

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tēnā koutou katoa.

It is with much pleasure that I, Frances Austin, as President of Friends of Pātaka, present our Annual Report for the year 2025-2026.

COMMITTEE AND MEMBERSHIP

During this year we have had a relatively stable committee membership, with one resignation in August. We have been able to manage our events and commitments. At this AGM, two members are stepping down. The committee has nominated two new members, including a new Treasurer. Our current Treasurer, Jane Bolton, is stepping down after three excellent years in the role – she is remaining on the committee to mentor our new Treasurer.

We continue to look to identify people to nominate to the committee, with the skills to manage our activities which are primarily on digital platforms, who also have a love of the arts and of Pātaka, and an appreciation of Porirua's diverse communities.

Our membership continues to increase; at its peak, we had close to 321 members during the year, an increase from 300 in 2024.

FRIENDS' EVENTS

Our annual Winter Music Series, which was held over four consecutive Sundays in July and August, was very well attended, and attracted to Pātaka many new visitors. We presented various styles of music and our performers included: Te Papaioea Trio, Kevin & Fran, Hobnail, and the talented students from Mana College. All the performances were outstanding and very well received.

This year, after 21 years, we are increasing the fee for non-members for the music series from \$5 to \$10 per concert - we hope this will encourage joining Friends to attend all concerts for free.

During the year, we organised a series of talks and visits:

- » In April 2025, we co-hosted with Pātaka a fascinating early evening talk by Faiga Su'a who had researched the pou in the spine at Pātaka.
- » In August, we held a talk 'A Story of Handweaving in Aotearoa', in association with the 60th anniversary of Port Nicholson Hand Weavers' and their exhibition 'Woven: Tantalising Textiles' in Toi Gallery.
- » In September, we held a gallery talk with insights by Lead Curator Ioana Gordon-Smith on the 'ungeographic' exhibition, for both our Friends and Friends of Toi Mahara and The Dowse, followed by lunch.
- » In November, we organised a visit to Toi Mahara Gallery Waikanae and special floor talk: 'Frances Hodgkins and British Modernism' by curator Vicki Robson to discover the rich artistic legacy of Frances Hodgkins and how this pioneering New Zealand artist helped shape British modernism in the 1920s and early 1930s.
- » On 1 April 2026, we organised a visit and curator talk at National Library, Wellington, about their 'Future Proof: Paintings in Perpetuity' exhibition.

For our Art Awards in 2026, we are re-introducing a selection process in consultation with Pātaka. (A selection process was in place for several years when the Awards were first started in 2013). Our mutual goal is an enhanced process for managing increasing numbers of registrations, sharing skills for showing in a professional gallery, displaying artwork to best advantage, and improving the process for the many Pātaka staff who play a role in making the awards happen.

We have also agreed to increase the registration fee for the 2026 Art Awards, after 13 years, from \$20 / \$10 student to \$35 / \$10 student which is still a comparatively modest fee.

COMMUNICATION

We have continued to communicate directly with our members who we know love the arts. Our newsletter, which we are aiming to produce two-monthly, remains designed to keep you abreast of Pātaka's exhibition seasons and key events, Friends news and events, as well as selected shows in galleries in our region, recently published arts related books, Pātaka staff profiles, and the latest maker on sale at Toi Store – all to inspire your connection with Pātaka and enhance your appreciation and support for the arts generally. We also post on our facebook page and website.

We forward Pātaka's invitations to Friends for their season openings and related events, which we really encourage Friends to attend.

Roger Joyce, our communications designer, remains key to the success of our graphically stylish and colourful newsletter, and other eye catching promotional materials, as well as his role in writing, designing and working with our IT developer Andrew Russell to enhance our website.

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

Our solely online joining process for new members, via our website, has effectively streamlined our process. New members can also join at Pātaka's front desk, where their friendly staff will help complete the website joining process using our tablet. Front of house staff continue to encourage people to join Friends instantly via the tablet to earn the 10% member discount when making purchases. For the 2026 year, we required subscription renewal invoices sent to current Friends to be paid via internet banking or at your local bank branch and this has worked well.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH PĀTAKA AND OTHER KEY ORGANISATIONS

To succeed in our role, Friends Committee need a clear understanding of Pātaka's vision, focus and multiple programmes, as well as strong relationships with staff.

In December 2025, our committee welcomed Director Ana Sciascia to our meeting to share with us Pātaka's mission, activities and successes in 2025 and what is planned for 2026, which we found very insightful.

I have continued to build on warm and mutually respectful relationships with Pātaka's staff, impressed with their ambition and expertise, commitment to their kaupapa, and their exhibition and events programmes. We value Pātaka's ongoing support of Friends and acknowledged that with a morning tea for Pātaka in December.

Friends continue to enjoy providing practical support to Pātaka when requested, at events like exhibition openings, and the National Museum Visitor Survey.

I have also appreciated the invitation to attend quarterly Pātaka Foundation Board Meetings. I encourage our Friends to also consider actively supporting the Foundation's fundraising role where possible. Their additional funding is what enables Pātaka's ambitious programmes, like Jasmine Togo-Brisby's 'ungeographic' in 2025. Do check out their new website:

www.patakafoundation.org.nz

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

We would like to thank local businesses who give us great service, and our generous members who donate money to us, over and above their membership fees.

I thank Ana Sciascia and the Pātaka team for their support this year.

I especially thank the Friends of Pātaka Committee, for their work, support, input and ideas over the year.

Finally, I and the committee are committed to our stated mission to “stimulate and sustain interest in Pātaka Art + Museum, and to extend its influence throughout the community.” I look forward to enhancing how we do this for Friends

and our other audiences this year.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.



FRANCES AUSTIN

PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF PĀTAKA

20 MARCH 2026