

President's Report 2014

Ku-ring-gai Art Society

As we begin our 50th year, it is my very great pleasure to present this Report on KAS & Committee achievements.



ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

Our records have also been used in compiling our history for the 50th Anniversary Book. Rowena Monty, our author, has announced the launch of the Jubilee eBook on the history of the Society on 24th July 2015 at our Awards Presentation. We acknowledge two members have generously donated sponsorships of \$3000 each towards the book production. Thanks for a three year mammoth effort by our book team, **Rowena Monty, Louise Surmon, Jann Brassil and Thomi Graham.**

COMBINED ART SOCIETY

Once again the Society took part in all CASS activities. These were, the Art in Action weekend at Meroo, Open Studio Weekend and the Art of Sydney Awards Exhibition held at the Maritime Museum in January. **Dee Jackson** has done an outstanding job as our representative. Thank you Dee, your work has been much appreciated. Congratulations to CASS prizewinners, **Madeleine Szymanski, Susanna Chen Chow, Tony Belobrajdic, Jennifer O'Young and Dee Jackson.**

EXHIBITIONS @ THE GALLERY

The Society held **three successful Exhibitions in The Gallery @ St Ives**, with a record **178** paintings sold in 2014 to a combined value of \$96,500. KAS commission of 25% for each sale was 20% higher than any of the annual revenue results in the past 10 years. The works on display were of a very high quality, immense variety with many positive and encouraging comments.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to 2014 Acting Exhibition Manager, **Robyne Berling** and her exceptional team, **Suzanne Lane, Bryan Freer, Jan Harrington Johnson, Susan Smart, Linda Butterfield, Kingsley Perry, Sylvia Davies and Stephen Williams.** Thanks are also due to our Vice President, **Charmaine Phillips** who managed most of the Sponsors of our Awards Exhibition. We greatly appreciate our numerous sponsors, especially **Bendigo Bank** who together enable the overall success of our Annual Awards Exhibition. We continue to have an excellent relationship with **St Ives Shopping Centre Management.** They not only support our exhibitions financially by providing the facility at no cost, but also in the promotion within the centre through provision of posters, Village magazine and advertising. The high costs involved in staging our Awards Presentation with seating, staging, PA systems and audio-visual equipment, including staffing the event, are all provided at no charge to the Society. We can all show our gratitude in shopping and dining at St Ives Shopping Centre. Special thanks To **Michelle Lauren and Katrina.**

I would like to thank our Selection Manager **Diana Robinson** and her 2014 Selection Panel and acknowledge they have fulfilled their duties with objectivity and empathy. Upholding the highest standards of the Society reflects in the success of our exhibitions.

This year, 'Drinks with the Artists' evenings were initiated in the Autumn and Spring Exhibitions. Official Opening and presentation of prizes at the July Awards Exhibition was a very enjoyable occasion. Over 150 guests were present and catered for. My thanks go to so many members and partners, too many to mention by name, for stepping up and presiding over the food and serving drinks. Member for Bradfield **Paul Fletcher MP** attended as did the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai **Jennifer Anderson** who both presented prizes. Our Patron **Meg Stewart** was our Guest Speaker, who gave a delightful background to KAS and also presented prizes.

Two beautiful paintings were raffled at the Exhibitions and brought in significant revenue then donated to support **Lifeline.** Our grateful thanks go to **Lyn Matthews** and one of our tutors, **Chan Dissanayake**, for their generous donations.

I would particularly like to mention and thank **Linda Butterfield**, our outstanding graphic designer, who produces the Invitations to all our Exhibitions and designs the catalogue and certificates for the Awards Exhibition enabling **Robyne Berling's** artistic calligraphy. Also appreciation is extended to **Bryan Freer** in scheduling paintings and providing assistance to Robyne Berling. More recently Bryan is learning the webmaster role from **Bec Gray** who has developed our website to showcase members prize winning paintings over many years. Thank you Linda, Bec and Bryan for your outstanding contributions to KAS.

I also appreciate **Stephen Williams**, who took over from our long serving **Doug Meares** as Property Manager. Thank you Stephen and Doug. I am also delighted to report Doug is well on the way to recovery from his illness.

Last, but by no means least I would like to say a very big thank you to all those members who faithfully assist year in, year out, in attending to the intake of paintings and setting up and dismantling of the Exhibitions. The Exhibitions could not go ahead without your invaluable assistance. There are too many to mention specifically but we appreciate everything you do, no matter how small.

FINANCE

The Society's finances have, as always, been kept in good order by our Treasurer, **Caroline Oesterheld.** There was however a delay in last years audit due to our Auditor becoming ill. We engaged **Rhodes Docherty** to complete a satisfactory audit.



The Gallery Awards Exhibition 2014 @ St Ives



President Malcolm Carver with Paul Fletcher MP



2014 Awards Exhibition Prizewinners

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We are all grateful to Caroline for her constant professionalism and dedication to the Society. Caroline has been successful in managing our positive cash flow and achieving special financial grants for \$3000 for our Jubilee Book from our generous sponsor, **Ku ring-gai Council**. The Council continues to provide annual sponsorship of \$2000 and purchases a painting. Many thanks also to the members who have assisted Caroline during the year, particularly **Louise Surmon** and **Dennis Fisher** as our book keeper.

GENERAL MEETINGS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

My personal thanks to our two Vice Presidents. Firstly **Kingsley Perry** has ably stepped up on occasions when I have been away. Kingsley has been extremely professional knowledgeable and a wise counsel to me and provided invaluable assistance to the Committee throughout the year. Vice President **Charmaine Phillips** has organised a great variety of speakers achieving excellent attendance with around 60 members at each meeting. Each speaker has also then been invited and promoted to provide a one day workshop in months following their presentation. I would also like to thank Minute Secretary **Susan Smart**. Susan's minutes are always precise and she provides great expertise on procedural matters

LIBRARY

Many thanks to **Sadhana Desai** and **Robyn Bryce** for running our popular library of books and DVDs. New books and DVDs were purchased again this year and our computer database updated for all the items in the Library.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Wendy Verco played a vital role in maintaining the register of Members. Wendy is extremely efficient and conscientious in her work which she does with great good humour and we can be assured that all members' records are kept well up-to-date. Thank you very much Wendy for all your work on the Members' behalf. We currently have 259 members comprising 62 Social, 188 exhibiting and 9 Life Members.

NEWSLETTER

The 'new image' Newsletter keeps us all informed of the Society's activities during the year and special thanks go to firstly **Linda Joyce** for collating all the information and of course, **Linda Butterfield** for the professional format and graphic design for emailing and printing by **Fine Impressions**, one of our long time sponsors. Secretary Jan also collects the newsletters, envelopes and any inclusions and mails them out each month.

PUBLICITY

I would like to extend grateful thanks to **Jo Macree**, our Publicity Officer for looking after the Society throughout the year and particularly in creating and promoting interest and visitations to our Exhibitions.

SECRETARY

Jan Harrington-Johnson has excelled in her role as secretary to the Society over the past 6 years. Not a day goes by without some form of communication with Jan. Her diligence, commitment and amiable approach has turned problems into solutions on every occasion. Thank You Jan

SUPPER

Diana Hallows has kept us all going with cups of tea and biscuits after the General Meetings and also presided over our Christmas supper. Many thanks Diana and thank you also to all those members who have volunteered to assist her throughout the year including **Drini Quinn** who is never far from helping us all.

WORKSHOPS

Nine excellent workshops were undertaken in 2014. The Workshops were as usual a great success and I want to express my grateful thanks to Workshop Coordinator, **Trish Piry**, More recently, **Thomi Graham** has enthusiastically picked up the reins. Their expert management of these workshops and for their efforts in making these days such an enjoyable learning experience, have been greatly appreciated. Thanks also to **Anne Carpenter**, a recent addition to our workshop team.

Many thanks to our wonderful, talented tutors who conducted Workshops. The costs have been reduced over recent years ensuring most workshops being are near to full and a small profit achieved reflects the team organisational skills.

Through integrating guest speakers to become workshop tutors, Vice President **Charmaine Phillips** has inspired us all on Committee to promote the Society to our diverse membership in all artistic endeavours. Charmaine has excelled in this past year as Vice President with her team to provide the best ever programme. I am delighted to announce that Charmaine has volunteered to become President Elect for 2016 and I will enjoy working with her during this year to hand over this role, presuming of course that the 2014 Committee is returned, as all have confirmed their willingness to do so in this exciting 50th Anniversary year.

Finally my last thank you, is to **all our Members** who together make 'ourkas', my apologies to those not mentioned, who together with our exceptional **Committee** and over 40 supporters in various roles, have collectively ensured a long sustainable future for the Society for the next 50 years. Having inherited a fine organisation, I personally wanted to leave it in a better shape than the fine shape it was. That dream has been made possible through a **grand team effort**. This concludes the **President's Report for 2014**.

The 2014 Committee will now retire and I have much pleasure in calling on Life member, **Sally Coffey** who will preside over the election of the new **Committee for 2015**. Thank you Sally.

Malcolm Carver, President

