

## **Report to the ADA Board about the Kahikatea Activities for 2013**

The outputs of the first year of the funding are outlined below – each of the events has been developed through webpages on the [ada.net.nz](http://ada.net.nz) site and documented there also. Building on the work by Sophie Davis at the end of 2012 the site has become a much more active repository of ADA activities.

### **RoundTable/Launch event March 2013**

: in Christchurch 30 March 2013

<http://www.ada.net.nz/meshcities/roundtablelaunch-event-physics-room-30313/>

Hosted by the Physics Room it was held the day after the Simon Pope masterclass and walk events. The timing was in response to the condition set by Creative NZ, insisting that the outputs of the Netwalking project should be complete before the Mesh Cities project began). As well as nearly the full ADA Board it also meant that there could be involvement by a few participants from outside of Christchurch in both Netwalking and the Roundtable and launch. This included Trudy Lane and Caro McCaw who travelled from Dunedin to begin to get a sense of and engage with the discussion around the framing of the project and symposia series within.

The roundtable was attended by 15 people including representatives from local arts organisations Scape, Gap Filler, the Ceismic project, Free theatre as well as artists researchers and curators.

It was simultaneously available online through a pirate pad which is linked to the discussion page Why Mesh?

<http://www.ada.net.nz/?p=4421>

The discussion began with an introduction of the project intention and funded reach (three year series of symposia and workshop/tours currently confined to two years within the grant received). The concept of media art and transitional city was introduced along with the provocations to underpin the discussions of the day. Then the group introduced themselves from their professional perspective and creative intersection with the city.

There was a group discussion about the project and then a break for the ‘ADA open sandwich’

The afternoon had the group broken into three groups to tease out the nuances of the words and accompanying provocations of Space, Network and Memory to become the concept underpinning the call for proposals for the first of the Mesh Cities Symposia in Dunedin in September.

The day ended with a plenary discussion where the groups brought their thoughts back to the table and dates were outlined for the lead up to the Symposium.

The launch event was held on the roof of the old central post office building which offered a view of the city deconstruction and into the then still cordoned off Red Zone and included the round table participants and a few other locals. This was a chance for further informal discussion about mesh Cities Christchurch and for celebrating the efforts of getting the funding and putting the project into motion.

A board meeting was held the next morning to discuss how to implement some of the thinking from the days prior and dates were proposed for the Call, abstracts deadlines and symposium format and programme releases.

### **ISEA Panel, June 2013**

This is more fully addressed in chair's report as proposed by Board Chair Zita Joyce.  
: The Mesh Cities fund supported;

- the travel and accommodation for Chair Zita Joyce and Vicki Smith to Sydney
- registration at the ISEA symposium for Zita, Vicki and Su Ballard

The trip to Sydney also provided the opportunity to meet with Scott McQuire to discuss the possibility of his being the Dunedin Symposium keynote and to continue the discussion around the progress of the development of processes to attract new trustees to the board.

This work was continued in a series of meetings in Dunedin (Ana, Caro, Don and Vicki) to develop a portal for the conversation to be progressed across the whole board. This included further work on the wiki originally created prior to and somewhat superseded by the Mesh Cities funding application process.

<http://adathinktank.wikispaces.com/>

### **Artist tour 2013**

<http://www.ada.net.nz/meshcities/mesh-cities-artist-tour-2013/>

Janine Randerson is the Artist selected for the masterclass and workshops tour 2013. Originally this series was to discuss the Neighbourhood Air project but has developed into a collaborative workshop process toward a new work Neighbourhood Hope index. So far Janine has been supported to travel to Christchurch where 3 people attended her workshop and a further 10-20 joined in the evening for a talk including Sensing City instigator Roger Dennis

Sophie Davis was employed to assist Janine and provide documentation in Christchurch as this workshop was the day before the Symposium.

Janine also attended the Dunedin Symposium on the Saturday to provide her workshop as one of the three activities delegates could choose between in the afternoon. Due to personal reasons Janine had to return early to Auckland so was unable to take part in the maker session on Sunday as proposed.

To come on the calendar is a workshop at Massey University in Wellington on November 22 and one at the CoLab venue in Auckland (date tbc) in December

### **Blast theory tour 2014**

*A draft page was created with the proposed tour dates and planning*

In the original funding application the British group Blast Theory were proposed to be the touring artists for the masterclass and workshop series for 2014. This was intended to be a national tour on the back of them coming to New Zealand to be part of a larger festival.

Their inclusion in the festival did not eventuate however, and although a series of meetings was held and planning went into them being part of the Wellington performance arcade and Massey being a partner to the masterclass series there still left a large shortfall in funds required to meet their tour cost.

Efforts were put into seeking funding for flights and in-kind expenses were secured for Wellington however ADA were still the only financial contributors so it is proposed that instead a call is made to support a local artist/s group to be supported through the Mesh Cities fund to run the masterclass and workshop tour for 2014

### **Symposium**

**<http://www.ada.net.nz/meshcities/dunedin-symposium-programme/>**

AGM held on the Sunday just after the conclusion of the Symposium event.

The Symposium was attended by over the 3 days by between 25-30 delegates (numbers varied each day)

Day one was held in a warehouse space in Vogel Street with the subsequent days in the Dunedin School of Art in Riego Street (part of Otago Polytech).

Each keynote, presenter and artist has a page on the ada.net wordpress site (with this being where the documentation will also end up).

Two students were employed to document the event this included Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings (because there were three

A full report will be made for inclusion in the interim report to Creative New Zealand due at the end of the year.