



EAST GORE ART CENTRE PROJECT

2011 SUPPORTERS' APPEAL

Introduction

In 2001 the Eastern Southland Gallery negotiated the successful purchase of a significant Gore landmark, the former East Gore Presbyterian Church and Hall. Designed by prominent New Zealand architect RA Lawson, the 1881 church building is the only surviving example of his wooden structures and has been accorded New Zealand Historic Places Trust Category II registration. The adjoining hall building is a much later 1960's addition.

The purchase of this complex, on terraced land adjacent to the Mataura River, was generously supported by the Presbyterian Synod of Otago and Southland in light of the building's potential public use.

Further good fortune was to gravitate our way in the form of a national visual arts institution. Having visited the site, Frans Baetens and Magda van Gils of Auckland's Muka Studio graciously offered to gift their considerable plant and equipment to us for the purpose of establishing a non-profit lithographic studio for visiting artists.

The Muka holdings include several small lithographic presses, along with a 7.5 tonne, 135 year old French press, which is one of only three left operating in the world. Also included in the gift are a priceless collection of lithographic stones and the printmaking equipment used by the many major national and international artists who have worked with Muka over the last 25 years. Most notable of the New Zealand artists to use this facility are Dick Frizzell, Ralph Hotere, Grahame Sydney, Pat Hanly, Robin White, Marilyn Webb, Tony Fomison and Gretchen Albrecht.

With the successful completion of the John Money Wing and Ralph Hotere Gallery, the Eastern Southland Gallery is in the process of raising funds to refurbish both buildings and create a complementary art centre of regional and national significance.



Frans and Magda

Proposed Plans

- The full restoration of the exterior of the 1881 church building, and internal refurbishment to allow for the establishment of a multi-purpose studio space, and a specialist painting studio.
- The establishment of a fully functioning lithographic studio utilising the equipment and presses gifted by Muka Studios, plus facilities for etching and woodblock printing.
- The development of a self-contained flat for visiting artists, including 'The Royal Suite' of bedroom furniture commissioned for the Queen's 1954 tour of New Zealand.
- The creation of a small temporary exhibition space for use by Artists-in-Residence.
- A fully landscaped garden.

Project Costs to Date

STAGE 1 - COMPLETE

This involved the successful purchase of the site in 2001, followed by a structural assessment of the church building and the acquisition of quotes for the first stage of structural refurbishment. Some small presses, studio furniture and fittings, and lithographic stones were also packed and transported from Auckland to Gore.

Total Expenditure on Stage 1 **\$18,630**

STAGE 2 - COMPLETE

This involved completely gutting the existing north facing wing of the church and building a self contained flat for visiting artists. The roof and all of the exterior weatherboards, barge boards and flashings on the north facing walls of the old church building were replaced, and the heritage windows replicated and replaced.

Total Expenditure on Stage 2 **\$174,867**



Support

Stages 1 and 2 (\$193,497 in total) have been completed with support from the following donors:

Mataura Licensing Trust
Community Trust of Southland
Gore District Council
ArtEscape Trust
Gore New World
Eastern Southland Gallery Committee
The Hasselman Family
Estate of Patric Carey
Estate of GWG & CA Geddes
ILT & Southland Branch of NZHPT
Eastern Southland Embroiderers' Guild
Mrs MJ Ladbrook
Gore Rotary Club
Mr C & Mrs S McIntyre
Hokonui Fashion Design Awards Committee
Watson's Auctions

Claire Beynon
Marilynn Webb
Grahame Sydney
Nigel Brown
Janet de Wagt
Inge Doesburg
Jo Ogier
Fane Flaws
Donna Demente
Rob McLeod
Barry Cleavin
Denise Copland



**Community Trust
of Southland**
Te Pou Arataki Pounamu o Murihiku

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