

ASMA Tas. Inc. President's Annual Report 2016

The 2015/16 has again been busy at the Committee endeavored to create opportunities for members to learn new skills and techniques, discover hidden talents and display their work in the hope of earning awards to encourage them on their artistic journey. We have also taken every available opportunity to educate the public about miniature art and our Society in particular

The afternoon following the 2015 AGM found members thoroughly engrossed as we enjoyed a demonstration by Joan Humble as she passed on skills and tips developed over many years of producing beautiful prize winning paintings. Thank you Joan for that lovely afternoon, with the hope of more to come this afternoon. We learned so much, given so generously.

In October, once again, the Annual Burnie Shines Celebrations provided a golden opportunity to place the Society before the public. The massed floral arrangements in St Georges Anglican Church, open for the 3 day weekend, gave several local miniaturists a beautiful backdrop to display 14 pieces of work and a quilt by Chris Cooke printed with miniature pen drawings of 'boys on bikes'. Our inclusion in such a small way engendered a surprising amount of interest, with the chance to discuss the Society and its merits and the methods used to produce the work on display with many interested visitors.

The Bicheno workshop weekend followed at the end of October tutored by Ev Hales, an eminent watercolourist from Victoria. This was an absolute 'hit' as Ev demonstrated her remarkable teaching skills and unusual techniques, dragging many of us out of our cosy comfort zones – very challenging I must say, when the tutor can produce beautiful paintings despite her work being upside down to her as she demonstrated. What a skilled tutor – we just had to invite her back! Our thanks to Glenda and Ian Addison for so generously providing accommodation for Ev in their lovely tree-top home.

Yes, bring her back we did in August, by popular demand, when Ev demonstrated florals and the importance of dark marking and brushwork, at which she excels. Da-de-da-de-da has taken on a totally different meaning to all participants now! Again the workshop was thoroughly enjoyed, despite the challenges, by 14 members – all taking on board new techniques and ideas. Our thanks to Gill for kindly providing EV with accommodation and the Society with the use of the Art space here in Evandale, such a wonderful venue where we are always well looked after. Thank you also to those generous members who always provide delicious nibbles at workshops and painting days, for all to enjoy.

The 2015 year ended on a very pleasant note, with a delightful afternoon tea hosted for the Society by Her Excellency the Governor to enable members to celebrate with Joan Humble her Golden Bowl and Anita Emerich awards. The importance of these awards was appreciated by Her Excellency, as was the generous donation and presentation of a painting by Claire Gill adding to the Governor's growing private collection. A painting by Carlene Vickers had been presented to the Governor earlier in the year whilst she visited the West Coast, for which a delighted Carlene received a much appreciated personal thank you note.

The 2016 Calendar sales were reasonable despite a limited number of paintings being submitted, but I am pleased to report a considerable improvement in numbers received for the 2017 calendar. Orders must close at the end of the month with a hope of much stronger sales support from members for this important fund raiser for the Society. Sincere thanks to Carlene Vickers as Calendar coordinator, for the time consuming work she has done for the past 3 years ensuring a good quality product and for the packaging and posting involved.

The WFM Exhibition opened Feb.16 in Johannesburg, South Africa, required exhibitors send work very early. Sadly only 4 members entered work under the Tasmanian banner. Members cited the cost of fees and courier being prohibitive and constraints and entry form difficult. The President of MASSA, Daphne Carew, posted an on-line report after the Exhibition stating its success. However, entries were well down at 281 from 105 artists, with 6 sculptures and 10 pieces from Russia. 102 paintings sold with 32 being from 'foreign' artists. Most were priced to sell at around the equivalent of 300 Australian dollars. Instead of the usual 1st -2nd – 3rd awards, 15 Awards of Excellence were given – congratulations to Joan Humble for being a recipient. Congratulations to members Janet Matthews, Joan Kelly and Sandra Henderson on sales of work. Congratulations are also extended to Joan Kelly

who remains WFM President for at least one year, with an English couple prepared to then assume that role. It is sincerely hoped the next WFM Exhibition will be planned in a more accessible venue, with guaranteed secure postage and more acceptable costs to make entry viable for all.

The Annual Awards Exhibition at the Burnie Regional Art Gallery opened on the night of Friday 29th January with a gathering of over 60 people interested not only in the miniature paintings but also the two other excellent exhibitions opened at the same event. Our miniature Exhibition was very fortunately granted another celebration on the afternoon of Sunday 31st January, well attended by family and friends from across the State, to enable the presentation of medals and a critique by the judge Kit Hiller. The unusually low sales did not reflect the success of this exhibition. Over the month those members sitting daily with the exhibition were at times almost overwhelmed by the hundreds of visitors streaming into the Gallery from the cruise ships visiting the City. There were of course, as with all exhibitions, much slower days when the Gallery was quiet. We can however truthfully say we welcomed every person coming in that door, from all areas of the globe, enjoying conversations and opportunities to discuss the work and introduce people, often for the first time, to miniature paintings. Lots of sign language, fractured English and facial expressions helped get the message across. The positive comments in the Gallery visitors' book were, in the main, incredible and I have often wished we had obtained copies of those numerous pages for members to view. Congratulations to those members who won awards then and at other exhibitions during the year, whether miniature or larger works, in Tasmania, on the mainland or overseas. The gallery staff looked after the Society very well from the excellent hanging of our paintings, the extensive cost-free advertising over 3 months, the constant reprinting of our catalogue whenever the stock reduced in size, to the high quality refreshments provided at both opening functions, and all this at no cost to the society – a very welcome change indeed. Our thanks and appreciation were extended to the Staff amid requests to not leave our return for another 8 years.

Sadly, our farewell last September to our much loved Patron Lady Ferrall left us feeling the void too great to fill. However a major highlight of this year has been the acceptance by Her Excellency, the Governor, of our invitation to assume this important role in our Society. I feel sure, dear Sallie would be delighted and we look forward to forming a close relationship also with our new, highly esteemed Patron.

Membership at this stage is a healthy 65 – always a changing number as members age, or due to other circumstances, stop painting or we gain new keen members, as we have done over the past few months.

Special thanks must go to Carlene Vickers as she retires from the Committee – thank you for your commitment and input over the past 4 years and thank you for your welcome offer to continue as Calendar coordinator and Membership Secretary.

Thank also need to be extended to Helen Eastley for her continuing work as our talented Treasurer and as our retiring Newsletter Editor, having produced such excellent newsletters for almost 4 years. Thank you to Ruth Bosveld for accepting this not so easy task of Newsletter Editor.

I am sure all members will join me in thanking the dedicated team of selfless members of the Committee who endeavor to plan Society events with the interest of our membership at heart,. They all carry out demanding, time consuming responsibilities to ensure the smooth running of the Society. they travel all over the State to meetings, often carting boxes of paintings to or from exhibitions, all done with a good grace no matter what the weather. My personal thanks to them for their so appreciated support of me over the past 4 years, they have made my job so much easier. And to you the members, we thank you for your participation, and support of us, at the events we plan for the Society each year.

Thank you so much.