

President's Report for the AGM of Ku-ring-gai Art Society 5 March 2024

Thank you for attending the 2024 AGM. It is wonderful to be gathered here once again, knowing that next year, in 2025, the Ku-ring-Gai Art Society will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary. KAS has proved to be ever resilient, especially after the COVID years, and it is a testament to Ku-ring-gai Art Society's spirited Membership that our Society continues to thrive and grow.

Working with such a dedicated team on the Committee and having the backing and support of those members in auxiliary roles has made KAS a standout Art Society. I would like to thank our Committee.

They are a committed and hardworking team.

KAS 2 Vice Presidents:

- Delphine Hill. In 2023, Delphine managed to visit every retailer in the St Ives Shopping Village and secured the support of 19 Retail Sponsors for the Awards Exhibition.
- Patrick Zhu. Opens the hall and sets up the equipment for the Guest Speaker at General Meetings. .

Jan Harrington-Johnson our Secretary for the past 18 years does an amazing job despite working full time. Jan produces the agenda for all the KAS meetings (Committee and General) and she handles all the mail-outs, e and snail, and keeps Members and Committee well informed of relevant events. Jan collects the newsletters from the printers and does many more tasks, too many to mention.

Susan Smart is our Minutes Secretary who keeps the records straight and knows the Constitution backwards. I find Susan a wonderful listener and giver of good advice when I am unsure of some piece of KAS history.

Caroline Oesterheld our Treasurer manages our finances most professionally, and she is always quick with a reply to any questions I may have. Caroline also looks after the En Plein Air groups.

Robyne Berling, our Exhibition Manager curates all 3 KAS Exhibitions. Robyne, with her team, including Exhibition Assistants Suzanne Lane and Bryan Freer, ensures that everything is done to provide all exhibiting artists with equal exposure and a truly professional exhibition. This is no mean feat considering the site and time constraints.

Jeanette Agnew, our Selection Manager, who maintains our high standards.

Julie Debray, our Social Media Manager, who looks after KAS Facebook and Instagram profiles.

Richard Roe and Peter Whitehead, who ably share the role of Property Manager, booking banner sites and putting up and taking down banners.

Please applaud your committee. I would like to thank all the members who hold a subcommittee position. These are all vital to the continued successful running of KAS, it would take too long to mention all of you but I would like to mention a few.

Our website, under the command of Bryan Freer and ably supported by Anne Carpenter as Assistant Web Manager, has gone from strength to strength. Caroline Oesterheld and Peter Whitehead have been training to assist Bryan and Anne.

We would like to thank all of you who have renewed their membership fees online, particularly those of you who have had difficulties but have persisted with success. KAS is working to ensure online payments run more smoothly in future.

Charmaine Philips continues to manage an interesting list of guest speakers.

Thanks to Jenny Hatfield who has helped us stay in contact with each other co-ordinating the newsletter. This March Newsletter will be the last time Jenny will be the Newsletter Compiler and we ask for a Volunteer to step into this role. Both Jenny and I will work with you to ensure a smooth transition.

Lana Leigh Lombard continues to do the beautiful artwork for invitations and posters.

Thank you to the Selection Team Jeanette Agnew, Melinda Berliner, Diana Hallows Diana Robinson and Daria Hahn for maintaining the high standard of the artwork at selection and bump in.

Kathy Smoker as KAS roster coordinator for all the exhibitions always answers her phone with a cheery hello and works hard to get all the roster positions filled. Often it is easier to text Kathy with your roster details, thus creating a record.

Diana Dean and Rosemary Ombler are our Library Managers.

Prue Finlay our Workshop Co-ordinator, assisted by Nora Hoskins and Diana Dean, has organised workshops in the last year and is currently organising more 1 & 2 day workshops at West Lindfield Community Hall.

Angela Ferrera is our Membership Secretary as well as working fulltime and studying. She is doing a fine job.

Bill Filson our AV expert, who with Patrick Zhu, opens the hall and set up the equipment for the Guest Speaker at General Meetings.

VALE to one of our long time support committee members, photographer Mark Cambourn.

This Autumn Exhibition we will have approximately 67 artists and 200 artworks for sale. Our thanks go to The St Ives Shopping Village Management for their continued support in providing this wonderful Venue for the KAS Autumn, Awards and Spring Exhibitions. I have already seen posters in the Centre.

The Honourable Paul Fletcher MP Minister Communication and the Arts chose Louise Kenny's beautiful painting "Bush walking in Ku-ring-gai" for his Christmas card to be sent out to the electorate.

Congratulations to all our new social members. We look forward to getting to know you and to our new exhibiting members, we look forward to seeing your work displayed at exhibitions.

There are many members (and partners) to thank who help hang and assist at exhibition intake and those who help out at General meetings to set up and clear away. When everyone plays a part no matter how small it is very much appreciated.

We are extraordinarily lucky to have such a strong society. Many other art societies are struggling to stay viable. Our society is strong because it has many active members who make the effort to contribute their time to volunteer.

Can I ask those of you who have not held positions before and are not a committee or sub-committee member to please seriously consider doing your bit for KAS, it is after all, your society.

2023 was a good year. We did it with limited helpers but it could have been better! Especially with our Autumn & Spring Exhibitions, where our KAS Committee Members and Volunteers took on many tasks - including additional Roster Duty. Tasks that could have been done better, smarter, and quicker if only we had more of you to volunteer your time.

Live by example. We are placed on this Earth to help others, aren't we? So, I'm putting it out there. Please say yes when approached to help KAS out.

Positions Vacant

- **Newsletter Compiler.** Jenny Hatfield is prepared to transition all the information to the new person.
- **Guest Speaker Report Writer:** We are looking for 2 or 3 KAS members to **share** writing the 10 monthly Guest Speaker reports for the newsletter.
It is not onerous. We are all interested in how other artists create their work.
All you have to do is attend a Meeting and note down highlights of the Guest Speaker's presentation – you can sometimes refer to their online info for more details.
- **Combined Art Societies (CASS) Representative.**

If you think that you can help in these roles please contact me

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Dee Jackson
President
Ku-ring-gai Art Society

Date: 5 March 2024