



AKAROA COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

December 2023

Seasonal Greetings!

Come and see our wonderful new exhibition - High Days - a celebration of art and our artists in Akaroa...



Landscape Painting Group

Come and join our **free landscape painting group**. Meet at Okains Bay Beach carpark and enjoy a day of painting our beautiful Banks Peninsula. See website details for further information (<https://akaroaarts.co.nz/landscape-group-2023/>)

Also... Come and join our **free sketch group** on Thursday 14 December. Meet at 64 Rue Lavaud, next to the Butchery - BYO



Greetings from ACAC

As our year comes to an end, we can look back on an ambitious programme of events. In June we hosted our first - and highly successful - RAWA festival (Readers and Writers Akaroa). It was much enjoyed by everyone and we had tremendous feedback from happy participants. We have started seeking funding to support our next RAWA and once we are confident we can go ahead we will make a formal announcement.

Our warmest congratulations to our FrenchFest colleagues who hosted a wonderful French festival this year. ACAC's part in the proceedings was *Landings*, the re-enactment theatrical performance on the beach and as usual, a terrific time was had by all. A witty script by John Harding and polished performances by our actors made for a hugely enjoyable morning. Well done everyone. You will find more detailed summary of *Landings* by Lesley Burkes-Harding later in the newsletter.

In addition to these major events, our visual arts programme has continued throughout the year bringing joy to our experienced and novice artists.

Thank you to all our members - your membership fees help us enormously to subsidise events. I'll be writing to you soon encouraging your continued membership and I hope you will continue to support our efforts in 2024.

Warmest wishes...and a very Meri Kirihimete!
Marie Connolly (Chair)



Highlights from our visual arts programme 2023



Easel-ly Arty - our children's programme (generously supported by Aotearoa Gaming Trust)



Make a Creature Mask



And don't forget to pick up a copy of ACAC's beautiful book for Christmas, *Fantabulous Fables from Akaroa*, \$30 from The Good Story, or from the Akaroa Museum. Online sales from <https://www.pohatu.co.nz/shop/Books/>

Landings

'Landings' at Akaroa French Festival 2023 was a true community event, comprising of approximately 60 performers, mostly locals, telling the stories and whakapapa of their own ancestors; Māori, Aotearoa's first people, whalers, sailors and farmers who sailed the great oceans and came to call our wonderful Banks Peninsula home.

We were so fortunate to have the support of mana whenua from te Runanga Onuku, and Akaroa Area School children, who learned all about what it's like to be in a play and absolutely loved their experience.

Locals were supported by professional actors Roy Snow, Kim Garrett and Stephen Butterworth, also Nathan Bonner, our local street performer and crowd pleaser – who all glued the performance together; giving our terrified locals confidence and help. We were also supported brilliantly with set builders, costume and props makers - thank you all!

We had an intrepid audience of 700 to 900 who braved the chills of Akaroa beach at 8.30 for an hour and a half. The Wellington Sea Shanty Society led a chorus of "The Wellerman", the play was funny and informative and we've had fantastic feedback.

Grateful thanks to our sponsors: Pub Charities, Christchurch Heritage Festival 2023, the Orion Gallery Akaroa, Christchurch Creative Communities Fund, and also the generous support of Akaroa businesses and citizens. Lesley Burkes-Harding (Artistic Director)



Membership and Annual General Meeting

It is AGM time and ACAC will be having ours at the Old Post Office boardroom in Akaroa at 6pm on Monday 11 December. Do come and join us if you can.

Membership renewals are due again in January 2024 - thank you for being loyal members of ACAC and we look forward to your continued support next year. Current members please make your deposit directly here (BNZ 020832 0043919 02) noting your name and code 'membership'. It's \$10 for individual membership, and \$15 for families. Anyone who would like to join our membership you will find our membership form here (<https://akaroaarts.co.nz/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Membership-Application-Form-pdf.pdf>)