into each individual's eyes, sometimes the more well-off children look more lifeless than the poor."

"So moving, a fabulous exhibition."

"I will remember this exhibition for a long time."

"We were told we had to come and see this."

"Very moving."

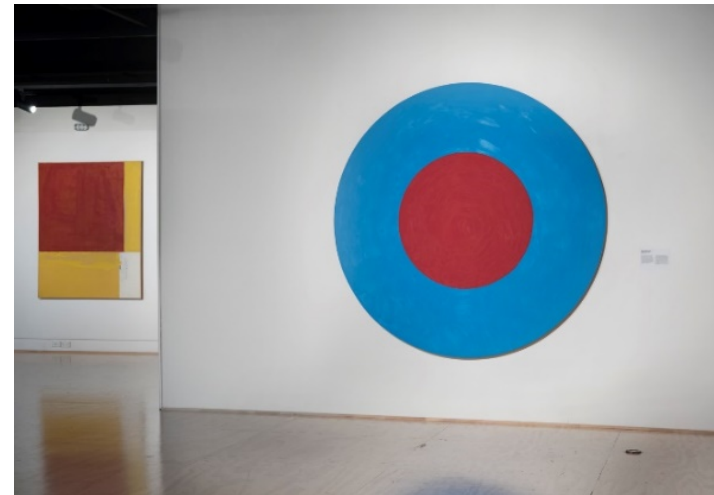
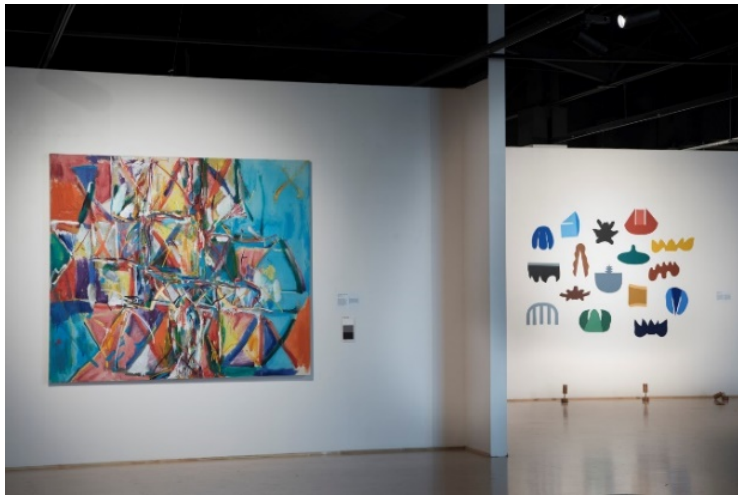
## The 80s Show | Painting from the Fletcher Trust Collection

6 December 2019 - 23 February 2020

*Total in Gallery visits - 4994*

*The 80s Show*, with paintings from the Fletcher Trust Collection, has been curated by Tauranga Art Gallery to give those born after 1990 an opportunity to contextualise the period, while reacquainting earlier generations with a time that has become synonymous with pop culture classics and tumultuous events. It features paintings by significant New Zealand artists such as Philip Clairmont, Julian Dashper, Dick Frizzell, Max Gimblett, Jeffrey Harris and Gordon Walters.

*Developed and toured by Tauranga Art Gallery Toi Tauranga, this exhibition has been generously supported by Craigs Investment Partners*



### Selected visitor feedback

- “Gorgeous exhibition. 80s Show is just phenomenal.”
- “I’m glad you have given the works lots of breathing space, because they need it.”
- “Such a great show. Well curated, extremely well done considering the size and strength of these works.”
- “Great to see these paintings.”

## Kanohi ki te kanohi, Face to Face | From the Collection

6 December 2019 – 6 March 2020

*Total in Gallery visits - 6030*

Represented in this exhibition are faces from our collection – your collection. They sample over 100 years of art history in Aotearoa held within the Whangārei Art Museum Collection. The exhibit featured works from Ross T Smith, Selwyn Wilson, Adele Younghusband, Kate Mair and an iconic painting from Charles F Goldie.



### Selected visitor feedback

“It was worth coming in just to see the Goldie, WOW. You can really see how the collection was put together.”

“Seen WAM’s collection before but absolutely loved the portrait collection exhibited, best part by far, very happy”

“We liked that we get to see our collection, is good to get to know it.”

## The Plant Room | Awhiworld

6 December 2019 – 3 November 2020

*Total in Gallery visits between 6 December 2019 to 30 June 2020 – 9295*

In this work, images of nature are transformed by algorithms into hybrid new forms that are experienced as both sound and image. Existing only for a few minutes, these entities then disappear forever. Sensors trigger the transformation just as humans inadvertently trigger change in ecological systems - simply by turning up.



### Selected visitor feedback

“this is so cool for our tamariki.”

“loved the plant room, interesting, though provoking.”

“I was surprised to feel suddenly manipulated by the work in the plant room”

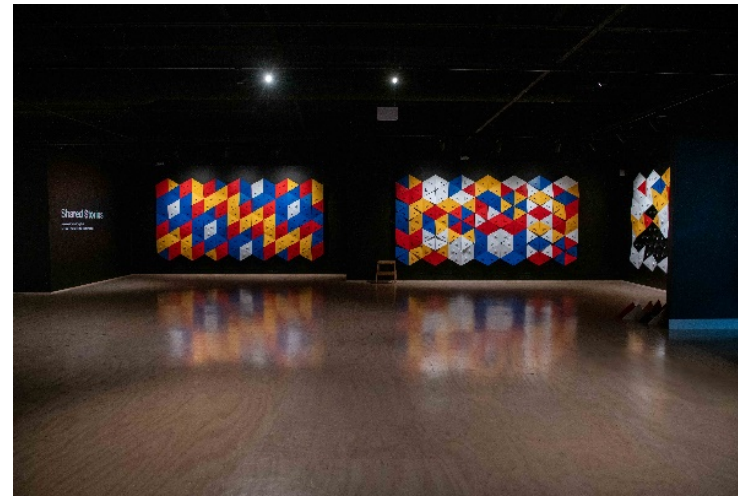


**Shared Stories - Trent Morgan and Kim Groeneveld**

6 December – 8 November 2020

*Total in Gallery visits between 6 December 2019 to 30 June 2020 – 9295*

Shared Stories – an interactive sculptural installation, explores storytelling through shape and pattern. It highlights the importance and transformative power of being present and connecting with art and one other through a shared experience.



**Selected visitor feedback**

“The interactive exhibitions are amazing, what a fabulous facility.”

“repeat visit for the holidays, spent over an hour with the interactive Shared Stories exhibition, we love it here.”

“Loved how the kids were engaged with the art work, while we had a look around.”

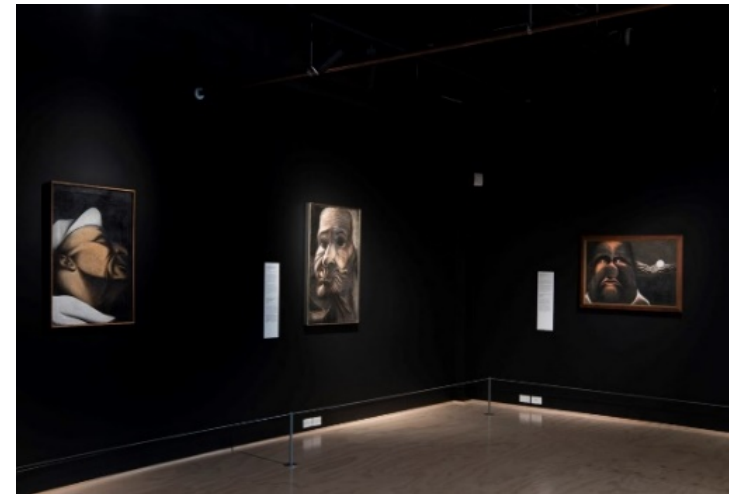
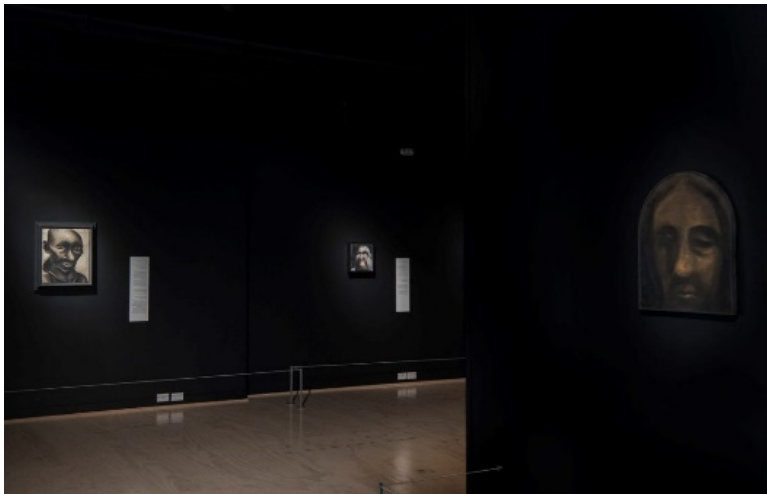
**Tony Fomison | Lost in the Dark**

28 February 2020 – 16 August 2020

*(showing concurrently with Eight: Staff Selections from the Collection)*

*Total in Gallery visits over exhibition period – 6822 (This includes visitors from the following financial year.)*

A collaboration between Wellington High School students and Te Papa. Students workshoped the theme of ‘otherness’ in Fomison’s work, which helped shape our creative approach.



**Selected visitor feedback**

“I’m glad the Fomison exhibition is still here. I think you should have the whole gallery filled with his work, he is the quintessential NZ painter.”

“If you can get a response from a high school student, you’re doing well.”

“Especially liked the Fomison exhibition, they kind of speak to you.”

## **Eight | Staff Selections from the Collection**

28 February 2020 – 16 August 2020

*(showing concurrently with Fomison – Lost in the Dark)*

*Total in Gallery visits over exhibition period – 6822 (This includes visitors from the following financial year.)*

Regardless of the artist's intention, each of us has our own set of experiences and constructs that inform our preferences, and the way we engage with and derive meaning from artworks. For this exhibition, staff members selected an artwork from the collection and provided a short statement about it. The selection is diverse, but are the responses unique or shared?



### **Selected visitor feedback**

“I think the WAM trust board should choose an artwork next from the collection to exhibit.”

“My favourite was Ralph Hotere, wondered where it came from? Amazing it's part of the Whangārei Art Museum collection.”

## Filani | My name comes from this place

12 March 2020 – 5 July 2020

*Total in Gallery visits over exhibition period – 3110 (This includes visitors from the following financial year.)*

In June 2019 Filani Macassey flew to Athens to present a paper at the 25th NZSA Conference. From there, she travelled to Cyprus to visit the historic place she is named after – the Village of Filani, situated in the settlement of Politiko in the Nicosia district. *My Name Comes from This Place* is an exhibition about stepping through the threshold and making connections.



### Selected visitor feedback

“Very informative, watched the whole movie.”

“Visited specifically for the war memorabilia, some of the items are very special.”

“I’ve really enjoyed Filani!”