

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Patricia Young):**

Another busy year has concluded since the A.G.M. and painting day on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

The National Annual Awards Exhibition took priority soon after, giving the Committee much to organise in a very short space of time, leading up to the 8<sup>th</sup> September at the Derwent Sailing Squadron.

The new venue presented quite a challenge, as a suitable method of hanging 100 paintings at an unfamiliar site, not set up for miniatures, needed to be found. The purchase of wire mesh panels proved to be the answer and with the much appreciated assistance of 2 young "ladder climbers", all the paintings were successfully hung, accompanied by a collective sigh of pure relief from the Committee.

It was a welcome surprise when over 80 visitors attended the Opening. We were able to seat them all comfortably during the proceedings, with medals presented by Her Excellency, who gave an interesting speech. Eight paintings sold on the day, with 15 in total. This Exhibition created a great deal of interest from the regular attendees at the D.S.S. and from visitors. Sadly, they will not be holding Exhibitions in the future at this venue.

At the Exhibition, a presentation was quietly made to the Governor of a beautiful painting by Joan Humble, titled, "Mt Pelion West from Lake Ayr". It was a personal gift to Her Excellency and Mr Warner from Joan and the Society, the Society paying a portion of the cost.

Once again, members submitted 13 paintings to enable the calendars to be produced prior to Christmas. Thank you to those who provided paintings or purchased calendars. We sold over 100 quality products in support of the Society. John Humble is our calendar co-ordinator and looks forward to receiving 13, 6x9cm original paintings prior to October 6<sup>th</sup>.

The plans for the 2018 Bicheno workshop tutored by Rikki Fisher were within 3 weeks of fruition when a message from Rikki disturbed the calm. Sadly, 2 weeks earlier, Rikki had undergone extensive surgery and had to cancel. Despite being ill, Rikki worked tirelessly to find a replacement. Much to our relief and total gratitude, Carol Gorenko agreed to be our tutor, despite the tragic loss of her husband 6 weeks previously – I very humbly accepted her offer. The generosity of these 2 ladies was so much appreciated by us all.

Carol was an excellent tutor in the art of scratchboard, teaching us new skills, while having fun, and inspiring us to continue with this addictive art form.

Our appreciation goes to Glenda and Ian for again hosting our tutor. As stated previously, "generosity of spirit" is alive and well in this Society, which was so evidenced by the small band who gathered early each morning to prepare sandwich and fruit lunches, and those who provide "nibbles", not only at Bicheno but at all our painting days. These are seemingly small things, but they create an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere.

During the year, we have welcomed a number of new members, each bringing with them exciting skills and we do enjoy meeting new like-minded people, who join us and swell our numbers. Now at 58, it is a very healthy number for a small State.

Many members have earned awards in exhibitions around Australia and locally over the past year and we congratulate them on their success.

The year has ended on a sad note, with the passing of past Committee member, Membership Secretary and Calendar Co-ordinator, Carlene Vickers, on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Carlene will be remembered as a very talented painter in oils, of predominantly "West Coast" paintings, that were much sought after at some exhibitions, and frequently sold. She is greatly missed by those who were in constant contact over many years. Her son, Phil, also West Coast Mayor, was our Auditor for a number of years, very kindly, at no cost to the Society. Condolences were sent to Ted and the family from the Society.

This report would not be complete without my gratitude and that of the membership being extended to the hard-working Committee – they are very special people, who continually give unstintingly to ensure the Society runs smoothly. Sadly, Chris retired during the year and we extend her our thanks to her for many years of service. Claire generously re-joined to ensure the Committee strength was maintained. Thank you, Claire. And of course, our thanks go to you, the members, for your support and participation in planned events and exhibitions. Your support is just reward for your Committee.

Thank you all,

Pat