



NZPS 2018 ANZAC BRIDGE FELLOW

Rebecca Holden was awarded the fellowship – sponsored by the Friends of Anzac Bridge and Trust House Community Enterprise – for her 'A Home Away from Home' proposal.

During her time at NZPS, Rebecca worked on her project which explores, through paintings and drawings, the story of the Aotea Convalescent Home for New Zealand soldiers in Heliopolis, Egypt during World War One. The home was staffed by nurses from Wairarapa, Wellington and Whanganui. It was funded by the efforts of women's groups from Wairarapa, Whanganui and Rangitikei regions, who saw the importance of a 'home away from home' in the recovery of soldiers who were wounded or who fell sick in the Sinai and Palestine campaigns.

In her fellowship application, Rebecca also expressed her willingness to take her art into the community and this she did at Mauriceville School. As Rebecca reported at the time:

"[A]workshop with the kids at Mauriceville school this morning. They helped me with my Anzac project. I asked them to paint some tiles based on a pattern of tiles at the Aotea home. They also created their own designs based on the stories I told them about Aotea. These tiles will then be constructed to form a cross to represent the nurses. These kids were awesome! The older kids helping the younger ones with a pretty tricky design. It was a real pleasure."

Rebecca Holden is a New Zealand artist, she gained her Masters in Fine Arts from Massey University, Wellington in 2013. Her paintings employ visual narratives to explore the multiple guises of humanity. Rebecca was artist in residence at Expressions Whirinaki in 2014 and Samuel Marsden Collegiate School in 2017, and has taught at Massey University School of Fine Arts. She exhibits regularly in New Zealand and had her first international exhibition in 2017 with her work 'Sand in the Apricot Jam' in Israel as part of the World War One Centenary commemorations.

RIGHT: Working with students at Mauriceville School. **FAR RIGHT:** The recreated Aotea Home tiles at the Anzac Day service.



Rebecca's 'work in progress' drawings at the Pukaha Wildlife Centre function after the Anzac Day service.

'Sand in the Apricot Jam', which was also exhibited at the National Army Museum at Waikouaiti in 2016, looked at the role of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles in the Middle East campaign, as well as their contribution at Gallipoli. Rebecca's grandfather served with the Auckland Mounted Rifles and was wounded at Gallipoli. He returned to serve with his regiment in the Sinai and Palestine until the end of the war.

The exhibition was first shown at Expressions Art Centre in Upper Hutt where Rebecca created most of the artworks on site. The intention of the project and resulting exhibition was to be as inclusive of the local community as possible – from the local horse owners, who allowed Rebecca to sketch their horses, to young men who volunteered to pose for the paintings.

At NZPS Rebecca made considerable progress with her Aotea Home project and took part in the Anzac Day service at the nearby Kaiparoro Anzac Bridge and Mauriceville School students displayed the tiles they had painted.

The bridge had a special connection for Rebecca Holden. "On the Kaiparoro Anzac Bridge – my residency connection – is listed Victor Falkner who died at Gallipoli and it turns out not only was he in the Auckland Mounted Rifles but he was in the 4th squadron. The same squadron as my grandfather Jack Culleton!"



RECENT & UPCOMING ARTISTS AT NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC

During the last 17 years, NZPS has welcomed and, in so many cases, inspired hundreds of artists of every description – writers, painters, sculptors, musicians, actors, photographers, film-makers – from around the world and from all parts of New Zealand. NZPS is unique in offering wonderful working spaces and the stimulation of community life to several artists at the same time.



FIRST CLELIA BURTON FELLOWSHIP AWARDED

Clelia Burton

The inaugural NZPS 2018 Clelia Burton Fellow, to honour Clelia Burton, is Caitlin Dyas (above left). The fellowship, sponsored by Ron and Alison Burton, has been named for Clelia Burton (1878-1952), a watercolour artist who primarily focused on New Zealand flora, and whose work is held in the collection of the Alexander Turnbull Library.

Clelia Burton was a member of the Burton family who were the original residents of the 1911 homestead that became NZ Pacific Studio; the Burtons lived in the home from 1911 to 1972. It was Clelia's father Christopher Burton who built the home of native timber (milled on site) and concrete (one of the first villas of its kind in the Wairarapa). Clockmaker Christopher Burton built many of the town clocks around the country, including in Masterton and Feilding. After Clelia Burton married Albert Hustwick, she lived and painted in Woodville.

The sponsors, in consultation with NZPS, had decided the Clelia Burton Fellow should be a New Zealand-resident female artist and would, ideally, be a watercolourist.

Caitlin Dyas is a multidisciplinary New Zealand artist with a passion for natural science and environmental sustainability. She graduated with a Bachelors of Communication Design from Otago Polytechnic, Dunedin in 2014. While she explores a wide range of themes in her work, there is a focus on nature, and feeling connected to nature.

As Caitlin says of her time at NZPS in August: "I will be focusing on painting botanical illustrations in watercolour, focusing on native plants with medicinal properties, and reflecting traditional practices of rongoā. This is for an illustrative field guide and app I will make on edible and medicinal plants of Aotearoa, highlighting their cultural significance throughout history and aiming to honour and strengthen the unique relationship we have with the land."



MIXING ART AND COMMERCE

Farzana Nondini from Bangladesh was at NZPS in June. She is a pioneering fine arts graduate from the University of Chittagong, and also has an MBA in marketing. With this experience she has helped establish graphic design in her country's corporate world. As an artist, she works in acrylics, watercolours and oil paint with nature proving inspiration.



AN AMBITIOUS TRILINGUAL PLAY

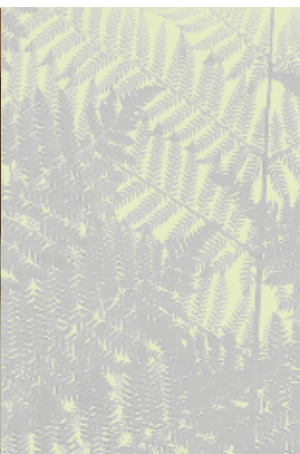
Sian Ní Mhuirí was NZPS R.A.K. Mason Fellow in 2017 and, after completing her three-week residency in November-December, she stayed on as house manager. A playwright, theatre-maker and poet, Sian worked on two plays during her time in Normandell House – both trilingual projects written in English, Irish and Te Reo Māori. Her work explores a dual Irish and Kiwi heritage (she was born and bred in Ireland, but her mother is from Invercargill), post-colonial identity, reconciliation, and the meaning of home. During her time at NZPS, Sian secured funding from Creative New Zealand, that has supported the development of her script in collaboration with Te Pou - Auckland's home of Māori theatre - and the associated Te Rēhia Theatre Company. A work-in-progress showing of the play, provisionally titled Anam Mana (anam meaning 'soul' in Irish) was held at Te Pou on 28 April. Sian and her new whanau at Te Rēhia hope to premiere the completed work in 2019. After that, they'll tour it around New Zealand, Ireland, and beyond...!



The NZPS 2018 Masterton District Council Fellow, sponsored by the MDC, is Jhan Lindsay who describes herself as a “multi-musician”. She took up her residency in the mid-winter school holidays so she could work with students in their first week back at school.

At NZPS she wrote a collection of musical works reflecting the landscape, history, bird song and stories from the Masterton area. She is connecting with young musicians at local schools and plans to have them perform the works alongside her at a live performance that will be recorded.

Jhan has established relationships with most secondary schools in the Wairarapa region as an itinerant teacher, judge of music competitions and reliever as a classroom music teacher. Jhan Lindsay has been invited to play at several New Zealand music and jazz festivals including ‘Tora Tora Tora Festival’, the Martinborough Jazz Festival, the Wellington Jazz Festival and the Manawatu Jazz Festival. She continues to play regularly throughout New Zealand, with several line-ups including ‘Jhan Lindsay and the Chatterlains’, ‘the Jhan Lindsay Trio’, and ‘the Jhan Lindsay Quartet’.



MULTI-TALENTED ARTIST, MUSICIAN & WRITER

Leanne Dunic from Vancouver, Canada is the NZPS 2018 Ema Saiko Fellow, sponsored by Kay Flavell, founder of NZPS. She is a multi-disciplinary artist, musician, and writer. Her work has won several honours, including the 2015 Alice Munro Short Story Award. Her book *To Love the Coming End* which is the companion work to her album *To Love the Coming End of the World*, was listed as one of the best poetry books of 2017 by *Entropy Magazine*.

Leanne is of mixed race and her work explores identity and culturally diverse narratives. She is the Artistic Director of the Powell Street Festival Society, a Japanese-Canadian arts organization, and is the singer/guitarist of *The Deep Cove*. Her proposed NZPS project is entitled *Hysteria*: it will be a work of lyric-prose about an Asian-American woman’s return to an unspecified home country. The manuscript will challenge typical depictions of Asian-female sexuality, and include themes of globalisation, environmental trauma, and racism.

Leanne is keen to offer a workshop or artist talk while she is in residence. “I always love an opportunity to inspire and facilitate creativity. I’m also interested in broadening my artist network for future presentations and collaborations.” Leanne is planning to be at New Zealand Pacific Studio in December 2018.



The NZPS 2018 R.A.K. Mason Fellowship, sponsored by the Daniell family, saw the return of poet Melanie Carter to NZPS where she was manager several years ago. Melanie is a Senior Instructor in the Department of Rhetoric and Composition at The American University in Cairo. Her poems have

been published in *The Gettysburg Review*, *Shenandoah*: *The Washington and Lee Review*, and *Antioch Review*, among others. A number of poems have been Pushcart Prize nominees, and her manuscript, *Water to Sky*, was a finalist for several book prizes, including the ‘Yale Series of Younger Poets’ competition.

Her research and writing interests centre on the notions of perception, synesthesia, landscape, and the ways natural environments affect creativity.

Melanie Carter is looking forward to being in the house as an artist without the distractions of house manager duties. She hopes to complete a poetry manuscript—a book-length narrative set on a magical island but inspired by New Zealand and the very real house and grounds of Normandell. The poem focuses on a bird the poet-speaker finds lying beneath a tree lucerne. The bird’s throat has been injured, and the speaker believes this wound—the tiny space where the wind dips in and circles round—is creating the “two-note singing sound” she hears continuously but has not known the source of.

This instrument becomes the catalyst for the narrative and also the sustained focal point, nudging the speaker to ponder questions about nature and creativity, and to explore the relationship between the human spirit and the Creative force. As Melanie writes: “The nest of words she harbors writhes like snakes. Nothing ever is as it seems.” Melanie Carter has been in residence at NZPS in May and June this year.

NZPS CHAIR'S REPORT 2017

The successful exhibition at Aratoi of residents and Fellows' work over 16 years of the residency's existence at Normandell House near Mount Bruce brought 2016 to a satisfying conclusion.

The next year began with the reality of continuing with the challenge of finding a buyer for the historic house as the current three owners had stated their intention of putting the house on the market. The challenge was and is to find a buyer who will continue the concept of the residency as it now runs – open to residents from NZ and from other countries of the world.

As the year continued it became evident that a quick solution would not be found and as 2017 drew to a close the NZPS owners and Board continued to grapple with the issue of finding replacement owners. While the notification of the sale of the house created degrees of uncertainty in the minds of our local communities and beyond, NZPS has reaffirmed its intention to preserve the residency concept into the future no matter the final outcome of the sale of the house.

Fundraising options are being explored along with the possibility of setting up a trust to purchase 'Normandell' to ensure that the strong local and international flavour of NZPS may be continued.

Some of the highlights of the 2017 year were:

- The involvement of NZPS in the Kokomai Festival where the headline event was the performance of the opera written by Michelle Hawkins during her time as a resident at NZPS
- A Kokomai concert held at Aratoi, featuring some of the NZPS musical artist residents
- A visit to the house by NZPS Patron Dame Anne Salmond during her visit to the Kokomai Festival
- The series of Anzac Commemoration concerts put on by our visiting Australian friends, 'Loosely Woven'
- The return visit of 'Loosely Woven' for a series of local concerts around the Wairarapa, assisted by Board member Rob Maunsell.

Jean McCombie

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Helen Clayson moved to New Zealand from England, with her Kiwi husband, in 2016. Her medical career in the north of England included being senior partner in General Practice, Medical Director of a hospice and a researcher in palliative care. She is now working as a GP in Masterton and is a member of the Wairarapa Singers.

Paul Gardner is a member of the leadership team at the Institute of Directors in Wellington, where he leads the Director Development portfolio. He previously worked in commercial, not for profit, and state sector organisations, across Asia, the Middle East and Europe.



NEW HOUSE MANAGERS AT NZPS: Sarah Dill

is a vocalist, music therapist, singer songwriter, mindfulness instructor and former NZPS resident.



Originally from Minnesota, she and her fiancé George Brydon are both newly living and working Wairarapa. George is a NZ-born builder. He began making furniture in Christchurch and is now particularly interested in eco building and tiny houses.



Sarah Dill & Melanie Carter in NZPS's loft/library.



Farzana Nondini with NZPS-inspired artwork.

THE MOST RECENT OPEN DAY AT NZPS was held on June 24. Sarah Dill sang some of her songs; Melanie Carter read from her current poetry project and Farzana Nondini displayed some of the art project she worked on at NZPS.

PHOTOS BY EVIE DEWES



JUSTINE FLETCHER, NZPS ANZAC FELLOW in 2014 fashioned 607 pendants to commemorate each of the Wairarapa women who signed the 1893 suffrage petition. The pendants now have several 'homes', with the north Wairarapa collection in pride of place in the office of Tararua District mayor Tracey Collis.

