**President’s Annual Report 2019-2020**

**Exhibitions**

Exhibitions for the year continued to be held at the Glenbrook Community Hall which has proved to be an excellent venue, providing us with visibility and a healthy flow of visitors.

**Summer exhibition, February 2019**

This exhibition was very successful with 18 hung works and 16 small works sold. After expenses we made a profit of $1400. Artist payments from those sales totalled $4920 shared among 12 artists, a strong encouragement for members.

**Spring exhibition, October 2019**

This exhibition continued our success giving members a valuable exposure to the public, though sales were not quite so strong as February, possibly due to the constant rain over the weekend. 11 hung works were sold and 4 small works with a total value of $2847. The Society achieved a profit of $1254.

The downside of the exhibitions is the need to transport our heavy screens between the Studio and Hall. This requires a minimum of 4 healthy individuals and the use of a suitably sized trailer, thankfully provided by members.

**Administration**

Council Meetings.

Council continues to hold tenant meetings which have been reduced to twice yearly. There is very little of importance to the Society discussed at these meetings but they are an opportunity to report any building maintenance issues.

Fire Warden.

Council requires each tenant to have a fire warden and for them to attend regular training. Margaret Ng has taken this role on behalf of the society. Members in attendance should note the evacuation procedure posted in the Studio.

Margaret also fills the role of First Aid Officer for the society. Thank you Margaret.

**Christmas dinner**

This was once again held at the Penrith Bowling Club and was well attended. All present had an enjoyable evening and were able to catch up with friends and fellow members.

**Ongoing Accommodation needs**

The President and Secretary have held several discussions with Council over the past year as well as with Stuart Ayres and Councillors regarding the need for more suitable accommodation which would enable the Society to more fully serve its members with activities and lessons and exhibitions.

Some options which have been suggested and to which we have provided business cases are the Emu Plains ‘Precinct’ which includes the old School building on land adjacent to the Lennox Centre and the use of part of the Ferndale site. Both submissions are pending but we are not yet convinced of their suitability for Society use. Discussion will be ongoing but we will not be accepting any options which do not improve our situation.

**Demonstrations and Workshops**

A number of activities were held over the 2019 year which were well attended by members and guests.

David Newman-White conducted a portrait drawing demonstration in March.

Ros Psakis conducted a workshop in Oils in April.

Kasey Sealy held a demonstration in Oils in May

Tony Belobrajdic a demonstration in Watercolour in June.

Stephen Travers a demonstration in Oil painting in November.

Thank you to Anna Hancock for her ongoing work in organising these. If members have suggestions for possible workshops or demonstrations please feel free to suggest to a member of the committee as we are always looking for fresh ideas.

**Tutors**

An important aspect of our Society is the development of Artist’s skills. To this end the Society continues to host Tutors who use the premises to conduct lessons weekly. The only requirement is that all students be members of the Society. The assistance of students in ensuring their membership is current is stressed.

Lessons are currently conducted by-

Joe Cartwright – Watercolour (adult)

Margaret Ng – mixed media (adult)

Margaret Ng – Junior member tuition

Alice Dardaneliotis – Mixed media (adult)

**Open Studio**

Thanks to Chris Pearson, an Open Studio was established on Tuesday afternoons during the year. At times there were up to 6 attendees but sadly attendance was spasmodic and at times very few, if any, attended. Chris has come to the conclusion that this activity should cease with the March AGM and the Committee supports this decision.

The closing of our Open Studio is an indication of the limitations of our current premises. We are unable to open the studio at night due to parking and safety concerns. Similarly, weekend activities require willing volunteers to give up their weekends to open the studio and provide organisation. With access to an evening venue, many of our working members may make themselves available for tuition or other activities. As mentioned earlier, we continue to hold discussions with both Council and local members of parliament regarding support for the visual arts in the Nepean District.

**Plein Air group**

Society members attend a plein air painting morning at a local location each Thursday. The location changes usually on a fortnightly basis. This is not restricted to society members and all are welcome. It is usually well attended when the weather is kind. Our member Tony White organises this outing and posts the location on our site weekly. Thank you Tony.

**Thank you.**

Thank you to all those members who have provided such valuable support through volunteering their time and skills to the Society over the past year. All exhibiting members are expected to assist with our exhibitions, but there are many other occasions when help is needed and it is often the same people who show up to make things happen. We would not keep going without those willing helpers. All members have some skills to offer, or just some of their time occasionally, which can make all the difference to our success.

It is always difficult to enlist Committee members but without the time and effort these members willingly give, we could not continue. A heartfelt thank you to all the Committee and to those other members who repeatedly answer the call for help.

**A final word**

It would be remiss of me to not mention Rhys Jones who sadly passed away in January. Rhys was one of those people who always offered his time and assistance to others. He was a member of several Societies and was very popular with all. All who knew Rhys placed him in the category of nice guy and good friend. Sadly missed.

Jeff Eyles

President.

2019-20 Committee (Outgoing)

President – Jeff Eyles

Vice President – Beth Gibbeson

Secretary – Julie Eyles

Treasurer – Jeff Eyles

Committee members – Margaret Ng

Alice Dardaneliotis

Suzanne Allen

Chris Pearson

Anna Hancock

Jacqui Brewster