



2022/23 President's Report

I believe the past year has been successful for HBAS & Gallery 5 in a number of ways. Our membership has grown by over 50% with many of our new members becoming quite active. Our monthly calendar had a number of different topics which were both challenging and provided good variation. The First Nations Artist Exhibition and the Connection Collaboration, although contentious with a few members were both very successful. They brought in different community groups/people who got to experience what HBAS offers. The outlay was well exceeded by the financial rewards that came our way. Our visitor numbers also increased greatly during those exhibitions compared to the same periods last year. Advertising efforts and our general promotions are apparently increasing the community's awareness of Gallery 5.

Thanks to our Catering Officer, Paul Rocchi, we have enjoyed quality foods at affordable costs. The gallery looks fabulous for each exhibition thanks to our wonderful installation team ably lead by Lorraine Romaior. The foliage and flower arrangements put out by a number of thoughtful members have made a hugely positive impact on our gallery.

I know that many members would love to have more regular special workshops but I remind you that they have to be not only fully attended and but also affordable for our members. The six special workshops held in the last year were both well attended and very affordable. Thanks goes to Deb Edwards for coordinating these workshops.

HBAS takes pride in being a place to grow your art skills. There is something for most people who wish to learn art on a regular basis. These art classes are certainly the most accessible and the most affordable in the Fraser Coast.

None of this could happen without the many volunteers who do the little things and the few who do the big things. Special thanks go to our Vice-president Rolf Sieber for his 20 years of service to our art community and to our Treasurer, Gwen Moore for her efforts this year. Both will not be continuing in these roles. There are too many others to mention by name, suffice to say that each doing their part so willingly is what makes this a great art society.

Grants have been applied for and gained thanks to Robyn Edward efforts. Grants help to keep costs of things like special workshops low for our members. Our biggest issue has been getting quotes for the bigger endeavours such as the Gallery facade upgrade. This will be our main priority to take to fruition, grant or no grant.

As we a not-for-profit, run by volunteers, it is vital that we each do our part, particularly in doing gallery duty. We must have the doors open during our advertised hours. Generally, this has been happening. Plus we have members who have offered to be assistants in our executive roles so if one goes away or is sick the cogs keep on turning. Jane Backhaus has been tireless as Secretary making my life very easy. While she has been absent, Nicola McCallum & Jacquie Boyle have ably filled in. Thank you for every hour of your time each of you have given.

Lastly, we endeavour to have HBAS be a fun and enjoyable place to connect with others who love art. I believe we are striving to fulfil that goal which augurs well for the year to follow, no matter who is our executive committee. Thank you for a great year.