

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past twelve months have been eventful in our hidden gem of Hervey Bay. Gradually, activity within Gallery 5 is returning to pre-Covid figures and beyond. Every week day has art classes with most having both morning and afternoon sessions filled. Aspects of learning art range from finding out the basics, building on some prior skills, through to honing a specific medium to become more proficient in that area. Even Saturdays have been having regular classes available. With our Social Sessions and these art classes, HBAS averaged (the last 6 months) 75 attendees each week. So it is fair to say Gallery 5 is indeed a hive of activity.

There has been a concerted effort to increase people's awareness of Gallery 5 and HBAS via ongoing advertising on radio, in magazines and through digital media. This does not come cheaply and will be refined to be more targeted in the near future. The anecdotal evidence suggests that the advertising has increased visitor numbers and definitely increased new memberships. Since July, 27 new members have joined us and since our last AGM over 85 have joined HBAS. For a period still being impacted by Covid-19, these results are very pleasing.

I thank our sponsors both on-going and new. Mayor George Seymour, MP Adrian Tantari, Hervey Bay RSL, Out of the Square Picture Framing, Russel Clark Builder, Latitude 25 RV Lifestyle Community, Bette Phillips from Wide Bay Gallery and a select group of generous members who contributed an extra \$1500 combined. Sponsorship has fluctuated over the last year with businesses reluctant to sponsor in the current uncertain climate. I believe this is an area that requires a dedicated working party or team to actively encourage sponsorship and seek ways for sponsors to feel valued and get value for their involvement. This is a priority target to tackle now.

A society like Hervey Bay Art Society cannot exist without active members who volunteer their time and energy. We have been blessed with wonderful people willing to give freely of themselves. Unfortunately, some of these are unable to continue in their roles. We thank them and hope they stay members in some way. Thank you to: Jacquie Boyle, our Secretary for the last two years; Pauline Prouse for being MYOB Administrator and our Treasurer; Janine Hunt for being Newsletter Editor and Exhibition Co-ordinator; Ingrid Algie for her role as Installation Team Leader; Koni Knight, Aspacia Poteri, Kaye Higginson & Josephine Baddeley for being BBQ & Catering Officers; Jean Bridge as our MYOB Administrator; and Dona Norwood as our Special Workshop Convenor. Each of them has made our Art Society a much better place. Hopefully some of our new members will fill the void left by these generous people.

Grants are getting harder to come by as the current allocated monies are being directed towards flood, fire and Covid recovery. We have had some limited success and will continue to try for grants to update our general lighting to LED and to continue advertising to promote where to find Gallery 5. This requires a person willing to put in applications and follow up as needed. There is training available for someone with aptitude in this area.

The facade of our gallery sorely requires an uplift. We were hoping for grant support but realise that this is now something HBAS must fund itself. I hope you fully support this long awaited uplift and the associated costs.

There are always things in the past that could have been done differently and maybe better. However it is important to remember that as a society, our effective functioning relies on the contribution of each of us, each working for the good of the society as a whole. HBAS's purpose is engaging our community in the 'visual arts'. We do this by providing opportunities to develop skills and artworks. We also do this through providing a quality venue to display these artworks to be appreciated and hopefully purchased by those who visit Gallery 5. Our executive strives to fulfil this purpose and I believe it has done so admirably over the last year. Our art society offers opportunities for each individual member to have a sense of belonging and to share a passion for creativity within art world. The coming year will bring many more chances for each of us to be involved in ways that will grow our art society even further. Thank you to the hardworking executive committee and to each of our volunteers who take on a role or do duty at our fabulous gallery. Thank you to all of our members for another year of interactive learning and unbridled creativity.

Mark Brose President HBAS 2021/22