



A big thank you to those who attended the Friends of Pātaka AGM 2026 on 22 April.

Our guest speaker this year was Ana Sciascia, Director of Pātaka Art + Museum who shared with Friends a very inspiring presentation on Pātaka's vision, strategy, guiding principles, significant achievements under her leadership over the last four years, and significant future initiatives, planned for the organisation we all love and support.

Changes to the Friends Committee

Jane Bolton has stepped aside after three years as Treasurer. We welcome two new members: Chartered Accountant Olivia Creighton, and Christine Stewart; and farewell Lorna Kanavatoa and Angela Ryan. Committee members are: President: Frances Austin; Secretary: Carmen Jennings; Treasurer: Olivia Creighton; Jane Bolton, Julie Engebretsen, Meryll Evans, Jenny Jakobs, Roger Joyce, Liana Leiataua, Rebecca Spinks, Christine Stewart,

New Life Member – Jane Bolton.

At the AGM Jane was appointed Life Member to recognise 10 years' committee service in support and officer roles including Minutes Secretary, and latterly as Treasurer. Her contribution was acclaimed by all five Presidents she worked with, all while working full time in a senior public sector role. Through Friends, Jane has also expressed her earlier art history experience, by providing valuable support for the arts in Porirua.



FRIENDS ART AWARDS 2026

The Friends of Pātaka Art Awards are for artists living, working or studying in Porirua. We welcome works in various media such as ceramics, photography, painting, sculpture, mixed media, etc.

For 2026, we are limiting the number of artworks exhibited to 60. This will require an anonymous selection process via digital images of the artworks - we're providing tips to help do this. Our application fee is for the chance to have your work considered for selection and will not be refunded if your work is not selected. Final judging of artworks will be 'in person' once selected works are delivered to Pātaka.

Information is available in the [Art Awards](#) pages of the Friends website, with conditions of entry and helpful instructions, advice and tips on how to apply. The entry form will be available online by **8 May**.

Key dates are:

- + **8 May 2026:** Online application opens
- + **25 July, midnight:** Online application closes
- + **1 August:** All applicants will be informed by email of the selectors' decision
- + **14-15 August:** Selected artworks dropped off at Pātaka
- + **21 August:** Prizes awarded and exhibition opens
- + **18 October:** Exhibition closes.

We're excited to see the range and quality of this year's entries. It's our chance to foster local artists and we love to encourage first-time entrants to experience showing their work in a professional gallery.

For inspiration, remember to check out our website for reports of the [2024 exhibition opening](#) and [past Awards winners](#) and their entries.

FRIENDS EVENTS



Friends visited the National Library on 14 April for a curator talk on the exhibition 'Future Proof: Paintings in Perpetuity'. Jennifer Cauchi, Team Leader, Conservation gave an excellent talk on conserving oil paintings in the Turnbull Library collection, so paintings such as those selected remain research resources as part of Aotearoa's historical record.

The exhibition displayed the results of a multi-year conservation project. As co-curator Jennifer introduced the works and some of the stories behind the paintings, shared insights into why these significant oil paintings were selected and described the preservation treatments. It was fascinating to see the impact of conservation in the before and after images, especially on the digital display.

To see an **online exhibition** of all the works and their credits, go to '[Future Proof: Paintings in Perpetuity](#)' and click on the button "Explore Future Proof from home".

You can also view the Turnbull collection of over 100,000 watercolours, drawings, sketchbooks, oil paintings and prints online [here](#).

PROPOSED FRIENDS' EVENT IN LATE MAY

Taonga from the Collection



Pātaka has launched a new initiative: a revolving exhibition wall devoted to displaying an artwork **from the collection**. If you're visiting, see the current work by Emily Karaka. We are organising a talk for Friends to learn more about the collection and about the work on display in the space at that time. Details to be confirmed.

PĀTAKA EXHIBITIONS

AUTUMN SEASON

28 March–19 July 2026

Friday 27 March saw another wonderful opening at Pātaka for the two new shows in the Autumn season:



JACKI LEOTA-MUA, CURATOR MĀORI AND PACIFIC, AT THE OPENING

'Ongo: (Re)Sounding the Vā'

This exhibition by Dr Rachael Hall, Dr Sione Faletau & Pā'utu-'O-Vava'u-Lahi and Dr Adriana Māhanga Lear brings ancient Tongan music traditions and instruments into the present.

'Ihi' by three emerging artists: Axel Iva, Te Ara Minhinnick and Ming Ranginui, exploring ihi/life force through moving familiar forms into unfamiliar roles, curated by [Israel Randell](#) and Ioana Gordon-Smith.



The panel talk and performance for the 'Ongo' exhibition, was a wonderful event attended by over 65 people. The researchers, artists, and curators, shared their involvement in the revival of fangufangu (bamboo nose flutes), classical Tongan music, indigenous Tongan knowledge, and expression of this in contemporary design and digital media, following by a performance. You can listen to the haunting, moving sound of fangufangu on headphones in the gallery.

For more about the panelists and Dr Sione Faletau's digital practice, see [here](#).

'Katohia He Wai Moou, Katohia He Wai Mooku'

The Fred Graham summer season show 'Katohia He Wai Moou, Katohia He Wai Mooku' remains as part of the Autumn season. It is an in-depth look at his body of work made about the Waikato River. If you haven't yet visited or made a return visit to see 'Katohia He Wai Moou, Katohia He Wai Mooku', and spend time with his extraordinary work, it is on until May.

BOTTLE CREEK GALLERY

18 April – 14 June 2026

'Expressions in Clay: a celebration of craft, community and creativity' showcases the Gear Homestead Woolshed Potters' diversity of artistic talent.



UPCOMING EXHIBITION



Robyn Kahukiwa: Tohunga Mahi Toi

23 May–13 July 2026

An exhibition of works by senior Māori artist, Robyn Kahukiwa (1938–2025), including several works from her iconic *Wāhine Toa* series. The exhibition is developed and toured by The New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata, in partnership with Te Manawa Museum.

TOI STORE PROFILE



Tracy Hurst-Porter (*Nau Hau e Wha*)

Tracy graduated with a Bachelor of Māori Visual Arts Maunga Kura Toi (Raranga) from Te Wananga o Aotearoa in 2014.

Tracy's preferred medium is Tāniko. Traditional techniques and modern natural fibres tie the mahi to past, present and future. Tāniko and the rhythm of the patterns as they come together ground Tracy: as she says "Tāniko is my happy place."

As a member of the locally based weaving roopu, Mauri Oho, her mahi has been exhibited at both Pātaka and Dowse Museums and held in collections in New Zealand and further afield.



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