



WSA Bulletin - 20 February 2026

WSA Art School Term 1 Enrolments are still open for classes, with availability showing online, however this is the final week to enrol. So don't delay - book your class this week and get those creative juices flowing for 2026.

Term dates: 9th February - 11th April 2026.

Book online: <https://wsa.org.nz/art-school/classes/>

Monthly Members' Night

Our Members' night's have started for 2026 and we thank Janet Smith for her interesting talk on the Clay+Ash exhibition and second year Wintec music student, Jera for bringing her electric guitar along and entertaining us with classic rock pieces.

Our next Member's night is **Friday, 13 March at 5.30pm** with guest speaker Megan Lyons who will be talking about the NZ Painting and Printmaking Awards which will be on in the Chartwell, Ida Carey and Margot Philips galleries. Make sure to come along with a friend who hasn't visited our space before and enjoy refreshments and nibbles as a thank you for your WSA membership.

If you know a business that would like to sponsor one of the evenings, or WSA activities then please email: julie@wsa.org.nz

Exhibitions & Gallery Spaces

All galleries are booked through 2026 and our **2027 exhibition spaces are filling up fast**. We have limited bookings available for the WSA and Ruth Davey galleries. If you or someone you know would like to enquire about a gallery booking for 2027 - please email: wsa@wsa.org.nz.

Exhibitions on now - see posters below.

18 February - 14 March: Old Stamping Grounds by Geoff McGowan

The phrase "old stamping ground" refers to a familiar place or area from one's past. It originally alluded to animals like deer or elephants returning to a place and "stamping" the ground to make a comfortable spot for resting.

But don't take this title literally - it's just a collection of words with some connection to most of the prints in this exhibition. I've been to most of the depicted places, but it is the objects that are more familiar; there are actual stamps and some prints done in the style of old engraved stamps. There are prints inspired by old things, and there are elephants! And, closest to the title, one print shows an old **camping** ground that we used to spend Christmas at, in the early 1970's.

18 February - 14 March: Created Collected Torn Cut = Collage by Joanne Mahoney

This exhibition brings together a series of works that celebrate the process of collage — creating something new from pieces of the past. Using paint, print, and paper, Joanne Mahoney combines watercolour, acrylic, oil and cold wax medium, along with layers of collage and printmaking techniques.

Each artwork builds on collected materials, cut or torn, then reassembled to form fresh compositions full of texture and depth.

NZPPA Awards 2026

Congratulations to the 65 finalists who have been notified. A huge thank you to the 350 artists who entered for the NZPPA2026. Thank you to our sponsors: Nancy Caiger, Vision Complete Earthworks, PCANZ, CFO Partner-Rachael Hayton and the Ruth and Lester Davey bequest

Note for your diaries: the opening event will be on **Saturday 28th February 2026 at 5.00pm**. **Sunday 1 March 2026 at 10.30am** - the Judges' floor talks. **All welcome!**

Artspost HOURS

WE ARE OPEN WAITANGI DAY 10AM-3PM

- **Mondays - Fridays:** 9.00am - 5.00pm
- **Saturdays:** 9.00am - 3.00pm
- **Sundays:** CLOSED most Sundays; Open 11.00am - 2.00pm on a Sunday following an exhibition opening.

Sponsorship & donations:

A little artful timing: donate before 31 March and get 33% back

As we move through February, we wanted to gently remind our community that the end of the financial year is approaching and **31 March 2026** will be here before we know it.

If you're planning to support the Waikato Society of Arts this year, making your donation before the end of March means you can **claim a 33% tax rebate** from the government. That's one third of your donation coming back to you, while your original gift continues to support local artists, exhibitions, education and creative connection in our region.

Your generosity helps keep our galleries open, supports emerging and established artists, and ensures the arts remain accessible and vibrant in the Waikato.

It's a simple way to make your support go further, for both you, and for the creative community you care about.

Donate before 31 March 2026 and remember to keep your receipt for your tax return.

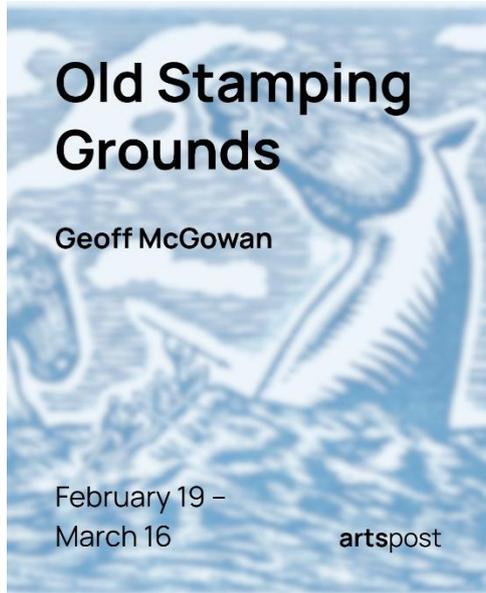
Donate using the **koha** button at the top of our webpage: wsa.org.nz

Enquire about our bequest brochure and new sponsorship packages.

Contact Julie on: wsa@wsa.org.nz or phone **07 839 4484**.

Thank you for being part of the WSA story 🧡

Upcoming Exhibitions, Events & Promotions @ Artspost



Geoff McGowan
 'Drawing with Light' exhibition
 19 February – 16 March 2026



Joanne Mahoney
 'Created Collected Cut Torn = Collage'
 19 February – 16 March 2026

Waikato-wide Exhibitions, Events & Promotions

12th Hibiscus & Bays Art Awards



Call for Entries!



Mairangi Arts Centre is accepting entries for this prestigious juried exhibition. This annual awards exhibition, sponsored by Hibiscus & Bays Local Board, celebrates artistic and creative practices in New Zealand. Exhibitors will be chosen by a selection panel to have their work on display in the 12th Hibiscus & Bays Arts Awards exhibition.

PRIZES INCLUDE:
 \$1000 (x3 Cash Prizes) *
 \$500 Maori Prize *
 21 & Under Artists Award & more
 * Includes exhibition opportunity

ENTRY DEADLINE:
 27th April 2026
EXHIBITION DATES:
 23 May – 13 June 2026
OPEN CEREMONY:
 Sat 23rd May, 12PM

Mairangi Arts Centre, 20 Hastings Rd, Mairangi Bay, Auckland
 ☎ 09 478 2237 🌐 www.mairangiarts.co.nz



Join us for a vibrant day of plein air painting focused on the stunning historic charm of Thames. Grab your gear and be inspired! **FREE ENTRY!** • PRIZES! • SILENT AUCTION!

Paint Out Details

- Date: Saturday, February 28th 2026
- Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- Location Focus: Historic Thames & Surrounds
- Gathering Point: Vessel Gallery 752 Polish Street
- Stamped canvases and stretched paper provided
- Bring Your Own: Easel, paints, water, hat, sunscreen.

Get Involved! All Skill Levels Welcome!

Register Now

To join, visit the creativity room website: the-creativity-room.com/paint-out and fill out a registration form



ART EXHIBITION:

'Late Bloomer'

FREE ENTRY



Original artworks by
Esther Laaper

Date & Time
27 Feb - 9 Mar '26
Opening night Fri 27 Feb, 5-9PM
Open Fri-Tues 10AM - 2PM

Location
Gallery9 onbraid
9 Braid Rd, Hamilton

'I let my art go and it came back to me. My garden has taught me that when we are ready we all have the capacity to bloom again and again.'

[@estherlaaper.artist](#) www.estherlaaper.com 027 344 1935

WSA Membership benefits include discounts from two of our local cafes:

10% discount on food and coffee when you show your WSA membership card



WSA Sponsors - with thanks!



WSA Sponsors - continued



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W.S.A

wsa.org.nz

wsa@wsa.org.nz

Instagram: @artwaikato

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WaikatoSocietyofArts/>

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