

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017

As always, since the 2016 AGM much has been happening within the Society keeping the Committee quite busy.

The first opportunity after the AGM for members to exhibit their work was the Hobart Show from 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 and a very acceptable number of entries in the Miniature Section ensured the category would continue. Congratulations were extended to Bill Watson and Ingrid Walpole who were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> with the voucher rewards being very acceptable indeed and even better for 2017. It is hoped that the number of entries will be as good or better this year.

The Bicheno workshop held 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> November, tutored by Janet Matthews, was inevitably much anticipated and thoroughly enjoyed not only as an excellent opportunity to develop skills in portraiture but as a delightful social time together. Bicheno is fast becoming a 'not to be missed event' on our calendar for those who participate annually. We all went home 'fired up' to fine tune those skills fostered by Janet, our very fine tutor.

How fortunate we were to again be invited to participate in the Clarence Arts program only 2 years after our initial exhibition at this wonderful Gallery. Being held 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, so early in the year, may have been partially responsible for a reduction in the number of entries but the fact that we were prepared to exhibit so early was one reason we were accepted. It is understandably difficult for the Gallery to find exhibitors so early in the year. The other obvious and noted reasons being the quality of our exhibitions, the sales we make and, as we are told – we are so organized! Congratulations to all medal winners, thanks to our Judge Di Casimaty and in particular to Claire, Sandra and Ruth for tasks reformed to ensure the success of the exhibition along with Sarah's organization at the Gallery. Having been cheeky enough to ask so soon, I have been assured that we can offer an expression of interest in 2 years' time.

How exciting it was that Bernadette was able to present the inaugural Founder's Award on Opening Night. Our thanks to you Bernadette for introducing and funding this award into the future. I am sure it will become a highly valued and much sought after award into perpetuity. Congratulations to Claire for being the very deserving recipient of this award on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Society.

The morning after the Opening, Chris, Sandra, Claire and myself, along with Sarah, met Her Excellency the Governor and Mr. Warner, and Catherine Saunders the Aide-De-Camp, to guide them on a tour of the Exhibition at the Gallery. It was such an enjoyable hour with our very relaxed guests who were so interested not only in the paintings but in the artists who produced them, culminating in the purchase of paintings by Carlene Vickers and Jen Bottle – quite exciting for them.

In June we were treated to a one day workshop tutored by Joan Humble at Gill and Greg's art space. Such a freezing cold day but a great learning experience for the keen group who participated. Thank you Joan for the knowledge and skills so generously provided. Although we ran out of painting time, the intently focused members took with them new skills and ideas to put into practice.

The Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Society would have to be considered the High Light of 2017. Our thanks must go to Bernadette for her vision and the hard work of the original Committee who shared in the experiences of planning and launching the Society and its early exhibitions and other events, not forgetting the 2000 World Exhibition. If the initiative had not been taken then, who knows if or when a Society would have been formed in Tasmania?

Finding a suitable venue for our celebration High Tea was not easy (our thanks to Sandra for her research). Despite our somewhat 'cosy' seating arrangements, having disappointingly not been

provided the larger room promised, it proved to be a happy occasion as everyone enjoyed catching up, and as in my case, meeting with people known only by name.

Our Vice Regal guests were an absolute delight, declaring they loved events like this as they could be themselves- high praise indeed for our welcoming Society! His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was very pleased to be called upon to present Bernadette with Life Membership – the only beneficiary to date within the Society and so very well deserved. Our sincere thanks to Bernadette and congratulations from us all.

Unfortunately we were not able to display memorabilia as intended as the promised tables did not eventuate in such cramped conditions. Bernadette had albums depicting earlier days while we had others from 2008 onward. Some are here today and hopefully an opportunity will arise to display items of such interest to members, whether long term or relatively new, in the not too distant future, maybe at Bicheno.

Sadly, we farewelled three members of long standing during the year. Joan Skibby from NSW who exhibited and won awards often. Lindsay's sudden death was a shock to everyone – he had been our treasurer for 5 years and a participating member of the Society over many years. Les Woollcott was a member for many years in the past and passed away at the age of 92 in February.

Carlene is now preparing to produce the 2018 Calendar- looking forward to receiving entries by 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. after the success of the 2017 offering. Our thanks to Carlene for the work involved in being the coordinator each year. We thank her also for being Membership Secretary and for offering to continue in both roles into 2018. We now have 49 Tasmanian members, 12 Interstate and 1 Overseas, with new members fairly regularly joining which is heartening.

The next event on our calendar will be our very much anticipated Workshop at Bicheno tutored by the very talented Madeleine Szymanski on 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> November. We still have vacancies for interested participants.

Our thanks must be extended to Glenda and Ian Addison who so generously accommodate our Bicheno tutor each year in their lovely 'tree top' home and again this year they are collecting our tutor from the airport en route to Bicheno, I am sure Madeleine will be delighted to spend an extra day relaxing prior to our arrival in Bicheno.

Gill Waddle certainly deserves our appreciation too as she looks after us so well throughout the year as we gather in this venue for painting and meeting days and supplies great accommodation when required. A letter of thanks would be appropriate.

In closing I must, on behalf of the members of the Society and myself, thank our dedicated Committee members. They all have major tasks that take time and effort to so willingly carry out over the year and are not often given the recognition they deserve. They travel the State, despite the weather to attend meetings during which they make decisions affecting the Society and its members with much thought and consideration.

Our Treasurer does not travel to meetings but the service she provides is second to none and Helen deserves our very sincere thanks for the many hours spent on behalf of the Society.

Thank you to our members who support the events planned by the Committee, your participation helps to keep our Society strong and to move forward and develop.

Over the past 5 years the Committee and our members have given me very much appreciated support and for that I thank you so very much.

Thank you, Pat.