

ASMA TASMANIA INC. PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 2020 AGM 15 AUGUST 2020 THE COLOUR CIRCLE STUDIO, MT NELSON

I am pleased to report on the activities of the last 12 months of the Society. The last AGM was held on 17 August 2019 at Briar Lane in Evandale.

Unfortunately, President Pat Young, had to suddenly and unexpectedly stand down as President at the February 2020 Committee meeting due to health reasons. We wish Pat all the very best in dealing with her health issues. Pat left the Society in good order when she stepped down. I undertook to fill the void created, up until this AGM.

The twelve month period since the last AGM has been a busy and challenging one, particularly with the onset of Covid 19 after March 2020 and our particularly vulnerable membership demographic. This impacted on the Committee's ability to meet in person but we quickly adopted available technology and had several meetings via Zoom. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our annual professional development workshop for members with Joan Humble in Bicheno scheduled for May.

During the year, the Committee met frequently, on the following dates:

- 14 September 2019;
- 26 October 2019;
- 8 November 2019 (Bicheno);
- 22 February 2020;
- 23 May 2020 (via Zoom);
- 6 June 2020 (via Zoom);
- 27 June 2020 (via Zoom);
- 18 July 2020 (via Zoom).

Our annual members' workshop was held at Bicheno on Friday to Saturday 8-9 November 2019 with leading pastellist Leoni Duff. Members are encouraged to try different media and expand their skills base. Our annual exhibition, A Medley of Miniatures, was held at the Schoolhouse Gallery, Rosny, from 28 November to 22 December 2019 and was a successful event. 107 miniatures in a variety of mediums were on display. Acclaimed wildlife artist, Janet Matthews from Victoria, kindly judged the exhibition. Committee member, Ruth Bosveld, was given the annual Founder's Award for her significant contribution to the Society.

I would also like to thank Bernadette Connor OAM for her continued support of the Society and her financial contribution to the Founder's Award.

We are also appreciative to our Patron, Her Excellency, Professor, the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania, for her ongoing support.

Due to Covid 19, our annual exhibition, planned for Briar Lane in Evandale, will this year be held online for the very first time. The exhibition entitled "Small and Precious" will run from on our website and Facebook. We are delighted to have high profile miniaturist, Gini Harris, from South Africa, as our judge.

We are currently developing clear judging criteria to assist in the judging of our Exhibitions and we are also looking at a "small painting" category to enable members to try their hands at somewhat larger artworks. Strict rules will apply as to maximum size of the picture and permissible framing dimensions.

We have also had a series of informative and helpful newsletters during the period. Ruth Bosveld does an outstanding job in the production of this publication. We are moving to increase our distribution to fellow art societies and organisations, as well as other key stakeholders.

During the period we have also updated and reviewed our letterhead and a number of forms. It is important to ensure that we project a professional image at all times, particularly if we want to attract funding, engage new stakeholders and grow our membership. We are also reviewing our new members brochure.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of John Humble in organising the annual calendar, which is an important fundraiser for the Society and a great way of marketing the Society and showcasing featured works of members.

During the period, we have actively sought to take the Society to the next level by achieving additional funding

for new initiatives and taking a more strategic approach to the future. Continuity planning and risk management have become even more important in Covid 19 times, particularly for the visual arts. We need to ensure that the Society is vibrant and resilient going forward.

In July 2020 the Society applied for \$21,500 funding from Arts Tasmania to enable it to strategically promote and significantly grow the Society and to address enhanced professional development for members, marketing (including YouTube videos and an enhanced social media presence), strengthened networks and partnerships both locally and elsewhere, and fund a possible (additional) exhibition (from December 2020).

In August 2020 the Society applied for \$5,000 funding from the Federal Regional Arts Fund Relief Grants Program to purchase Multi Display Cases Purpose Built for Miniature (5 Custom made quality frames similar to those available on the UK Polymer Plus website) (to enable secure display in art galleries etc.) and a Visualiser Camera System Set Up for workshops and the production of You Tube videos etc. for our website.

We were delighted to receive a number of wonderful letters of support from various people to support our applications. Thank you to Di Casimaty, Lindy Whitton, Pat Young, Vicki Chapman, Madeleine Szymanski (ASMA NSW) and Janet Matthews (ASMA VIC) for their support. Thank you too to Joan Kelly (outgoing President) for her report on, inter alia, Tasmanian involvement in the World Federation of Miniaturists 2020. Tasmania has certainly punched above its weight in the international domain.

We are awaiting the outcomes of the two grant applications referred to above. It is also considered that once economic times have improved it may be possible to attract sponsorship or private sector support for the Society's activities.

(Update 21st August - the \$5,00 Regional Arts grant application was not successful.)

The importance of collaboration with other Art Society groups and organisations, both nationally and internationally, continues to be recognised and efforts made to actively contribute to the vibrant Tasmanian art scene.

We appreciate, for instance, the support of The Colour Circle, in allowing us to use its studio for this meeting. A number of our members are also members of The Colour Circle and the Art Society of Tasmania.

The Society continues to maintain its financial position with modest financial reserves.

We also applied in recent weeks to the Art Society of Tasmania to hold our annual exhibition at the Lady Franklin Gallery at Lenah Valley. We were able to secure April 2021 for our next annual exhibition. This is a fantastic venue and a great opportunity to showcase the work of our many talented artists.

I would like to thank Pat for all her hard work over many years. She was unanimously nominated by the Committee several months ago for Life Membership and her nomination is to be considered at this meeting.

I would also like to thank Julie Wickham, Ruth Bosveld, James Bowler, John Humble, Joan Humble and Claire Gill for their work on the Committee this year. Claire has indicated that she will not be standing for the next year. The work of the Society would not be possible without the selfless contributions and dedication of many people, including our valued Committee members (both past and present).

I would urge all members to consider stepping up and taking on a Committee role. Conversely, we may need additional skills and resources for particular projects, particularly if we are successful in securing grant monies.

Issues for the future include:

- Business continuity/succession planning;
- Membership growth and expansion to include a broader demographic, particularly younger persons, to ensure social inclusion and contribute to economic development and community health and wellbeing;
- Increased collaboration with key stakeholders including other art organisations, nationally and internationally, as well as Arts Tasmania;
- Securing of better funding options through an expanded membership base, grant monies and possible sponsorship;

- An upgrade/enhancement of the Society's social media presence, including the production of YouTube training videos and an expansion of member profiles;
- An update/review of the Constitution; and
- The development of a strategic framework including a 12 month business plan, a 3 to 5 year strategic plan, a risk management plan and a Covid 19 policy/workplan to ensure the ongoing health and safety of members

Barbara Etter APM
Outgoing President