

Mosman Art Society AGM, March 16, 2025

President's report

The past twelve months seem to have flown by, maybe because people feel a renewed sense of freedom and inspiration after the Covid years. As ever, we're blessed with a wonderful Committee to whom enormous thanks, especially to Lindie Treleaven, our Secretary and Treasurer, the beating heart of the Society and organiser *extraordinaire*.

But it's very much a team effort, so a big cheer to Vice-President Margaret Crane, digital doyenne and voice of calm. To the remarkable and ever-enthusiastic committee member Shar Jones. And honour and gratitude to Kate Rae, art world insider and star curator, who is sadly resigning at this AGM but promises to be around for future exhibition advice.

Jan Riley came on board as a casual vacancy to replace Isabel Gaven, but unfortunately was obliged to resign due to travel commitments. And we were deeply sorry to lose committee member Sarah Austin who passed away in September.

Another sad loss to the Society in March was the late Max Coleman, retired surgeon, keen watercolourist, loyal friend and former Committee member and Treasurer.

Altogether three casual vacancies were filled this year and the present occupants are up for election – Denise Gallagher, Linda Gold and Robert Wale. All strong and experienced candidates who promise to take the Society from strength to strength.

Of course, where would we be without our Patron, Paul Delprat – a founding father of the Society, loyal supporter and font of wit and wisdom? Thank you, Paul.

Logo

As mentioned in the latest newsletter, we will be officially unveiling our new logo at the anniversary party later.

The Committee felt that the current design was insufficiently distinctive when appearing on public documents, such as the list of sponsors for Mosman Art Gallery awards. We sought something simpler and more readily identifiable that still reflected our role as an art society and our home by the Harbour.

It was agreed to go beyond our membership and consult a designer working with up-to-date technology for ease of reproduction. Aidan McCully, graphic designer at Channel Ten, undertook the commission for a very reasonable fee and produced a number of possible ideas before the Committee settled on the final design.

The gestural 'm' captures both an artist's brushstroke and the waves on our foreshores, while simple font letters clearly establish who we are.

Exhibitions

Seasons, our biennial exhibition at Mosman Art Gallery, 23 February – 24 March, was a great success. All 88 submissions were displayed, which given the diversity of artwork – paintings, drawings, photographs, prints and sculpture – was a curatorial wonder.

Our first *Small Work Art Show* and second exhibition at Mosman Rowers opened on 6 August with 57 little gems in the popular Archie Bear café.

Social media is an increasingly important platform for artists. The Society's number of Instagram followers is growing, and we invite those of you on Instagram to link with @mosmanartsocietyinc to maximise your (and our) audience.

Workshops

Local landscape artist Rob Dujin led an *en plein air* oil painting workshop over two consecutive Saturdays at Rosherville Reserve, Chinaman's Beach, on 7 and 14 September.

Artists of every level found inspiration in Jessica Ashton's sold-out life drawing workshop on 13 October in the Melody Room, Mosman Art Gallery.

Members painted *en plein air* in the footsteps of Arthur Streeton and Tom Roberts at Sirius Cove under the experienced guidance of contemporary impressionist artist Kasey Sealy on 27 October.

Excursions

Members and friends enjoyed several private out-of-hours tours at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Archie volunteer guide Annabel Baxter led us through the iconic *Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes* on 2 July. Robyn Bathurst, AGNSW volunteer guide and a Mosman local, introduced members to *Alphonse Mucha – Spirit of Art Nouveau* on 24 July.

As an AGNSW volunteer guide as well as MAS President, I had the pleasure of taking a Mosman Art Society group through *Magritte*, the summer blockbuster exhibition, on 3 December.

Congratulations

Congratulations to those members with solo shows in 2024: Frances O'Rourke, *Nature as a Vessel*, at Ridge Street Window Gallery, North Sydney; Karen Brock at the Other Art Fair; Richard Ward, *Poems and Places*, at the Ewart Gallery, Willoughby Arts Centre; Berit Zetterman at Mosman Uniting Church, Belmont Road.

Congratulations to MAS member Nicolette Eisdell, finalist in the Portia Geach Memorial Award, S H Ervin Gallery.

And to MAS member Howard Arthur Tweedie, finalist in the prestigious Mosman Art Prize which attracts artists from across Australia.

Congratulations as well to those of our members – too numerous to list – on display at this very moment in the Artists of Mosman 2088 exhibition here in Mosman Art Gallery.

On-going

As always, we value our connections with the Gallery. Mosman Art Society joined forces again with ArtSmart in Seaforth to present an encouragement award in the Mosman Youth Art Prize.

Mosman Art Society sponsors the \$1000 Viewers' Prize in the Mosman Art Prize each year. 2024's winner was a clear favourite - Lucy Culliton's portrait of her dog in an armchair, *Molly (Artist Assistant)*.

Lindie Treleaven and I represented Mosman Art Society at the opening of the Mosman Art Trail, the unique 10km cultural walk from Mosman Bay to Beauty Point, on 30 April.

The regular get-together at Frenchy's, Headland Park, Mosman, on the second Tuesday of the month has proved a wonderful opportunity for members to meet each other for coffee and an exchange of news, ideas and even a little show-and-tell of work.

The Society newsletter appears approximately every two months. The latest – with printed copies available in the Grand Hall after this meeting – features a history of Mosman Art Society and an interview with our founding President, Bryan Besly.

Finally, I must announce that I am resigning as President at this AGM. It has been an exciting and rewarding three years and a delight to get to know so many of the members and their outstanding work. It's time, however, to hand over to a new team, brimming with ideas and enthusiasm. Thank you all.