

## 2023 end of year Report

Much of the focus for 2023 was in planning our second photography festival, engaging with local community and promoting the opportunities around our second event.

With much success, we held the ten day event in September, alongside Hastings Blossom Festival with an amazing response from participants, creatives and community, as well as visitors to the event from out of the region.



### Highlights:

So many to mention but some that come to mind from the last 12 months.

IHC NZ second annual photography competition and exhibition, Capture the moment, and those that travelled to our region from Taupo and Wellington to view the exhibition.



The opening night, what a great turnout and a real celebration and coming together. Ngā mihi has to go to Henare O'Keefe and his whānau for opening the event and also to HDC Staff and Councillors who attended.



The moving exhibition we curated as part of FF, for MSST, Hopeful Horizons, with Dove HB and Staros was so well attended with positive feedback. Having this exhibition in a public but respectful space, with staff on site was well supported and its presence a real addition to the exhibition.



Richard Brimer and his contribution of private collections from his own and friends' homes, made for an outstanding addition, with those such as Marti Friendlanders work made available for viewing.





Aside from FOTOFEST taking much of our focus, through the year we still managed :  
Maintaining our relationship with **IHCNZ** and local Idea Services with a local 6 week workshop  
May/June.



We also began an online weekly workshop with **IHC MEDIA**, which helped in promoting Capture the moment and encouraging and supporting participants with intellectual disabilities in their love for photography.

Completed the **AGE FRIENDLY** exhibition, showcasing senior and youth relationships after lockdown. This was a great exhibition, with everyone attending, pizza and community together. It took some time to get this exhibition together as

COVID put us behind, but wow what a great outcome for everyone involved.  
We met amazing people and it was so awesome to see them come together at this event.







We also held our **youth photography competition** again with sponsorship from HB Māori Tourism, with the winning image from Chelyn Brooking having her own exhibition during FOTO FEST as well as \$750 in cash as first prize. 80 entries this year, promoting to local schools, up from 52 the year previous (our first)



**A workshop also with Awhi Trust** ( alternative education) was a real buzz, we got out into nature for a few hours on a tramp through the Redwoods, giving each a DSLR camera to use and capture nature through their eyes. Using photography as a tool for wellbeing is amazing to share and see in action, device or camera, it makes no difference.

Finally, **Happy Bay News**, our youth media programme continues to flourish. This team of 20 students ( 15-17) show real passion for this project. Connecting them to the wider community allows them to meet new people and experience opportunities to capture stories through writing, photography and film.





Creating our own publication ( 4 editions now) while demanding on time and funding is a real highlight for them, and also the community that enjoys reading it.

This year we are venturing into the podcast space which is so exciting for them and seeing them grow as a group is super rewarding. Mentoring this group has been an amazing experience and I can see how, through them, new students can come on board and grow in their own abilities and self confidence, believing in themselves and learning some new life long skills for future job opportunities.

Thanks to the board for all the opportunities to work in this sector and create and see awesome outcomes for our youth and wider community. Please see our latest annual report attached and financial report alongside.

Ngā mihi nui  
 Shayne  
 Manager

