



2 October 2017

Masterton container gallery & studios to open in December

Construction has begun to transform a high-profile site in central Masterton into a container gallery and studios where aspiring and established Wairarapa artists will create and showcase their work.

It will be a dedicated community asset run by artists for artists with access for all creative people.

Masterton Trust Lands Trust (MTLT) is redeveloping its vacant community-owned property on the corner of Queen and Bruce Streets in partnership with ConArt, the new incorporated society formed to manage the initiative.

“We’re excited to be working with the arts community to provide a new attraction at the northern end of town that locals and visitors can enjoy,” MTLT trustee John Bunny said.

“Having working artists on site will add new vibrancy to the Masterton’s cultural and recreation precinct, complementing Aratoi, King Street Artworks and others in the area.”

Five brightly-painted shipping containers will be positioned throughout the site which will be fully-landscaped and include a sculpture garden and grassed outdoor event area. Two containers will be joined to create a gallery and retail space. The other three will house working studios and exhibition space.

ConArt chair and professional artist, Jane Sinclair, said the development would provide a much-needed outlet for creating, promoting and selling Wairarapa art. “There is huge potential to bring the region’s artists closer together but more importantly, closer to the community.

“Our aim is to professionally promote the region’s art, in collaboration with Wairarapa’s creative and performing artists and the wider arts community.”

Ms Sinclair said ConArt was also looking to connect with youth through a variety of artistic activities.

Aratoi director Susanna Shadbolt is excited about Aratoi’s new neighbour. “Increasing the profile of the arts community in the central business district is a great outcome for Masterton and we look forward to working with ConArt in the future,” she said.

The fully-insulated containers will include heating, lighting and windows. ConArt is expected to open on 17 December.

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