



2019 – 2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Change is part of life. Our members and our gallery have seen much change over the last twelve months since I became president of HBAS. Some very good, some not so good.

We started with an excellent display by our members at the Latitude 25 Grand Opening. A wide range of what we do at HBAS was on display. Thanks to all those who contributed. Our 'Emerging Artists' were given access to feedback and encouraged to compete by providing a separate section in our monthly competitions. Our judging protocols were clarified and the process refined.

Our members provided much needed financial support to our local Rural Fire Brigades during the unprecedented fire season late last year. Considerable donations were collected at our end-of-year break up at Kondari – a very enjoyable event attended by more than ninety members.

Over the last twelve months, the monthly competitions we have been able to hold, have been of high quality and displayed a wide range of artists' works. Some of which achieved awards and some of which were purchased by admirers. A great result for all. We also were able to hold a number of workshops much thanks to Paul Barnes (Art Skills), Coral Stell (Watercolours), Jo Johnston (Beginner's Acrylics), Chris Pullen (Paper Cutting) Robin Hynes (Acrylics), Violetta Sandry (Oils & Pastels) and of course our on-going tutorials from Nita Lamont, Jillanne Cahill, Judy Lamont, Erica Chapman and Rolf Sieber.

Chance hit us hard with the revelation that the Regional Exhibition could not be held for three years due to scheduling issues at the Hervey Bay Regional Gallery. After much complaining, lobbying and negotiating, we were able to make the best of a bad situation. We set up an early 2020 Regional Exhibition, gained access to Gatakers Artspace for 2021 & 2022, as well as FCRC support for our 50th Anniversary Exhibition. These celebrations in early 2021 will be heavily promoted by FCRC and the Regional Gallery.

A range of special events were being put in place to promote our fabulous gallery when more change came in the form of the Covid-19 outbreak. Our society and gallery was closed from 20th March during the initial lockdown in the early stages of Australia's isolation policy. Thankfully, we were able to re-open on 12th June due to putting in place a Covid-19 Mitigation Plan. Much thanks to our convenors who enacted the plan and wiped down after each session. During the months that the gallery was closed, we were able to get the much needed upgrade to our toilets completed with the all access toilet being completed. Improvements like this can only occur through the wonderful work of our Grants Officers, Paul Neale & David Stell. Their efficient and effective skills have brought HBAS many grants and improvements. Well done

Upon re-opening, artists tentatively returned and routines despite being changed somewhat began to be established once more. We have all adapted and thankfully most have not been affected heavily by this terrible situation. Once again we have sensational artworks filling our gallery through our general hangings and monthly competitions. Over the last twelve months, it has been pleasing to see a wide range of artists achieve awards for their artworks. Thank you to the hanging team, the judging co-ordinator and judges for their efforts during that time.

Thanks to and in spite of some of the changes, it has been a rewarding twelve months since our last AGM. I thank the knowledgeable Vice-president Rolf Sieber, our hard working Secretary Trish Norton and our ever reliable Treasurer Carol McAnulty for their tireless efforts. Big jobs filled by great individuals. To all our co-ordinators and officers: Janine Hunt, Tom Nott, Dianne Baker, Aspacia Poteri, Genevieve Neale, Jeanette Lewis, Josephine Baddeley, Anne Carswell, Pauline Prouse and Jean Bridges. Thank you for your time and energy. I hope many of you continue to be involved in some way. I thank you for your support and dedication to HBAS.

Change is a part of life but it is how we adapt to it and utilise it to make our world better that is the real achievement. This should continue to be our focus for Hervey Bay Art Society over the next twelve months. One aspect that has changed and not for the better is the number of times our gallery has been closed due to no-one willing to give three hours of their time to supervise the gallery. This was particularly obvious in the afternoons and worse yet on the weekends. Many complaints have been received from locals bringing visitors to the gallery only to find it closed. Many of these locals say they were embarrassed and were unlikely to return. This issue is one that must improve and can only change with each member doing their little bit to give three hours maybe four times a year.

I have found being president a rewarding task mainly due to efforts of those around me. I hope to see more members contributing in the future. I thank you for your on-going support.

Mark Brose (President HBAS)