



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## MEETING AGENDA

# LEN LYE COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Monday 12 June 2017  
at 12.30pm**

**PLYMOUTH ROOM  
LIARDET STREET  
NEW PLYMOUTH**

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Cr Marie	Pearce
<b>Members:</b>	Cr Harry	Duynhoven
	Cr Stacey	Hitchcock
	Mayor Neil	Holdom
	Ms Susan	Hughes
	Dr John	Matthews
	Dr Wytan	Curnow
	Mr Evan	Webb

**LEN LYE COMMITTEE PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Len Lye Committee is to give formal structure to the relationship between the Council and the Len Lye Foundation as set out in the Deed of Relationship dated 24 June 2004.

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**Purpose of Local Government**

The reports contained in this agenda address the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to decision making. Unless otherwise stated, the recommended option outlined in each report meets the purpose of local government and:

- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses;
- Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

END

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**Health and Safety Message**

In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions of Council staff.

Please exit through the main entrance.

Once you reach the footpath please turn right and walk towards Pukekura Park, congregating outside the Spark building. Please do not block the footpath for other users.

Staff will guide you to an alternative route if necessary.

If there is an earthquake – drop, cover and hold where possible. Please be mindful of the glass overhead.

Please remain where you are until further instruction is given.

## **ADDRESSING THE MEETING**

*Requests for public forum and deputations need to be made at least one day prior to the meeting. The Chairperson has authority to approve or decline public comments and deputations in line with the standing order requirements.*

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

*Public Forums enable members of the public to bring matters to the attention of the committee which are not contained on the meeting agenda. The matters must relate to the meeting's terms of reference. Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes, with no more than two speakers on behalf of one organisation.*

- None advised

## **DEPUTATIONS**

*Deputations enable a person, group or organisation to speak to the meeting on matters contained on the agenda. An individual speaker can speak for up to 10 minutes. Where there are multiple speakers for one organisation, a total time limit of 15 minutes, for the entire deputation, applies.*

- None advised

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Recommendation**

That the minutes of the Len Lye Committee (14 July 2016), and the proceedings of the said meeting, as previously circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

**REPORTS**

**ITEMS FOR DECISION BY COMMITTEE**

- 1 Len Lye Committee Report – June 2017

END

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Item for Information

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## **LEN LYE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on matters relating to the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery / Len Lye Centre.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That, having considered all matters raised in the report, the report be noted.**

### **SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT**

This report is provided for information purposes only, and has been assessed as being of some importance.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Programs**

Presenting 'Fountain III' (from 27 March to 30 June 2017) spot lit against a black curtain as it was in 1977, this exhibition celebrates *Kinetic Works*, marking the start of an enduring tie between Len Lye and the place he pronounced as 'the swingiest art gallery of the Antipodes'.

In March 1977, the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery presented 'Kinetic Works', the world's first survey of Len Lye's work and the first exhibition of his work in his homeland of New Zealand.

The exhibition included the now well-loved kinetic sculptures 'Trilogy (A Flip & Two Twisters)' and 'Fountain III', subsequently acquired by then director Ron O'Reilly for the Govett-Brewster Collection. These two works in particular testify to the relationship between the artist, gallery and the city of New Plymouth. Lye worked with a team (led by engineer John Matthews) to build new larger-scale versions of these sculptures in New Plymouth, establishing a relationship that continues to this day.

'On an Island: Len Lye, Robert Graves, Laura Riding and Ben Nicholson' opened on 7 April 2017 (until 9 July) documenting Lye's friendships and collaborations during the early years of his career with a survey of works connected to Lye's stay on the Spanish Island of Majorca in 1930. For several months following the completion of his first film, 'Tusalava', Lye lived with the famed literary couple Robert Graves and Laura Riding in their new island home, experimenting with various ideas for his next film and producing book cover designs for the couple's Seizin Press – a wonderful study in modern design and a rarely considered part of Lye's practice. It was a brief but productive episode for Lye with echoes of his childhood in coastal New Zealand.

Curated Len Lye Curator 'On an Island' features well-known works from this period, including 'Tusalava', many of Lye's early batik and photographic works and all of Lye's

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book cover designs for the Seizin Press. Lye's work appears alongside archival and literary materials by Graves and Riding, capturing the creative circle Lye occupied. Pride of place in 'On an Island' is a rarely seen painting dedicated to Len Lye by Ben Nicholson, close friend, leading figure of the British art scene and one of Lye's correspondents during his island stay.

Importantly, the exhibition gave the perfect chance to bring to press the manifesto written in 1941 by Lye and Graves against fascism titled 'A Definition of Common Purpose' embodying Lye's theory of 'Individual Happiness Now'. The publication is selling rapidly and being reviewed by literary press internationally. Editor of the book Roger Horrocks joined fellow poet and critic Gregory O'Brien in conversation about the volume for the Monica Brewster Evening on Thursday 25 May, which was attended by 65-people.

On Friday 9 June the Govett-Brewster co-presented with the English Department of the University of Auckland (In the Pat Hannan Room, Faculty of Arts) a literary symposium exploring what lay behind the publishing of Len Lye and Robert Graves' 'Individual Happiness Now'. Importantly the symposium had equal focus on the role of Laura Riding in that publication and her influence on Lye as a writer as well as surveying her written work as a poet. The symposium brought together influential art historians, curators, literary historians, publishers, and writers from throughout New Zealand and Australia. The symposium was a 'sell out' event being attended by 55-people.

## **RECENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Management**

The first draft of the Len Lye Collection Management Plan has been completed for discussion. The Management Plan is a strategic document for setting collection development priorities, collection conservation and management priorities, and programming priorities for the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre in partnership with the Len Lye Foundation.

Staff have finalised the co-publication agreement with the University of Canterbury Press for the next major book of essays on Lye's work. Titled 'The Long Dream of Waking' the book includes new writing about Lye and his work by authors from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Work has been completed on the MOU and project framework for the forthcoming Christchurch Art Gallery exhibition.

Staff have prepared a new annual royalties agreement (2017/18) between the Govett-Brewster and the Len Lye Foundation. The agreement enables the Govett-Brewster to develop 3–5 Len Lye products annually (with copyright approval from the Foundation).

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At their meeting of Friday 19 May the Govett-Brewster Foundation welcomed new trustees and commenced discussion about adding Len Lye specific fundraising to their Deed of Purpose. The Govett-Brewster Foundation acknowledges the integral nature of Lye to the institution.

### **FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES**

#### **Management**

Following the visit of Director and Chief Curator of the Tinguely Museum, Basel (CH) in December 2016 proposals have been received by the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery and Len Lye Foundation to develop a touring survey exhibition to Basel (and potential venues in France, Portugal, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) from October 2018 and a research and publishing project led by the Henry Moore Foundation in Leeds (UK). Such a project may require borrowing extant Lye sculptures from museum collections in the United States and Israel. Staff are advancing project planning and negotiations including formal conversations with the Ministry for Culture & Heritage for funding support.

#### **Programs**

At the Govett-Brewster and opening on Saturday 5 August (until 3 December) is 'Len Lye: Happy Moments' curated by Paul Brobbel presenting key works from the Len Lye Foundation Collection, captured in their historical moment. Beginning with Lye's well-known kinetic masterpiece 'Universe' and its appearance in 'Bounding Steel Sculpture' in 1965 at the Howard Wise Gallery, New York, we take a small journey through the events, screenings and exhibition of Lye's career through the early to middle 20th century.

The 1929 premier of Lye's 'Tusalava' at the London Film Society is explored through rarely and never before seen archival materials while the 1939 premier screening of Lye's commission from Imperial Airways 'Colour Flight' before an audience 1200 in London's West End is documented through archival materials capturing Lye's brief moment in the golden age of aviation art. Working drawings and film-making tools for each of these films will be exhibited for the first time.

'Len Lye: Happy Moments' concludes with Fountain and its appearance the landmark exhibition of kinetic art *Bewogen Beweging* ('Moving Movement') in 1961 at Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum. Featuring documentary footage of *Bewogen Beweging*, we witness Lye's work alongside other kinetic masters such as Jean Tinguely and Alexander Calder.

On Friday 4 August (2017) the Christchurch Art Gallery will open a large-scale survey exhibition of work by Len Lye that runs until 26 November. The exhibition shows major sculptural works alongside Lye's films, drawings and paintings. Curated by Lara Strongman this exhibition at the Christchurch Art Gallery is in partnership with the Len Lye Foundation and the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre, and Nga Taonga Sound & Vision.



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The main exhibition will be complemented by Len Lye public sculpture in partnership with the SCAPE: Public Art Trust, events reflecting the long relationship established between the Len Lye Foundation (through John Matthews and the Technix Group of Companies) and the Engineering School at the University of Canterbury.

The aforementioned book of essays 'The Long Dream of Waking' will be released near the end of the exhibition with a symposium co-produced by the Christchurch Art Gallery, the Govett-Brewster, and the University of Canterbury's Ilam School of Fine Arts.

### **RECENT PRESS & AWARDS**

- 'Colour Box: 19 Films by Len Lye' nominated (award 19 June, Bologna, IT) for the Cinema Il Ritrovato award for Best DVD Release 2017
- Cleland's Construction Ltd was awarded gold for the New Zealand Commercial Projects Award 2017
- Govett-Brewster Art Gallery & Printlink Wellington Ltd was awarded gold for 'NOW SHOWING: a history of the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery' in the New Zealand Pride In Print Awards 2017
- Patterson Architects Ltd nominated (award Friday 16 June) for the Property Council New Zealand Industry Awards 2017 for the Civic & Arts Award
- 'Times Literary Supplement' (London, UK) review of Len Lye and Robert Graves 'Definition of Common Purpose that embodies Len's theory of 'Individual Happiness Now'
- 'Financial Times Weekend' (London, UK) a 'Post Card from New Zealand' describing the city of New Plymouth and the Len Lye Centre as the seeming cultural capital of the South Pacific
- TVNZ's 'Coast' ends its season in Taranaki with the 'Wind Wand' and 'Waving Wands'
- 'Scoop Review of Books' review of Len Lye and Robert Graves
- 'Destinations Magazine' (London, UK) writes about Len Lye Centre and destination New Plymouth
- 'Bear Books' (Stockholm, SE) reviews 'Colour Box: 19 Films by Len Lye'
- 'The Culture Trip' (New York US, London UK, Tel Aviv IL) writes about New Zealand's best art museums

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCING IMPLICATIONS**

This report provides an update for the Len Lye Committee and the Council. There are no financial and resourcing implications.

Item for Information

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**IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT**

This report confirms that the matter concerned has no particular implications and has been dealt with in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. Specifically:

- Council staff have delegated authority for any decisions made;
- Council staff have identified and assessed all reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter and considered the views and preferences of any interested or affected persons (including Māori), in proportion to the significance of the matter;
- Any decisions made will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses;
- Unless stated above, any decisions made can be addressed through current funding under the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan;
- Any decisions made are consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- No decisions have been made that would alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or would transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

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**Report Details**

Prepared By:	Simon Rees
Team:	Govett-Brewster Art Gallery / Recreation & Culture
Approved By:	Teresa Turner, Manager Recreation & Culture
Ward/Community:	District Wide
Date:	6 June 2017
File Reference:	ECM 7436501

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