

President's Report to Mosman Art Society AGM 2022

Hello everybody and welcome to the Mosman Art Society's Annual General Meeting. I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Cammeraygal and Borogegal people of the Eora nation, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

How lovely to see so many of you here, after another extraordinary year. We surf between various Covid waves but overall we seem to be pulling ahead – or rather learning to live with the virus - and life is returning to something resembling normal.

It's been a busy twelve months for the Mosman Art Society. The resignations of three previous office bearers, President Felicity Walsh, Vice-President Deborah Brown and the much-loved Secretary Inta Charteris, as well as committee member Marlen Zilinsky, left a big hole in the Committee, but existing Committee members stepped up to the plate.

As President, I'm blessed in the new team. Vice-President and web wizard Margaret Crane has done an amazing job in redesigning and migrating our website to a new domain. I can't begin to understand how it's done but it seems miraculous. She initiated last year's online 9x5 exhibition and is managing this year's repeat, as well as producing our posters and leaflets.

Lindie Treleaven, our Secretary/Treasurer, balances the books with breathtaking expertise and confidence – she mastered the accounting program Xero, found a new accountant and takes great pride in the fact that all sums are 'reconciled.' A wonderful accounting term.

In her role as Secretary she oversees mailouts to members, deals with queries and all the administrative issues with admirable efficiency and good humour.

Tremendous support comes from Kate Rae – with her curatorial skills – and from Shar Jones. Linda Gold and Isabel Gavan were co-opted as casual vacancies. Thank you all.

As ever, our Patron Paul Delprat offers expert advice and guidance. Thank you, Paul. Thanks too to former President and Honorary Life Member Bryan Besly for his much appreciated words of wisdom.

Exhibitions

April saw our biannual exhibition at the Mosman Art Gallery, always a thrill. In this year's *Future Perfect* we managed to hang every submission, although with member numbers rapidly increasing this may not be always possible in future.

Serendipity, our exhibition at the Bathers Pavilion, Balmoral, was an unexpected opportunity, but members rallied and we produced a first rate show at short notice. 51 works were exhibited and many were sold. We've asked to be added to the Bathers' exhibition waiting list for the future, but, as we know, that could be several years away.

Our second online 9x5 exhibition went live on December 1st so encourage your friends and relatives – everyone you know really – to check it out.

In March we introduced a regular get-together at Frenchy's, Headland Park, Mosman. Members meet on the second Tuesday of the month for coffee and arty chat. This has been hugely popular – a takeover of the café space, rearrangement of chairs and tables and most importantly, a sharing of ideas and information.

The loyal followers of the *en plein air* group meet twice a month. A big thank you to its leader Jonathan Falk who does a fantastic job of finding scenic venues with nearby refreshments – essential for artistic comfort.

Demonstrations and workshops

Society member Tony Belobrajdic shared his spontaneous approach to watercolour painting in June. And in October Madeleine Szymanski, twice President of the Australian Society of Miniature Art, demonstrated what could be achieved with a 10 x 10cm image.

Aspiring portraitists packed into Archie Finalist Paul Newton's portrait workshop in May. Participants came away armed with tips and inspiration, and there was equal enthusiasm for the oil painting workshop led by John Perkins, President of the Royal Art Society, in July and the Dare to Draw masterclass in October, led by Jennifer Keeler-Milne, a ten-times Dobell Drawing Prize finalist.

However, unfortunately Guy Troughton's watercolour workshop in November failed to go ahead due to last minute cancellations.

Excursions

Members enjoyed out-of-hours private tours of the *Matisse: Life and Spirit* exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW in January, and of the Archibald Prize in May, led by volunteer guides. Such group outings are very enjoyable and we hope to organise more next year.

Mosman Art Society joined forces with ArtSmart in Seaforth again to present an encouragement award in the Mosman Youth Art Prize. And as in previous years, we presented the \$1000 Viewers' Prize at this year's Mosman Art Prize.

We improved our online presence with a renovated website and broke into social media via Instagram, raising our profile very successfully.

Members' news

Rosemary Christmas was welcomed as an Honorary Life Member. Congratulations to Sally Ryan and Nicolette Eisdell, finalists in Portia Geach Prize at S H Ervin Gallery, and to Sue Field, a finalist in the upcoming 2023 Dobell Drawing Prize.

Looking ahead to 2023

A seminar on *The Women who Painted Mosman* is planned for May at the Mosman Art Gallery, following the success of our Streeton seminar in 2021, and thanks to a \$1500 grant

from Mosman Council. Keynote speaker will be Denise Mimmocchi, Senior Curator of Australian Art at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Dates and details are yet to be finalised but we're looking forward to an exhibition at Mosman Rovers in June.

Also in the pipeline is a seminar / workshop on professional practice, to include optimising sales through presentation, marketing, social media and online platforms.

Proposed workshops include Life drawing with Jessica Ashton, and watercolour and oil painting with other leading artists.

We're currently reflecting on what works best for workshops and demonstrations, as a few of our events have not been as well attended as we'd like, and members' comments and suggestions are very welcome.

However, I'm glad to report that Mosman Art Society is in excellent health. Our numbers are growing and members are indulging in what they enjoy most – making art.

A Merry Christmas, Seasons' Greetings and a happy and productive New Year to you all.