

He aha ngā  
tāke kōrero?

**25** Celebrating 25 years  
**arts  
access  
aotearoa**  
Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa

What's the  
story 2020?



Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa  
Increasing access to the arts

# Arts Access Aotearoa: a snapshot

Arts Access Aotearoa | Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa works in partnership to increase access to the arts for people in Aotearoa who experience barriers to participation as artists, performers, audience members, and gallery and museum visitors. We do this by working with people in the disabled, mental health and Deaf communities. We also work with the professional arts sector to improve access to Deaf and disabled audiences.

Arts Access Aotearoa provides a national advisory and advocacy service about accessibility and inclusion in the arts. This includes providing information, resources and research through the Information Centre.

We advise Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections on its arts programmes and activities, and advocate for the arts as a tool to support the rehabilitative process of prisoners and their reintegration back into the community on release.

## Vision

All people in Aotearoa can access and participate in the arts.

## Purpose

Arts Access Aotearoa works in partnership to increase access to the arts for people in Aotearoa who experience barriers to participation.

## Values

Arts Access Aotearoa provides its service believing in these values:

- Accessibility and inclusion in the arts, respect and kindness in our undertakings for and with all people
- Arts Access Aotearoa recognises the importance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi to its kaupapa, with due regard for Te Tiriti's articles and principles.

This recognition is reflected in the following values that underpin its work:

- **Mōhiotanga** – seeking understanding and awareness
- **Rangatiratanga** – respecting the mana of others
- **Whanaungatanga** – appreciating the value of relationships and partnerships
- **Kotahitanga** – working in harmony to achieve common purpose and shared vision
- **Kaitiakitanga** – service to others and nurturing leadership within others.

## Strategic goals 2019 – 2021

### Strategic Goal 1: Access

The arts are increasingly accessible to people throughout Aotearoa.

By 2021, Arts Access Aotearoa is working with partners so that the arts are more accessible in Aotearoa, in particular for Māori, Pasifika peoples and youth, and Auckland has a stronger community arts sector.

### Strategic Goal 2: Leadership

Arts Access Aotearoa builds the leadership capacity and skills of the people and organisations in the sectors it works with.

By 2021, Arts Access Aotearoa is empowering the people and organisations it works with to be heard, and facilitating opportunities for their leadership and engagement.

### Strategic Goal 3: Influence

Arts Access Aotearoa advocates for strengthened cross-government/agency policy, its implementation and sustainable investment, informed by data and evidence-based research.

By 2021, Arts Access Aotearoa is influencing policy and practice by providing advocacy and a knowledge base from which policy makers, advocates and community groups obtain evidence to inform their work. This is achieved via its online evidence hub, the promotion of new and innovative technologies, and mentoring expertise.

# Te Arotake Performance Review 2020

Arts Access Aotearoa's independent Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 is published in *Te Arotake Performance Review 2020*. This document includes its Statement of Service Performance, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes to the Performance Report.

## Large print and online

Arts Access Aotearoa's *Te Arotake Performance Review 2020* and *He aha ngā tāke kōrero? What's the story? 2020* can be downloaded from [artsaccess.org.nz/about-us](https://artsaccess.org.nz/about-us)

An Easy Read version is also available online.

Large-print copies of the report are available on request.

Arts Access Aotearoa thanks all its stakeholders, funders and supporters for their contributions to its work in 2020.



*“Arts Access Aotearoa and all of its people over 25 years can feel proud of what’s been achieved. The environment it works in is not always easy but it’s maintained its purpose, meeting the needs of diverse communities and demonstrating the need for such an organisation. Many people have benefited hugely from the skills of its staff.”*

**– Mel Smith CNZM, first Chair and Founding Patron, Arts Access Aotearoa**

**Cover image:** Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Disability Issues, enjoys a visit to Studio2 in Dunedin during Creative Spaces Week 2020 in February

Photo: Kerry Hodge Photography/Dunedin Fringe Festival

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# A year of doing things differently

## Chair and Executive Director's report on 2020

In 2020, Arts Access Aotearoa responded to the challenge of COVID-19 by demonstrating its values in action.

"Kaitiakitanga: service to others and nurturing leadership in others" was particularly important as we kept our services and programmes open, assisting our stakeholders who support vulnerable people.

Many experienced hardship during the national lockdown and subsequent alert level disruptions. We were particularly proud of the way creative spaces used digital platforms to stay connected to their artists and communities during the lockdown.

The arts sector was significantly impacted and we commend them for their remarkable flexibility and innovation as they confronted the challenges of closed doors.

For Arts Access Aotearoa, it was a year of learning to do things differently and being flexible. Even though lockdown meant we were kept apart physically, digital conferences and meetings brought more people into the room than ever before. This was particularly the case for Arts Access Aotearoa's online Annual General Meeting in May, attended by more than 50 people around the country, and its online Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards in October, which had 1044 views on the night.

### Celebrating 25 years

In conjunction with the digital awards event, Arts Access Aotearoa celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. We invited people who have been essential to the delivery of our trust's initial objective – "to eliminate barriers to participation in the arts" – to share their reflections. Their responses, posted online, were heartwarming and encouraging as we look towards the next 25 years.

### Arts, health and wellbeing

We are extremely grateful to all the individuals and organisations who support and value our mahi. We would especially like to thank Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and for Disability Issues, for recognising the value and potential of creative spaces in supporting the health and wellbeing of their artists.



Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and for Disability Issues, welcomes viewers to the online Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020

This recognition resulted in the Creative Spaces Initiative, an \$18 million fund to be distributed by Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage over three years. In December 2020, Arts Access Aotearoa signed a contract to partner with the Ministry to provide an advisory and support service to assist the application process and the recipients over the longer-term.

It was indeed a high note on which to end what was a challenging year for everyone in Aotearoa and the rest of the world.

Along with ongoing support for the creative spaces sector impacted by COVID-19, Arts Access Aotearoa delivered the Empowering Auckland's Sector of Creative Spaces and Arts Programmes: Strategic Plan 2021–2023, based on research and findings from a survey we conducted with 24 creative spaces and arts programmes in the Auckland region.

This plan will drive our activity in Auckland over three years to build a strong, sustainable sector. We are supported by Foundation North and Creative New Zealand to deliver this project.

### Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020

Uncertainty about COVID-19 levels and safety concerns meant that Arts Access Aotearoa decided to present Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020 as a pre-recorded digital event on 13 October. This was an extremely different way of doing things and we were very pleased with the result that digital production company Multi-Media Systems helped us achieve.

The digital version of Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards provided more access to the event for a much larger audience, who were able to watch the event from the safety and comfort of their homes, creative spaces and offices. From 13 October to 31 December 2020, the awards video was viewed more than 2000 times.

Congratulations to all the fantastic recipients and those who were Highly Commended.





Arts Access Aotearoa facilitates a Zoom meeting with creative spaces leaders during the COVID-19 lockdown in April

### Arts in Corrections

At the moment, the Arts in Corrections sector is reliant on champions – people who uphold the arts and understand their value in supporting rehabilitation and reintegration into the community on release. But if this key person leaves the prison, their arts projects and programmes often come to an end because there is no one else driving them.

As in other areas of Arts Access Aotearoa's work, we know that this "champions" model is not sustainable in the long term. Arts Access Aotearoa, therefore, has continued to advocate to Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections about the need for a national plan or framework. This will enable arts programmes to support its Hōkai Rangi Strategy to deliver better outcomes for Māori and achieve consistent, culturally relevant arts participation across all of its prisons and Community Corrections sites.

### Arts For All Network

Royal New Zealand Ballet's announcement in April that it would livestream videos of previous productions was seen by Audio Described Aotearoa as an opportunity to include blind patrons in the audience. In partnership with RNZB, it added audio described options of the ballet videos so blind and low vision people around the world would have access to them.

This commitment to accessibility and inclusion also drives Judith Jones: audio describer, member of the Arts For All Wellington Network and recipient of the Arts Access Accolade 2020. Thank you, Judith, for your generosity of spirit and deep knowledge, which has increased the use of audio description in arts venues and museums.

### Policy and advocacy

In August, Arts Access Aotearoa contracted a part-time Policy Principal to provide policy development and advocacy. This role has involved working with central Government, Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections and Creative New Zealand. It has also provided the delivery of the three-year strategic plan to drive the Empowering Auckland's Sector of Creative Spaces and Arts Programmes project.

### Funding and finances

Arts Access Aotearoa's activities across the country would not be possible without the grants, donations and in-kind support we receive. We are very grateful for this support, along with vital core funding from Creative New Zealand, a contract with Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections, and significant grants from Foundation North and Wellington City Council.

We extend a big thank you to all the donors to our "\$25 for 25 years" fundraising campaign, launched during Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020. The result of our fundraising efforts and careful management of funds means we can report a small surplus for 2020 (see *Te Arotake Performance Review 2020*, Statement of financial performance, p8).

All of these achievements and much more are due to the commitment and skills of the Arts Access Aotearoa team: staff, volunteers, trustees, Kaumātua Bill Kaua, and Patrons Mel Smith, Miranda Harcourt and Dame Rosie Horton. Our thanks to former trustee Erin Gough who completed her term on the board

The impact of COVID-19 will be with us for some time and we will be required to keep working in different ways. Therefore, we will continue to uphold another of our values – "Whanaungatanga: appreciating the value of relationships and partnerships" – as we work towards achieving our vision that "All people in Aotearoa can access and participate in the arts".

**Dr Karen Webster**  
Trust Chair  
21 May 2021

**Richard Bengel**  
Executive Director  
21 May 2021

# People in 2020

as at 31 December 2020

## Kaumātua

### The Venerable

#### Wiremu (Bill) Kaua

ONZM

Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu,  
Ngāti Horowai, Horowai,  
Rongowhakaata, Rakaipaaka, Te  
Aitanga a Hauiti

## Founding patron

### Mel Smith

CNZM

## Patron

### Miranda Harcourt

ONZM

## Patron, Arts Access

### Accolade

### Dame Rosemary Horton

DNZM, QSO, QSM

## Trustees

### Dr Karen Webster, Chair

– Chair from May 2018,  
joined board in April 2012

**Erin Gough** – joined  
board in February 2017,  
retired February 2020

**Lynley Hutton** – joined  
board in November 2017

**Olivier Lacoua** – joined  
board in November 2019

**Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp**  
– joined board in August  
2017

**Stew Sexton** – joined  
board in February 2017

**Ruth Smithers** – joined  
board in February 2018

## Staff

**Richard Benge**, Executive  
Director

**Kezia Bennett**,  
Communications Assistant

**Dawa Devereux**, Business  
Administrator and Personal  
Assistant

**Airini Gordon**,  
Administration and Projects  
Assistant

**Kate Hiatt**, Creative  
Spaces Advisor

**Iona McNaughton**,  
Communications Manager

**Stace Robertson**, Access,  
Inclusion and Participation  
Advisor

**Gary Silipa**, Auckland  
Community Arts  
Engagement Advisor

**Dev Singh**, Finance  
Manager

**Chris Ulutupu**, Arts in  
Corrections Advisor

## Volunteers

Thanks to all the volunteers,  
who did so much to support  
Arts Access Aotearoa and  
its work in 2020.

Rajeev Mishra  
Eliecer Reverol  
Penny Griffith  
Lize Immelman

### Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020:

Rajeev Mishra  
Lize Immelman  
Rose Kirkup  
Judith Jones



Applause for Matt Hoyle, Mike  
Oppenheim, Te Oranoa Wawatai  
and Multi-Media Systems for  
working with Arts Access Aotearoa  
to produce the first online Te  
Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards  
2020

Kaumātua Bill Kaua, dancer  
Rodney Bell and Richard Benge,  
Arts Access Aotearoa on the set of  
Multi-Media Systems, as filming for  
Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards  
2020 gets under way



## Artists help celebrate 25 years

For our 25th anniversary, we asked people we've worked with over the years for their reflections. Here, six artists and writers share what Arts Access Aotearoa has meant to them. All 30 comments are on the website:

[artsaccess.org.nz/Celebrating-25-years](https://artsaccess.org.nz/Celebrating-25-years)



Arts Access Aotearoa's staff celebrating the organisation's 25th anniversary and its first online Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020. From left: Dev Singh, Richard Bengé, Iona McNaughton, Stace Robertson, Lize Immelman and Dawa Devereux

*"I have so much gratitude for Arts Access Aotearoa. Many of my enhanced memories have been with and because of your amazing people and community. I celebrate you all, past and present, and hope to catch a ride on your waka again as you flow down your stream of time. Kia kaha, Kia maia, Kia manawanui."*

– Rodney Bell, Ngāti Maniapoto

*"Arts Access Aotearoa is great because it supports the arts by people with disabilities. It helps give us a place to stand and be heard."*

– Duncan Armstrong, artist

*"Thank you so much, Arts Access Aotearoa. We will always be grateful for your advice, inspiration and support for all our work when we formed a Deaf and hearing theatre ensemble. You have made such a difference to our work."*

– Dr Laura Haughey and the Equal Voices Arts team

*"I've been a big fan of Arts Access Aotearoa for the past ten years. I'm excited by the possibilities as it explores the potential of our young, disabled Pasifika artists."*

– Pati Umaga, musician

*"Dear Arts Access Aotearoa, you helped activate the Crip the Lit vision – linking us with arts organisations, supporting funding applications and promotions. You are agile advocates and here we all are, flourishing and very grateful!"*

– Trish Harris, writer

*"Arts Access Aotearoa has been an inspiration for me and so many other artists over the years. Love the work you have done – inspiring artists, empowering them and making change. Magic."*

– Helen Vivienne Fletcher, writer





**Ngā toi  
mō te  
katoa**

**Arts  
for all**

**arts  
access  
aotearoa**  
Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa

**Te whakatipu  
te huarahi ki ngā  
mahi toi mō te  
hunga hauā**

**Increasing  
access to the  
arts for disabled  
people**

The third edition of *Ngā Toi mō te Katoa: Arts For All* includes a cover image of Rodney Bell and Brydie Colquhoun performing *Hurihuri* at the Commonwealth Games Arts Festival in Australia 2018. It was directed and produced by Movement of the Human.



# Achievements in 2020

Arts Access Aotearoa fulfils its strategic goals through five key programmes. This section highlights the key activities in 2020 under each programme.

## 1. Te Puna Toi | Access, Inclusion and Participation

This programme is about supporting arts organisations, companies, festivals, producers and venues to be accessible. It includes the Arts For All partnership programme with Creative New Zealand.

### Key achievements

#### Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- increased knowledge and resources about accessibility in the arts by updating and printing a third edition of the practical guide called *Ngā Toi mō te Katoa: Arts For All*
- supported a long-term commitment to accessibility by consulting with 38 Arts For All member organisations on developing robust accessibility policies
- promoted the importance of accessibility to venues and performing arts companies by delivering presentations at the Performing Arts Network of New Zealand Market (PANNZ) and online during its series of hui called Rebuilding the Creative Sector, in response to COVID-19
- increased awareness of accessibility in the arts and culture by facilitating a new regional Arts For All Network in the Hawke's Bay region
- extended the reach of the national Arts For All Network during the COVID-19 lockdown by hosting four virtual Zoom meetings based around artforms and including a panel with disabled artists
- recognised and promoted the outstanding achievements of Tim Bray Theatre Company, presented the Arts Access Creative New Zealand Arts For All Award 2020 for its pioneering work in providing access to theatre to Deaf and disabled children and their families
- advised arts organisations about good practice for online accessibility so that Deaf and disabled people could have access to arts events that moved online in response to COVID-19.

9

9 Arts For All Network meetings, either online or live, were facilitated in 2020.

49  
AD )))

Of the 110 accessible services at arts and cultural events recorded in 2020, 49 were audio described.

15

Of the 110 accessible services at arts and cultural events recorded in 2020, 15 were sign interpreted.

13

Of the 110 accessible services at arts and cultural events recorded in 2020, 13 were relaxed performances.

2045

2045 people viewed RNZB's 13 audio described online broadcasts of previous productions during COVID-19 in April and May 2020.

33

33 events featured Deaf or disabled artists and writers.



Kelly Hodgins of Platform Interpreting NZ sign interprets Tim Bray Theatre Company's *Greedy Cat* by Joy Cowley. The company is celebrating its 30 anniversary in 2021. Photo: David Rowland One-Image.com

## Accessibility the driving force

Tim Bray QSM founded what became the Tim Bray Theatre Company in 1991 at the age of 27. Accessibility, he says, has always been the organisation's driving force and access is an everyday discussion with the staff.

The company has provided NZSL interpreted theatre performances to children since 2004; touch tours and audio described performances since 2015; and relaxed performances since 2019. Its Gift A Seat™ programme provides free tickets to children from low-decile schools.

"We know what our shows and Youth Theatre activities mean to children and how many barriers there are to attending the arts," Tim says. "We've heard too from disabled adults who attend our accessible shows. They say they wish they had been able to have similar arts experiences as a child.

"Mary Schnackenberg from the Blind Citizens' Network supports our programmes in so many ways, and she loves the fact that blind and low-vision children are getting the

chance that she never had to experience theatre and drama classes so that they become a natural part of their world."

The company's purpose is "to inspire children and young people of all backgrounds and abilities to be confident and creative through New Zealand theatre".

"We have all witnessed firsthand the incredible flourishing in self-confidence and inspiration from children and young people who have engaged with our arts access programmes," Tim says. "It's their individual journeys that continue to inspire us to do and offer more."

Tim Bray Theatre Company received the Arts Access Creative New Zealand Arts For All Award, presented by Stephen Wainwright, CEO, Creative New Zealand, at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020.

Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra was Highly Commended.



Duncan Armstrong on the set of the award-winning film *The Last Man on Earth* with director and writer April Phillips

## A trailblazing performer

“I didn’t really decide to become an actor. It came to me at primary school,” says Duncan Armstrong, now 31 and a trailblazer when it comes to breaking down the barriers that face disabled performers.

Duncan, who has Down syndrome, has spent the past 15 years pursuing his career with single-minded determination. He’s not about to be pigeon-holed: he wants to do everything.

“I want to do more stage and screen roles, music, dance and acting. And I’d like to make my own film one day too.”

Life as a performing artist is always precarious but disabled artists face additional challenges. Getting access to training is hard – “People turn you away,” Duncan says – and finding roles is hard too.

However, Duncan is determined to help break down those barriers. “People should be more accepting. Let us join. Turning us away isn’t fair. People with disabilities are part of life: we need to see ourselves onscreen and onstage.”

And despite those barriers, Duncan has built an impressive CV that runs for several pages. His career began to take

off when he got a role in the television programme *Nothing Trivial* in 2011. By that stage, he was also a member of Wellington Integrated Dance (WIDance) and Auckland’s professional inclusive company Touch Compass.

Through WIDance and Touch Compass, Duncan has developed and fine-tuned his dance skills.

In 2018, he worked with Isobel MacKinnon to create *Force Field*, a 25-minute solo show that won six awards at the 2018 Auckland Fringe Festival, including a Best Performance award. Reviewers described the play as “captivating”, “delightful” and “emotionally engaging”.

More recently, Duncan performed in a short film, *The Last Man on Earth*, a sci-fi thriller with a message about the worth of disabled people that was written and directed by April Phillips. Duncan’s performance in the film has already won several international film awards.

Duncan Armstrong received the Arts Access PAK’nSAVE Artistic Achievement Award, presented by Kieran O’Sullivan at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020.

Liz Manson and Pelenakeke Brown were Highly Commended.



## 2. Manaaki Hapori | Community Engagement

This programme is about building the capacity of community-based arts organisations, in particular creative spaces, to deliver high-quality arts programmes for people with limited access.

### Key achievements

#### Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- strengthened the national Creative Spaces Network by promoting the value of creative spaces throughout Creative Spaces Week from 17 to 23 February. Organised by Arts Access Aotearoa, it encouraged daily images and posts on social media using the hashtag #CreativeSpacesWeek.
- empowered creative spaces throughout COVID-19, especially during the lockdown, by providing resources, IT support, funding opportunities and ideas for them to stay connected to their communities.
- strengthened individual creative spaces by advising and supporting them to improve their governance and operational structures.
- supported creative spaces operated by Idea Services through its IHC Vocational Services Review, advocating for the value of their services to their clients and the negative impact of any closures.
- strengthened Auckland creative spaces by reviewing the sector and developing a strategic plan that surveyed 24 creative spaces and arts organisations in Auckland with an 88 percent response rate.
- supported youth, Māori and Pasifika communities by mapping and adding nine organisations in Auckland to the Creative Spaces Network.



86 creative spaces are listed in the Creative Spaces Directory on Arts Access Aotearoa's website.



4 Creative Spaces Network meetings were held across three regional groups in 2020.



31 items were posted or share on Facebook by Arts Access Aotearoa using #CreativeSpacesWeek, reaching 8515 people



84% of creative spaces provide exhibitions or performances of their client artists' work



3 creative spaces pānui were distributed to approximately 160 subscribers.

*“A bouquet to Arts Access Aotearoa for the opportunity to celebrate our creative space this week!  
#CreativeSpacesWeek  
@artsaccessaotearoa”*

– a Facebook post by Toi Ora Live Arts Trust, Auckland



Dancer Jesse Johnstone-Steele performs in *Circability Trust's Celebrate Together – Kanohi Kitea*, held in Auckland on 3 December to celebrate the UN International Day of People with Disabilities. Jesse received the Arts Access PAK'nSAVE Artistic Achievement Award 2018. Photo: Red Photography



An artist at the Hamilton creative space Arts For Health preparing a screen print

## Connecting with the community

When Arts For Health Community Trust ran weekly “Zui” (Zoom meetings) for its artists during the COVID-19 lockdown, the participants were much more interested in talking to each other than in talking to the staff – and that made programme manager Cass Hendry very happy.

“Everything we do is about relationship building so we really liked the fact that once they’d said ‘hi’ to us they just wanted to talk to each other,” Cass says. “One of our greatest strengths is that we help people connect, firstly with each other, with like-minded people, and then they go out and start to connect with the wider community.”

As well as running Zui, Arts For Health also responded to the lockdown by sending out art packs filled with materials such as paint, paper, pastels, pens and pencils to all its active clients – a total of 100 packs that were funded with support from the Ministry of Social Development.

Set up in 1997, Arts For Health’s goal is to promote wellness through art. Everyone is welcome to use the

organisation’s fully equipped art studio in central Hamilton, which is currently open three days a week. It costs \$5 to get access to the studio and each session includes support from an art tutor for those who want it.

Many of those who use the studio are managing mental health issues, or have physical or intellectual disabilities or medical issues. But Cass says they operate an open-door policy and there are no entry criteria.

Arts For Health also runs community outreach programmes such as art therapy programmes in schools and rest homes, as well as a weekly arts programme for older people in two rehabilitation wards at Waikato Hospital.

Arts For Health Community Trust received the Arts Access Holdsworth Creative Space Award, presented by Paula Tesoriero, Disability Rights Commissioner, at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020.

Kākano Youth Arts Collective was Highly Commended.





Artists from The White Room in Christchurch travelled to Wellington in November for their exhibition, *Look*, opened by Hon Poto Williams, MP for Christchurch East, at Parliament's Bowen House

## Creativity a constant force

Nine artists from Christchurch creative space The White Room travelled to Wellington for the opening of their exhibition, *Look*, on 18 November in the Bowen House exhibition space at Parliament. Each artist exhibited three or four artworks.

The White Room art tutor, Simon Gray, says the nine artists were selected to represent the diversity of work that takes place in the creative space.

The timing of the exhibition, just after the general election, made the trip to Parliament all the more interesting. "At SkillWise, we'd just had a series of Zoom meetings with most of the political parties, so the opportunity to see some politicians in their 'natural' environment was exciting."

The White Room artists were asked the question, "What is the best thing about exhibiting at Parliament?" They responded:

- "I have been painting for a long time and if Jacinda Ardern came to see my work, I would tell her that my work speaks for me." – Chris McFarlane

- "A chance to show my work in Parliament, which is the equivalent of being invited to a tea party at Buckingham Palace." – Gary Buchanan

- "So people and the politicians can see my work and what I do." – Grace Dodge

Simon says there are many organisations across Aotearoa offering similar services to The White Room. "It's easy for us to remain isolated. By opening up opportunities to showcase the artists we can 'de-privatise' their practice, celebrate diversity and creativity on a wider scale, and connect with – and even influence – those who make decisions about public funding.

"The essential services that The White Room offers to our extended whānau cannot be underestimated. In this fast-paced world of change and uncertainty, creativity is often the most compelling and constant force for the artists of The White Room."

*“I want more than inclusion. I want equity and an arts sector committed to including disability artistry in its annual programme of works rather than a tick-box measure or one-off accessible performances.”*



### 3. Te Ao Marama | Sector Advocacy and Profile

This programme is about raising public awareness and advocating for access to the arts for everyone in New Zealand. We do this by profiling, celebrating and advocating for the individuals, organisations and communities with whom we work.

#### Key achievements

##### Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- increased awareness and advocated for access and inclusion by writing and posting online more than 230 stories, blogs, items, video, resources and profiles about accessibility and the arts. Many of these stories were promoted in digital and mainstream media, including a feature article called *Who will fund creative spaces?*
- advocated to central government about the potential and value of creative spaces in supporting our health and wellbeing. In December, Arts Access Aotearoa signed a contract to partner with Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage to provide an advisory and support service to assist with the delivery of a three-year \$18 million fund supporting creative spaces.
- promoted the value of creative spaces by supporting, posting and promoting a five-episode podcast series by former Arts Access Aotearoa intern and broadcast journalism student Antoinette Spicer.
- celebrated and increased the profile of recipients – artists, creative spaces, Arts in Corrections leaders, performing arts companies – at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020. For the first time, these annual awards were presented online via a pre-recorded video instead of live on Tuesday 13 October, and viewed 1044 times on the night.
- promoted the importance of access to the arts by celebrating 25 years of Arts Access Aotearoa and launching a “\$25 for 25 years” fundraising campaign at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020.

 **1044**

1044 website views of Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020 on 13 October.

 **230**

75 stories and more than 155 items, resources, videos and events were posted and promoted online.

*“I have had a quick watch and so far I feel all glowy and proud that EVERYONE has access to this! I feel so proud of all the work that has gone into the video to make it so accessible so THANK YOU!”*

– Shoshana Cleary, NZSL interpreter, commenting on the video of Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020





Judith Jones received her Arts Access Accolade 2020 trophy at Te Papa. With her are Stace Robertson and Richard Benge, Arts Access Aotearoa, and Courtney Johnston, Chief Executive, Te Papa

## Digging deep into audio description

Judith Jones' involvement in audio description and with Arts Access Aotearoa since 2014 have been key elements in her kete as she continues to develop as an advocate for access and inclusion in the arts.

"I love audio description and how it's an art with a purpose," says Judith, recipient of the Arts Access Accolade presented at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020.

"I'm a word person. I find words endlessly fascinating and I love using them in this context. I do a lot of research and enjoy building connections with our audiences and other describers, digging deep into how audio description works and understanding that it is an art in itself.

"The most important intention with audio description is always to write words that work – that support the listener or reader to make their own meaning."

The other award recipients are selected by a judging panel. The Arts Access Accolade, however, is chosen by Arts Access Aotearoa's staff and board and presented to a person who has worked closely with the organisation to

help it achieve its vision of a society where everyone in Aotearoa can access and participate in the arts.

Judith's journey as an audio describer began in 2014 when she took part in a training course facilitated by Arts Access Aotearoa. She learned early on in her audio describing career that the audience is the best guide to what works.

"On my first public audio description tour, I thought I was so well-prepared," she recalls. "I've never been good at numbers and had come up with 'it's like' descriptions for sizes of objects, and was quite proud of that.

"For one object, I said: 'It's as big as a bath towel'. One of the audience asked, 'How big is that in metres?' and I checked the label to find out. I've included the actual number measurement ever since. It jolted me into really understanding that audio description doesn't sit there by itself, it's an art with a purpose."

Multi-Media Systems filming a performance by the Ngāti Pōneke Young Māori Club for the pre-recorded video of Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020



Robyn Hunt, Arts Access Accolade 2019 recipient, preparing to be filmed for the pre-recorded video of Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020



Stephen Wainwright, Chief Executive, Creative New Zealand presenting the Arts Access Creative New Zealand Arts For All Award 2020




ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA  
Arts Access Creative New Zealand  
Arts For All Award 2020




Kieran O'Sullivan, PAK'nSAVE Lower Hutt and Petone, presenting the Arts Access PAK'nSAVE Artistic Achievement Award 2020




Lower Hutt and Petone  
Arts Access PAK'nSAVE  
Artistic Achievement Award 2020  
Kieran O'Sullivan  
PAK'nSAVE Lower Hutt and Petone




## 4. Toi Ara Poutama | Arts in Corrections

This programme is about working with Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections and the wider community through Arts Access Aotearoa's Arts in Corrections Advisory Service. We provide information and advice about arts activities and programmes that support the rehabilitation process of offenders and their reintegration into the community on release.

### Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- ensured creativity was included in Brain Bites, a Corrections' initiative providing activities and exercises for prisoners during the COVID-19 lockdown, by encouraging artists and writers to contribute artistic activities.
- supported and advised 14 artists, arts organisations and writers on submitting funding applications for their Corrections' projects. This included Youth Arts NZ, which received a Creative New Zealand grant to support its creative writing programme, *Te Kāhui*, at Mt Eden Corrections Facility.
- enhanced its relationship with Hawkes Bay Regional Prison and welcomed two taonga created by a carver as the trophies for the two Arts in Corrections awards. These works provided great mana for recipients Rue-Jade Morgan and men in the Redemption Performing Arts Whānau at Northland Region Corrections Facility.
- advised and supported five prisoners or former prisoners through the Artists Pathways initiative to develop their arts practice in the community on release from prison.
- advised the Department of Corrections on its showcase of prisoners' art and creative writing, *He Ngākau Whakaiti*, published in response to COVID-19. A judging panel, which included Arts Access Aotearoa, selected the work to be showcased from hundreds of submissions.
- continued to advocate for a national plan or framework to ensure consistent delivery of high-quality arts programmes and projects across all prisons and Community Corrections sites.
- advised the Department of Corrections on establishing a gallery to showcase prisoners' art in its refurbished offices, to re-open in Mayfair House on The Terrace in Wellington in 2021.



Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister of Corrections, presenting the Arts Access Corrections Māui Tikitiki a Taranga Award 2020

74

74 people attended a total of five online Arts in Corrections Network meetings, including a funding webinar, in 2020.

350

350 artworks by prisoners were submitted for Corrections' Project Auaha across all 18 prison sites.

14

14 artists, arts organisations and writers were supported about submitting funding applications for their Corrections' projects.

111

Arts Access Aotearoa responded to 111 queries about Arts in Corrections and advised on 43 arts projects and workshops held in Corrections facilities in 2020.

947

947 subscribers received the Arts Access in Corrections e-newsletter in December 2020





Chris Ulutupu, Arts in Corrections Advisor, Arts Access Aotearoa, presenting a carving made by a carver at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison to Rue-Jade Morgan at an Arts in Corrections South Island Network meeting in Dunedin

## Connecting men to their culture

Rue-Jade Morgan initially assumed he must have done something wrong when a prison psychologist greeted him with the words “So you’re Jade!” the first time the two of them met.

“My first rule of thumb is to say, ‘I didn’t do it,’” laughs Jade, who teaches a tikanga programme at Otago Corrections Facility.

But it quickly became clear that far from doing anything wrong the psychologist’s remark reflected his admiration for the many things Jade was doing right.

“He said to me that he just wanted to put a face to the name because he sees the guys in the prison all the time and they’re usually pretty antisocial, but some days they’re fizzing and filled with energy and positivity. And when he looks at their notes he sees ‘Saw Jade’ written in them.”

It’s just one of many enthusiastic endorsements for Jade’s tikanga programme, Te Hōkai Manea Tipuna (the glowing footsteps of our ancestors), which runs once a week for eight weeks and is offered four times a year. The programme has a strong emphasis on Māori weaponry and martial arts – mau rakau, mau patu and ti rakau – as well as kapa haka, waiata and whaikōrero.

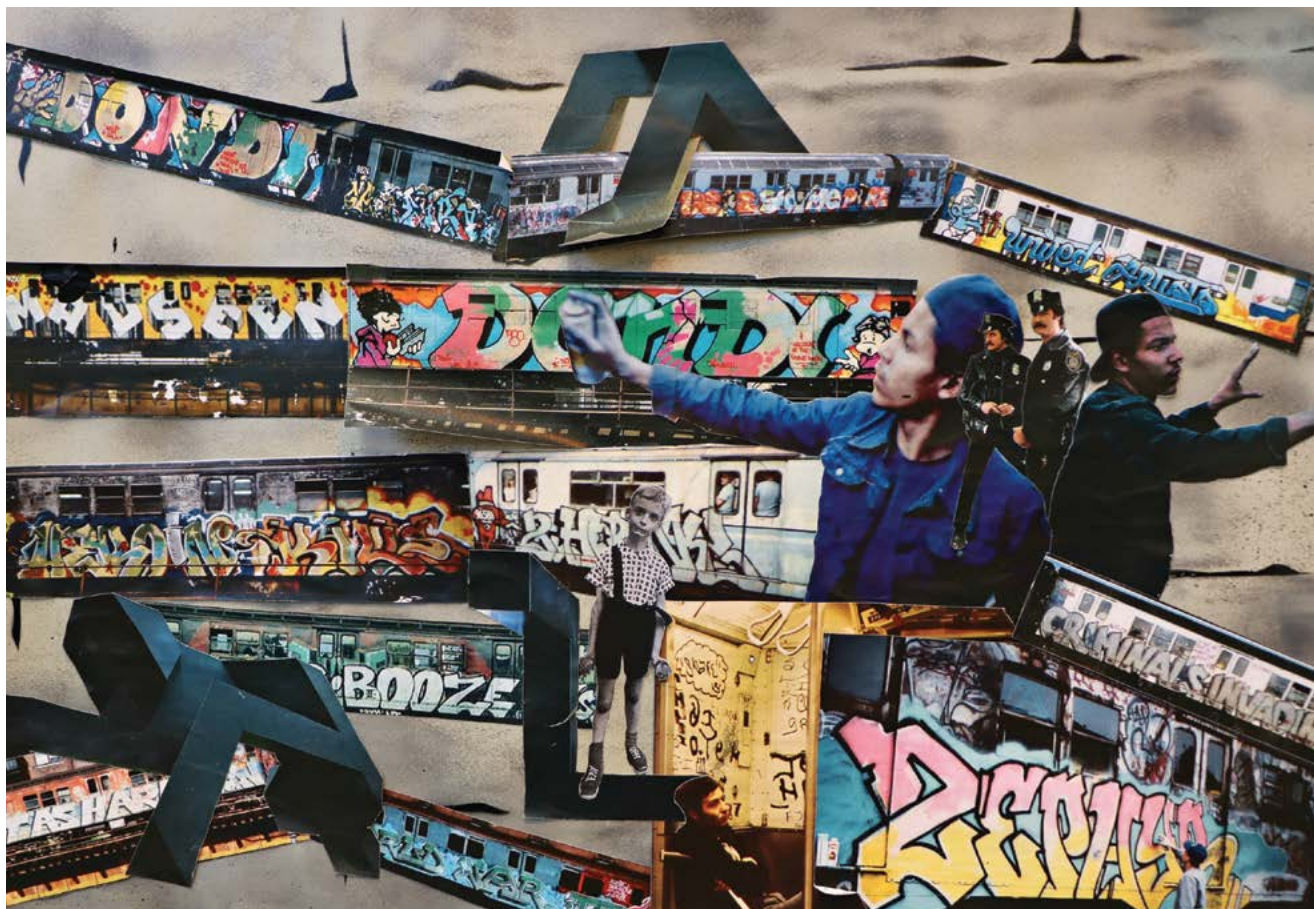
Unlike most people running similar programmes, Jade has also spent time in prison. The goal, he says of his programme, is to inspire the mostly Māori participants to make positive changes in their lives, and help them to understand who they are and where they come from.

Jade, who also teaches a foundation studies course at Otago Polytechnic, says the fact he has been to prison himself is central to the success of Te Hōkai Manea Tipuna.

“It means I’m able to speak straight and challenge them. I haven’t read it in a book. I’ve experienced it. I’m also able to role-model the changes I have made in my life that I believe will help them with their family dynamics.”

[Rue-Jade Morgan received the Arts Access Corrections Māui Tikitiki a Taranga Award, presented by Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister of Corrections, at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020.](#)

[Leonie Aben, Hawkes Bay Regional Prison, was Highly Commended.](#)



A mural created by a man in the Redemption Arts group at Northland Region Corrections Facility

## Journey to a productive future

“Kia Ora. I am a member of Redemption Performing Arts. I am a father, a son, a brother and an uncle. I am Māori and I have served seven years of a nine-year sentence. I am also a practising artist, musician and songwriter – skills I learned and developed during my time in prison, mainly through the five years I have been with the Redemption Performing Arts group in Northland Region Corrections Facility.

“Back before I joined the group, I could never have known how much it would change not only my life but my perception, direction and outlook on life. I know it sounds like a cliché but if you knew the downward spiral my life was heading in at that time, you would understand why this is so important to me and the brothers who have been lucky enough to experience what I have.

“Over the years my journey through the arts has given me a new love and appreciation for the creative world and what it offers on the outside. Through these programmes, I have also had the privilege and opportunity to be involved in creative workshops for music, art and theatre; and community events where we have performed original plays, songs, poetry and haka for family, members of the local and wider communities, politicians, Army veterans, dignitaries and multiple theatre groups.

“I’ve also had amazing opportunities to exhibit artworks in multiple exhibitions in well-known galleries. All of these experiences and more have been instrumental in changing my mindset and behaviour. Prior to joining Redemption Performing Arts, I was angry and depressed, had issues with authority and thought the only way to make it through my time in prison was hardening myself to reality and burying whatever feelings and emotions I thought could be taken for weakness.

“I am proud of everything I have achieved over the years and I know I’m very lucky to have had these opportunities. My journey through the arts and creative industries is my pathway to a more positive and productive future. The arts and creativity will always have a place in prison. There is a need for it. I NEEDED IT!”

Redemption Performing Arts Whānau and Redemption Arts Tuakana Teina Mentors, Northland Region Corrections Facility, received the Arts Access Corrections Whai Tikanga Award, presented by Rachel Leota, National Commissioner, Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections, at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020.

The Home Ground programme was Highly Commended.





Women participating in a Home Ground programme express their appreciation Photo: Fraser Crichton



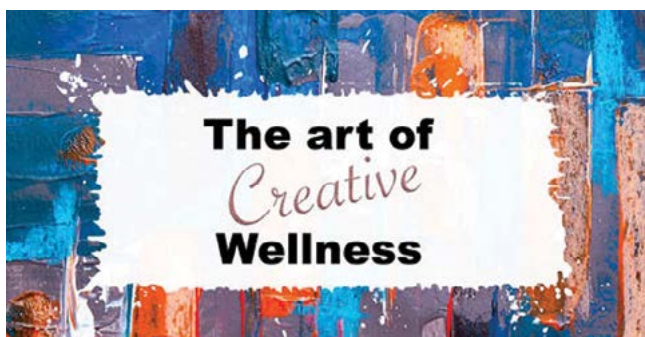
Jacqui Moyes, Director of the Home Ground Collective, and clinical psychologist the late Anita Grafton congratulate women graduating from a Home Ground programme Photo: Fraser Crichton



## 5. Te Pito Whakamarama | Information Centre

This programme is about providing a national information service on access to and participation in the arts, and advising on best practice.

### Key achievements



Antoinette Spicer, a second-year journalism student at the New Zealand Broadcasting School in Christchurch, created a five-part podcast series on creative spaces and arts initiatives that improve New Zealanders' wellbeing. The podcast was posted on Arts Access Aotearoa's website and promoted on social media channels.

#### Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- built the capacity of its stakeholders and networks by providing accurate, timely and relevant answers to 326 requests for information and advice from individuals and organisations.
- increased traffic and engagement to the Arts Access Aotearoa website. In 2020, the website attracted 32,260 unique visitors and 41,423 website sessions.
- strengthened the capability and profile of ten creative spaces by working with them and Flightdec to maintain their community websites.

 **6%↑**

Facebook "likes" increased by 6% in 2020 to 3653.

 **3.4%↑**

Twitter followers increased by 3.4% in 2020 to 2833.

**43.5%↑**

Instagram followers increased by 43.5% in 2020 to 1688.

**32,260↑**

There were 32,260 unique visitors to Arts Access Aotearoa's website (an increase of 6%) in 2020.

 **1377↑**

1377 subscribers received the Arts Access in Touch e-newsletter in December 2020.

*"Thank you so much for your sound advice, links and attachments. These have been immensely helpful and provided guidance for my ongoing conversations. It's great to know there's an advisory service and support from Arts Access Aotearoa."*

Iokapeta Magele-Suamasi,  
Manager, Learning and Outreach Programmes, Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Art Gallery

## Te Arotake Performance Review 2020

Arts Access Aotearoa's independent Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 is published in *Te Arotake Performance Review 2020*. This document includes its Statement of Service Performance, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes to the Performance Report.

**You can download Te Arotake Performance Review 2020 from the Arts Access Aotearoa website: [www.artsaccess.org.nz/about-us](http://www.artsaccess.org.nz/about-us)**



### \*Did you know?



# 24%

An estimated 1.1 million people in New Zealanders have a disability that impacts on their daily lives. Half (53%) of these have more than one type of impairment.



# 14%

632,000 people have a physical impairment that limits their everyday activities.



# 9%

380,000 people are Deaf or hearing impaired.

# 5%

242,000 people have a psychiatric or psychological impairment.



# 4%

168,000 people are blind or have low vision.



# 20,000

20,000 people in New Zealand use New Zealand Sign Language.

# Funders and sponsors

Arts Access Aotearoa thanks the following organisations that have supported its work to increase access to the arts in 2020. We look forward to your ongoing support.

## Core funder



## Major contracts



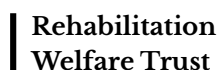
## Local government grant



## Legal services



## Grants



## Community



## Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020 sponsors



## Supporters

Thank you to the generous Friends of Arts Access Aotearoa whose regular donations supported the activities in this report. Thanks also to Rajeev Mishra, Otago Museum, Te Papa and the University of Canterbury Arts Centre for their in-kind support. Thanks also to our business supporters Fraser Carson and Flightdec; Craig Christensen and Graphic Solutions; Marty Brooky and Coherent; Base IT; Gordon Harris, Wellington; and Volunteer Wellington. Finally, thanks to Nope Sisters and the Silo Theatre for supporting our mahi.



# Supporting what we do

You can help Arts Access Aotearoa reduce barriers and increase access to the arts for everyone in New Zealand.

## Make a donation

Help us ensure all people can participate in the arts either as creators or audience members. An easy and effective way to make a monthly donation and be kept up to date with events and activities is to join Friends of Arts Access Aotearoa.

Arts Access Aotearoa is a registered charitable trust and donations of any size are gratefully received. You can claim a tax credit on donations of \$5 or more.

## Sponsorship and corporate support

By sponsoring Arts Access Aotearoa, your business can be strategically aligned with a national arts charity that increases access to the arts for everyone in New Zealand.

## Leave a gift in your will

Your bequest will help us build a more inclusive society to ensure that future generations will experience the arts and creativity, without barriers.

## What your donation supports

Arts Access Aotearoa provides advice, support and promotion across four key areas listed below, with examples of accessibility achievements in 2020. You can decide which areas your donation will be used for (see back page).



### Arts For All: increasing access to arts and cultural events for everyone

Every year, more than 20,000 children and young people of all abilities and backgrounds attend Tim Bray Theatre Company's shows, and participate in its workshops and classes. A pioneer in providing sign interpreted theatre for Deaf patrons, Auckland's leading theatre company for children also provides touch tours and audio described shows for blind and low vision patrons, along with sensory relaxed performances.



### Creative spaces: building the sustainability of creative spaces throughout New Zealand

An exhibition, *Get a Hat, Get a Head*, used hats to break down stigma around mental health and spark discussion in the wider Wellington community during Mental Health Awareness Week 2019. Artists from creative spaces in the Wellington region collaborated to turn secondhand hats into artistic creations. The project received the Arts Access Creative New Zealand Community Arts Award 2020.



### Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards: celebrating artistic achievement and leaders providing access to the arts

An award-winning performing artist, arts projects and creative spaces nurturing mental health and wellbeing, a pioneer of accessibility in children's theatre, and leadership in delivering arts programmes in prisons were celebrated at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2020, presented online for the first time by Arts Access Aotearoa on 13 October. The pre-recorded video received 1044 views on the night.

Photo: Andi Crown



### Arts in Corrections: using the arts as a tool supporting prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration

Rob Mokaraka has only one goal with his performances of *Shot Bro: Confessions of a Depressed Bullet*. It's to save lives by "illuminating the shadows of hurt" with compassion and humour. Rob first performed *Shot Bro* at Rimutaka Prison in 2016 before returning in 2020. He's also performed this solo show in Springhill Corrections Facility three times, Auckland Prison three times and Invercargill Prison.

# Making your donation

Arts Access Aotearoa needs your support to ensure everyone in New Zealand, now and in the future, can engage in the arts. With your help, we can all experience the arts and creativity, without barriers.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please supply your email address so we can send you a receipt and keep you up to date with news and events. You can unsubscribe at any time.

I wish to support:

- Arts For All  Arts in Corrections  
 Creative spaces  Area of most need  
 Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards

With a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Or:

- I wish to make a regular monthly donation as a Friend of Arts Access Aotearoa of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send me information about leaving a gift in my will so that more people in New Zealand will have access to the arts for years to come.

Please choose a payment option below or give online at [www.artsaccess.org.nz/donate-to-arts-access-aotearoa](http://www.artsaccess.org.nz/donate-to-arts-access-aotearoa)

- I enclose my cheque payable to **Arts Access Aotearoa**  
or

- Please charge my credit card**

Visa / Mastercard number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Name of cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature:

- I would like to give online with an **Internet banking payment**.

Account name: Arts Access Aotearoa

Account number: 03-0502-0040862-00

Please include your full name as reference.

To arrange for your tax deductible receipt please call us on 04 802 4349 or email [info@artsaccess.org.nz](mailto:info@artsaccess.org.nz)

Please return this completed form with your payment to Arts Access Aotearoa, PO Box 9828, Wellington 6141.

*Thank you for your support*

If you would like more information about how you can support Arts Access Aotearoa, please contact Richard Benge, Executive Director (T: 04 802 4349 or 021 217 1002 E: [richard.benge@artsaccess.org.nz](mailto:richard.benge@artsaccess.org.nz)).