

2025 AGM President's Report

Tena koe kotou. Tena koutou, tena koutou katoa. Haere mai, welcome to the 53rd Waikato Society of Potters President's report for the period from May 2024 to May 2025.

Ko Therese May toku ingoa, president of the Waikato Society of Potters Committee. The other members of the committee are Secretary - Suzy Dunser, Treasurer - Sarah Lee, Bronwyn Wright, Caroline Hamilton, Mark Tamura, Lydia Farrell, Joseph Thompson-Smith. The committee's function is governance.

Governance ensures a charity operates effectively and legally, with systems and processes for direction, supervision, and accountability. I would like to thank the committee for all their support in moving the society forward in the past financial year.

Governance is different from operations. Operations ensure that the day to day activities of the society run smoothly benefitting the members and the wider community, inline with the strategic plan of the society. Our staff, Josephine Hughes and Libby Cameron, perform this function. On the behalf of the committee I would like to thank both Josephine and Libby for all your hard work this year in advancing the society and performing your duties with integrity.

Complementing the responsibilities of the committee and staff are the Artists in Residents, volunteers, tutors, diploma coordinators and diploma students who without the society would not be successful. On the behalf of the committee and staff, I would like to thank you all for the important role you play.

The society has 295 individual memberships in the period May 2024 to May, 2025. I also acknowledged our membership overall and the wider community, who participate in the many activities that the society offers. Thank you all for your

enthusiasm and involvement continually making the Waikato Society of Potters a viable organisation.

I would like to thank Libby Cameron with her invaluable assistance in compiling this list.

Highlights of the past year have been, in no particular order.

- Upgrading facilities

2 x new kilns purchased and installed
Kitchen upgraded
Kitchen floors resurfaced
New wax booth timer installed
Painting of kitchen area
Studio tables resurfaced
1 x large studio table cut down for accessibility
Glaze tile boards replaced and upgraded
Clay tile boards replaced and upgraded
Blinds installed on kitchen windows

- Rise of volunteerism with the society

Acknowledgement and celebration of the volunteering culture within WSP
- 62 individual members contributed in some way
- 30 of those have not volunteered at WSP previously
- 9 people volunteered to facilitate the new Saturday MOS sessions
- 5 people volunteered to assist Margaret Raine run the Tuesday evening PWC sessions
- 3 new members volunteered to sit on the Committee
- 3,323 volunteer hours, not including the contribution of the Artists in Residence

- Annual Exhibition

Thank you Josephine for all your efforts in streamlining the administration of the annual exhibition and developing a new style Entry form. As well as, inviting another interesting and exciting guest artist, Andrea du Chatenier, to judge the event.
Thank you also to Libby Cameron for social media and advertising success.
Great effort yet again Yasmin successfully curating the event and a special thanks to your small band of supportive and enthusiastic assistant curators.
Also new categories were added to support the inclusion of the wider membership, workshops tailored to exhibition categories were presented, such as, tile making, and specialist techniques in watercolour and Maori Arts were presented.

- Opportunities for Diploma students to further their learning experience at WSP

12-month Artist in Residence position taken up by Diploma student, Margaret De Freitas
Tutoring opportunities offered to Diploma student, Margaret De Freitas
Tutoring opportunities offered to Diploma student, Victoria Kerry
Tutoring opportunities offered to Artist in Residence, Mark Tamura
Tutoring opportunities offered to Artist in Residence, Larissa Milsum
Volunteering positions taken up by Diploma student, Trudie MacIntosh

- Enabling more tutoring /training opportunities

Supporting Emily Eales to teach wheel throwing classes
Supporting young member, Eoghan Harris to teach a 6-week wheel throwing class for a local home-schooling group
Supporting Sarah Steed to teach at Diploma level
Supporting Dave Austin to venture into tutoring for the first time
Undertaking firemaster training / certification for Suzy Dunser, Clare Wimmer, and Caroline Hamilton
Undertaking gas kiln firing training for Mark Tamura, Michael Clapham, Lana Marquand and Victoria Kerry

Dave Austin requested to teach a raku build and fire workshop. Sold out, again attracted a variety of people, many from the wider Waikato and not members of WSP
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- New learning opportunities

4 x school workshops completed

21 x private lessons completed

New School Holidays Programme introduced, 6 x workshops completed

New Kids' Play with Clay sessions introduced, 16 sessions completed, attendance grown from 3 to 20 participants

Introduced new Members' Open Studio sessions on Saturday afternoon
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- The revamping of the Newsletter, which is now upbeat, inclusive and welcoming.

Thank you everyone for your attendance which reflects your commitment to the society and all that it has offered.

Whakatauki to take with you for the new financial year.

Ko te pae tawhiti,
Whaaia kia tata; ko te pae
Tata, whakamaua kia tina.

Seek out the distant horizons
and cherish those you attain.