



Old School Arts Centre

# Raglan Community Arts Council Inc.

## Annual Report

### Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024



Raglan Community Arts Council Incorporated

Old School Arts Centre :: 5 Stewart St, Raglan, New Zealand :: Phone 07 825 0023

email: [info@raglanartscentre.co.nz](mailto:info@raglanartscentre.co.nz) :: [www.raglanartscentre.co.nz](http://www.raglanartscentre.co.nz)

#### THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS:



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# Raglan Community Arts Council Inc.

## Chairperson's Report: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

The past year has been full of successes and challenges. We worked hard to find the right mix of arts activities during a deepening recession. Grant funding sources have reduced. We made difficult decisions on reducing operating costs and restructuring the Old School office. The Waikato District Council rebuilt our front car park and our contractors built the lift shaft in the Creative Space building. Tiered retractable seating was installed in Whare Tapere, funded by WDC Blueprint, Local Lotteries, and WEL Energy Trust grants.

Exhibitions, acoustic music nights, and book launches continued. The Community Gallery hosted artist and members' exhibitions. The Raglan Arts Weekend preview exhibition was successful and promoted the RAW open studios. Due to the car park project blocking gallery access, the Spirit of Christmas exhibition moved to the Old Dairy Factory building, where a successful exhibition was held. We also celebrated Matariki, combining Art, Kapa Haka, Kai, Mau Rakau, and Waiata to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the future.

Screenings of new release movies continued two weekends each month, despite access being across the bank above the car park work. We rebuilt the number of volunteers for movie screenings and music events. Audience numbers have started to grow for popular movies, with encore screenings necessary for some films.

Although the lift installation in the Creative Space building was planned for late 2023, work on the kindergarten extension and the Old School front car park delayed it until early 2024. Christie Carpentry built the shaft, allowing Quinn Lifts to install the lift. Donations from Raglanites, Trust Waikato, WDC Better Off Fund, brick donations, and our fundraising made the lift possible. Special thanks to Mike Goodison for designing the lift shaft and pit and Charles Riddle for painting the lift shaft exterior.

Groundwork began on the Raglan Film Festival and red-carpet evening for May 2024. A new Creative Raglan initiative saw Whaingaroa Writers' World events and seminars. Our event organizer teams are to be congratulated on these successes.

The after-school Young Artist Multimedia workshops were held during school terms on two afternoons each week. Our Young Artist tutors were Arlene Maidment & Belinda Thomas. Sarah Bing tutored Young Artists and adult wheel workshops. Weekly Clay Shed member nights and adult classes in the new Clay Shed continue to be popular. The Clay Shed has a strong team who load and unload kilns, lead members nights and run a mix of workshops - Susanne Giessen-Prinz, Merren Goodison, Lindy Moir, Justine Davies, Robyn Marsters and Athene Jensen.



Photo collage of After School Young Artist, 'A Seaside Christmas' workshop in the Clay Shed

Pasta Paradiso, Raglan Bagels, Favorito and Emily Faulkner Danishes and Taunga Kereru use our commercial kitchen regularly. It is also good to see start-up businesses like Raglan Gelato and Raglan Food Co. using this community facility initially and then moving to their own premises.

We aim to cover a large part of our operating costs from our own fundraising and activities. Income from some activities has reduced along with some funder grants. At the start of the financial year we secured some funding from the Cyclone Recovery Fund to compensate for reduced income while SH23 was closed. A Monster Garage sale was held again and to some extent made up for reduced income from some funders. This and support from most of our usual donors allowed our full range of activities to continue.

Raglan Town Hall committee, WEL Energy Trust, COGS, Creative Communities Waikato District, Raglan Community Board, The Lion Foundation, Waikato District Council, Raglan Lions Club and Trust Waikato all provide the support we need to operate. We also receive support from the Department of Corrections who assist us regularly maintaining our grounds and other landscaping projects as needed.

Norah Howell Trust, Raglan SuperValue, Raglan Four Square, other local businesses, accommodation providers and organisations sponsor and support specific projects including Raglan Arts Weekend, Raglan Film Festival, Raglan Art to Wear and Kids' Clay. Ray Diprose from Raglan Light and Sound and Mark Frost from Bayleys Real Estate have been a great supporter of the Live & Local music nights.

Other arts groups at the Arts Centre in 2023/24 were Ragtimers Ukulele Group, Raglan Art Group (est 1983) and Karioi Quilts & Crafts. Community groups use the Arts Centre providing a wide range of health and wellbeing workshops, classes and forums. Ngaronoa Renata ran day and evening te reo classes. Johanna Claus runs weekly Music & Movement classes for children. Raglan Theatre Academy runs weekly child and youth drama classes.



The Blukes at a Live & Local session in Whare Tapere

The Arts Centre and office is now run jointly by our coordinators Max King and Shona Butchart. Creative Market coordinator Deb King has kept the market running smoothly.

Penni Bousfield, our music coordinator has now retired. We thank her for organising Live & Local and other music evenings over the last few years. Our cleaners, Angelika and Ian Latham have also decided to retire after doing a wonderful job caring for the buildings. A big thank you to this team, our tutors and our many volunteers for keeping the Arts Centre humming. The Raglan Chronicle and Raglan Radio support us with wide coverage of the arts. Members, local businesses and individuals all contribute. Without all of this support we could not operate.

I would like to thank Angela Williams as secretary and Kay Fong as Treasurer. Wendy Coxhead does the essential job every week of washing our linen. Ann Edwards does the weekly fridge/freezer checks and provides admin cover, Linda Cahill deliver posters and Andy Fels looks after the bar/cafe supplies. Behind the scenes my wife Virginia Gallagher continues to work and provide support. The Waikato District Council provides good support through our main contacts: Lisa Thomson, Mel Tarawhiti, and Trevor Ranga.

The Arts Council and the Old School Arts Centre coped well during this difficult year.

Rodger Gallagher Chairperson, 21 June 2024