

The Stoddart Cottage Trust Annual Report 2021-2022



Stoddart Cottage

c. 1860

1. Highlights

- 6,875 people visited Stoddart Cottage, an average of about 44 per day,
- Thirteen successful exhibitions were shared with the public.
- Stoddart Cottage lease renewed.
- *Rocks at Diamond Harbour*, a watercolour by Margaret Stoddart was purchased.
- An online roster system was developed and implemented.
- 2727 hours of volunteer work were recorded.
- Expressions of interest were called for the first Purau artist-in-residence.

2. Stoddart Cottage Trust

During the year The Stoddart Cottage Trust had eleven ordinary (monthly) meetings and also an AGM on 23 July 2021.

Three new members were appointed during the year, bringing the The Stoddart Cottage Trust to full capacity. The Trust Deed (1998) clause 6.2 specifies the Board will be not less than 5 and not more than 10 persons.

Tim Cheesebrough was formally appointed as Camera Club representative in April 2021. Later in the year in December Carol Halstead became a trustee and agreed to take over from long-standing secretary Karen Colyer whose focus is now on property matters and volunteer training. During her seven years as Trust secretary Karen carried out the duties of secretary with thoroughness and commitment and her work has been greatly appreciated by the Trust. Fiona Rice attended her first Trust meeting in February 2022 and has since taken on the role of interim roster co-ordinator as the new online roster system beds in.

Trustees as at 31 March 2022

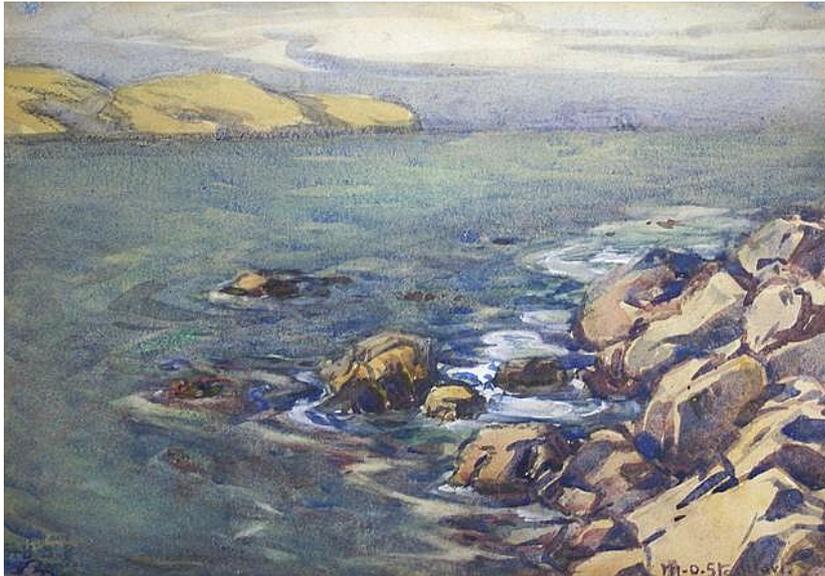
	Trustee Name	Notes	Date Appointed	Email	Phone Numbers
1	Paula Smith	Trust Chairperson	20.11.2013 (First appointed by Lyttelton Mt Herbert Community Board, then re-appointed by Trust 22.2.2017)	p.j.m.s.bsc@gmail.com	027 2413772 03 329 4445
2	Colin McLeod	Friends of Stoddart	2.2.2014	colinhdk64@gmail.com	03 329 4119

		Cottage co-ordinator.	(possibly earlier?)		021 0600789
3	John Barry	Diamond Harbour Art Group representative	2.3.2014	john19barry@gmail.com	03 3294 545
4	Karen Colyer	Property Manger Diamond Harbour Community Association Inc. representative	1.6.2014 (?)	karencolyer8@gmail.com	03 329 3006 021 0488938
5	James Norcliffe	Diamond Harbour & Districts Historical Society Inc. representative	1.6.2014 (?)	jsnorcliffe@gmail.com	03 329 3107 022 437 8003
6	Tim Cheesebrough	Diamond Harbour Camera Club representative	22.2.2021	tim.cheesebrough@gmail.com	027 860 8938 03 329
7	Carol King	Stoddart Cottage Artisans Inc. representative	25.6.2018	carolkingmorrison@outlook.com	027 4884033
8	Alice Lewis	Treasurer	19.08.2019	alicelewis@xtra.co.nz	027 223 1171 03 329 3397
9	Carol Halstead	Trust Secretary	20.12.2021	carolhalstead53@gmail.com	022 439 4376
10	Fiona Rice	Interim Roster Co-ordinator	21.2.2022	fionaricenz@gmail.com	021 171 9929

The Trust Deed states that one trustee is to be appointed by Banks Peninsula Community Board. This position has been vacant following the resignation of John McLister on 11.12.2018.

3. Heritage promotion and The Stoddart Cottage Trust Collection

The Trust leases Stoddart Cottage from Christchurch City Council. Under the terms of the lease the permitted use of the building and surrounding land is "for the housing and exhibition of historical artefacts and the development and promotion of Stoddart Cottage as an historical site". The cottage is significant as the birthplace of Canterbury artist Margaret Stoddart (1865-1934). The Trust strengthens the historic connection between the building and the arts by using it not only to exhibit historic artefacts but also contemporary art and craft.



In July 2021 a Margaret Stoddart watercolour, known as *Rocks at Diamond Harbour*, was purchased by the Trust. The Trust is grateful to an anonymous donor who met the \$1300 shortfall in funds to enable the purchase to be completed. New spot lights installed in the kitchen beautifully highlight original paintings mounted on the wall.

Other additions to the collections during the year included:

Permanent Collection:

- A novel inscribed by Agnes Stoddart, a Christmas gift to Alicia and Ada Bradley in 1944.
- A 1914 illustrated edition of *Grimms Fairy Tales* owned by Frances Stoddart.

Display Collection:

- A Miller brand hanging kerosene lamp with crystals which now hangs in the History Room
- A reproduction of a watercolour by Margaret Stoddart called *Mount Pleasant House*.
- A white ceramic chamber pot produced by *W Adams & Sons* between 1819-1864.

Archives and Related Documents:

- Colour photographs of work at Stoddart Cottage during restoration in the 1980s

Little progress has been made on completing the cataloguing of the collection this year. About 35 of the most important items have been fully catalogued and details of a small number have been uploaded to the public museum website *eHive*. It is the Trust's intention to find a way to make progress on this next year.

The digital slide show of Margaret Stoddart's work now includes over 500 different paintings, highlighting how prolific she was during her long career as one of New Zealand's first female professional artists.

After several months of discussion about the wording, a new interpretive plaque was finally made and installed next to the opening showing gravel in the walls at the east end of the verandah.

4. Monthly Exhibitions 2021-2022

Month	Title of Exhibition	Artist or Artists	Visitors	Average Visitor Number
April	Canvas and Clay	John Barry & Ruth Willis	994	59/day
May	The Journey Within	Damiet Loor	393	33/day
June	Stone Groove	Michael Lidski	415	35/day
July	Zoomers	Breana Vosper, Bronte Lovell, Hinnie Hobeyn, Joel Graham	557	37/day
August	Rebuild Refocussed	Diamond Harbour Camera Club	166	28/day
September	Spring Quilting Collection	Bays Harbour Quilting Group	365	41/day
October	Kintsugi	Artists Against Slavery Group Show	816	51/day
November	Observing Colour and Water	Sue Currie	446	37/day
December	Local Artisans Christmas Market	Stoddart Cottage Artisans Inc.	540	39/day
Golden Week 31 Dec- 4 Jan	Margaret at Home	Stoddart Cottage Trust		
January	Stitched Emotion II	Sook Hwang	726	45/day
February	Light and Landscape	Andris Apse	967	74/day
March	Seeing the Lines	Carolyn Currie, Karen Greenslade, Vic Mangan	463	39/day
Totals	For whole year	(Open 154.5 days)	6875	44.5/day

Note: this total includes those who come as visiting groups by appointment, outside normal opening hours.

This year the gallery moved to a curated programme with a twice-yearly call out for expressions of interest, the first of which was in August 2021 and a second in March 2022. This has resulted in a varied and balanced programme for the period, with some interesting new artists included and some outstanding exhibitions.

5. Visitor numbers

Although the terms of the Trust's lease emphasise "the housing and exhibition of historical artefacts and the development and promotion of Stoddart Cottage as an historical site", the

Trust achieves the promotional aspect by providing the additional attraction of art and craft to encourage more visitors to come to the cottage

With ongoing fallout from COVID19 total visitor numbers were still below pre-COVID totals, but improved on the previous year when the cottage was closed for three months in autumn. However the daily average was down on the previous year.

Financial year	Total visitor number	Days open to public	Average per day
2017-2018	4943	*	41 per day
2018-2019	7055		43 per day
2019-2020	7648	106.5 days	46.6 per day
2020-2021	5433	110 days	49.4 per day
2021-2022	6875	154.5 days	44.5 per day

*Stoddart Cottage was only open two days a week in 2017 and moved to three days a week in FY 2018-2019

6. Gallery Management

Our exhibition programme has benefited greatly from professional curation supplied by our contractor Dr Jo Burzynska. Her role includes organising the programme, working with artists to mount and pack down their exhibitions, and all the publicity associated with activities at the cottage. A well-produced newsletter goes to about 150 email addresses each month. In May \$500 was spent on website training so Jo Burzynka can now manage our website www.stoddartcottage.nz.

In addition to the regular month to month exhibition cycle Jo successfully applied to Creative Communities for \$1,780 of funding for a series *Creative Cottage Winter Workshops*. Implementation of the workshop series was not without its challenges as workshops were affected by COVID19, but many participants, including young people, were still able to enjoy getting together to learn new skills.

The Trust is grateful to the Rata Foundation for a \$5,000 grant which helped to fund the gallery management contract. The Trust is working towards being able to fund the cottage management contract from its own revenue sources, but public funding will still be required in the short term.

7. Stoddart Cottage Artisans Inc.

The Trust is very grateful to the 30-or-so members of Stoddart Cottage Artisans whose willingness to volunteer at Stoddart Cottage enables the historic cottage to be open to the public three days a week plus most public holidays.

Several artisans led workshops in the Creative Cottage Winter Workshop series including

- Matariki lantern making,
- a clay workshop for children,
- felted flower making, and
- a clay mug workshop.

In addition to all their volunteer time, the Artisans provided a letter of support for our Rata Foundation application, and donated a new fridge. \$1,000 donated to the Trust following the wrapping up of the Craft Co-operative was deposited in the collections account and will be used to help buy another original Margaret Stoddart watercolour if and when another suitable one comes up for sale.

8. Volunteers and rosters

2017-2018	1,686 hours recorded	valued at \$33,720*
2018-2019	1,335 hours recorded	valued at \$26,700
2019-2020	2,960 hours recorded	valued at \$59,200
2020-2021	2,254 hours recorded	valued at \$45,080
2021-2022	2727 hours recorded	valued at \$54,540

*\$20/hour

A number of new volunteers were recruited during 2021 and 2022 and all volunteers are now systematically and comprehensively trained by the tireless Karen Colyer. When Artisans, Trustees, gardeners, and independent volunteers are added together more than 50 people work at Stoddart Cottage.

The recruitment drive was one of the actions which resulted from a roster crisis in August where it became clear that a small number of accommodating individuals were doing significantly more than two duties a month, particularly in months with five weekends where the number of volunteers available fell well short of the number required to cover all the shifts. Burnout occurred.

A working group was formed to consider solutions. The group reported back to both the Artisans and the Trust. Part of the solution was development of an online roster system led by trustee Tim Cheesebrough. In March new trustee Fiona Rice agreed to be interim roster co-ordinator. Despite the increased number of volunteers and the more streamlined rostering system there are still problems filling gaps from time to time. Managing the roster will always be one of the trickiest jobs in the organisation.

9. Events and venue hire

In addition to regular exhibition opening events organised by artists, and the *Creative Cottage Winter Workshops*, a number of other events occurred at Stoddart Cottage through the year:

- ANZAC day talk by trustee John Barry
- Mid-winter candlelight labyrinth organised by trustee Alice Lewis
- A Friday night AGM with unveiling of the new painting
- Display of paintings as part of a Diamond Harbour School silent auction fundraiser
- Group visits by Merivale ladies, Hornby Probus and Lyttelton Spinners
- Display of sculptural art work made by children at Diamond Harbour kindergarten

10. Revenue

Stoddart Cottage Trust has a number of revenue streams. Income comes from commissions on the sale of art works in monthly exhibitions, commissions from sale of craft and art from the Artisans shop, Friends of Stoddart Cottage annual subscriptions, donations, sale of merchandise, and occasional one-off fundraising events. As is to be expected income from all sources was up on the seriously COVID-affected previous year, except for Friends of Stoddart Cottage subscriptions which appear to be declining slowly over time.

Revenue source	FY2019-2020	FY2020-2021	FY2021-2022
Friends of Stoddart Cottage subscriptions	1090	962	785
Artisan commission	2467	1942	2568
Exhibition income (including rental fee)	3459	2957	5856
Merchandise	1258	718	1922
Donation boxes	1450	1311	2247

In FY2021-2022 merchandise included the last copies of Julie King's book *Flowers into Landscape*, two or three surplus framed reproductions, some old books which had been donated to the cottage, as well as our lovely Margaret Stoddart painting greeting cards. Copies of Rod Donald Trust's walking brochure are also sold at Stoddart Cottage on behalf of the Diamond Harbour Community Association.

11. Marketing

Much marketing effort is associated with the monthly exhibition cycle with regular news items in *Art Beat*, *Akaroa Mail*, *Diamond Harbour Herald*, *Bay Harbour News* and *Lyttelton Review*. The Andris Apse exhibition was also featured by *The Press* and *Stuff*. This content, plus the monthly poster and email newsletter, is produced to a very high standard by the gallery manager. A poster is also produced and distributed locally for each exhibition. In addition the gallery manager keeps the www.stoddartcottage.nz website up to date and contributes to the Stoddart Cottage blog on the community www.diamondharbour.info website. Stoddart Cottage Gallery also has a Facebook page and an Instagram account.

In April the Trust spent \$1,029 on reprinting 7500 copies of our DLE brochure which is distributed to the Christchurch Art Gallery, Lyttelton Information Centre and various other locations in the city, with help for trustees and artisans. There is still no ChristchurchNZ i-site. The Arts Centre i-site closed after the earthquake and has not re-opened. The Trust also spent \$130 on an illustrated listing in the Arts Canterbury brochure.

The August edition of Air New Zealand's in-flight magazine *Kia Ora* feature a story about Diamond Harbour and included an image of Stoddart Cottage.

13. Property

The original stated purpose of The Stoddart Cottage Trust is "to administer, maintain and develop the property known as Stoddart Cottage and the surrounding garden, and to provide other support and assistance consistent with this charitable purpose"(1988 Trust Deed). Since Banks Peninsula District amalgamated with Christchurch City Council (CCC) most maintenance

of Stoddart Cottage is done by the council, which has specialist expertise in managing historic places. However the Trust still has a role in day-to-day maintenance, cleaning and gardening.

The Tuesday Garden Group spends a morning a month in the garden at Stoddart Cottage, supported by greenspace staff from CCC. The Trust is very grateful to this keen group of volunteers.

A successful cleaning contractor trial in early 2021 means that the Trust now pays for about 4 hours a month of regular cleaning, although some volunteers still do a bit when they are on duty if they can, which is much appreciated.

During 2020-2021

- a leaking toilet was repaired
- a roof slate was replaced
- the unsafe sleeper steps were replaced
- new gravel was put in the path
- an *Agapanthus* plant was removed to benefit the historic peach tree
- new spotlights were installed in the kitchen to highlight original watercolours
- a lighting upgrade in the pink bedroom and anteroom was completed
- the notice board was repainted and bird-proofed

In addition CCC arboriculture contractors spent three days during spring maintaining the historic gum trees which form the cottage's impressive backdrop. Regular maintenance of these trees is an important aspect of our Health and Safety plan.

A new lease was signed in May, securing the Trust's use of the property for a term of 11 years with two rights of renewal.

Looking back over the 2021-2022 year we can see the organisation slowly recovering from the disruption of COVID19. Hopefully the return of international tourists in the spring of 2022 will help to lift visitor numbers back to pre-COVID levels.

The roster crisis was a salient lesson in how quickly volunteer burnout can threaten the functioning of an organisation like Stoddart Cottage. We need to keep an eye on each other to make sure this doesn't happen again. It also reminded us how interdependent the Artisans and the Trust are.

I especially thank gallery manager Jo Burzynska for her exemplary work through the year. Her curatorial skills and the range and quality of exhibitions has brought many new people to visit Stoddart Cottage, helping to maintain visitor numbers and revenue, as well as providing enjoyment to many.

On behalf of The Stoddart Cottage Trust I warmly thank all the volunteers for your generous contribution of time and goodwill. I hope you are as proud as I am of what we have created together.

Nga mihi nui

Paula Smith
Chairperson
Stoddart Cottage Trust
16 October 2022