

FSASA Secretary AGM Report 2011

It may often be considered that the role of Secretary in any organisation is not a glamorous one, but one in fact that could be seen as onerous, or at least uninspiring. Well, having spent my first year as FSASA Secretary, I have to say that while there are certain administrative responsibilities and tasks, there have also been some very pleasing and rewarding activities as well. It is certainly not a role that is dull.

The participation on the Board is one of privilege; working together with a dedicated team of volunteers who have busy lives, but who are passionate about the role of the Friends and the help we can be to current and future students of the South Australian School of Art. Meetings have been lively, events inspiring and activities broad and stimulating, and it is important to recognise the immense amount of work these individuals do in their 'spare time', to organise these.

As the new Secretary, I began by making a few changes to assist the President and the Board in managing our records and meetings by making a few improvements in the filing system of our records and documentation, as well as our agendas and minutes, to reflect our meetings and work in a more efficient manner.

I am delighted that my professional graphic design experience has proven useful in assisting the Friends with design and presentation skills with invitations, certificates and brochures when required.

The highlight of the role of Secretary in the past year, has been the number of people I have met and interacted with over that year, including presenting the 2010 FSASA Art Purchase Exhibition Award to Nina Rupena, and meeting many current as well as up-and-coming artists, setting out in their careers and hearing about their work.

My role has also enabled me to participating in consultations, negotiations and meetings with UniSA, Mads Gaardboe and Andrew Hill of AAD and external interest groups, along with other Board members.

I was also pleased to be chosen to represent the FSASA Board and my experience on the Art, Architecture and Design Advisory Group, who meet 3 times a year to support and provide input into the work and teaching focus of the AAD, including the SASA. This enables the Friends to have a close link through which curriculum ideas, concerns, wishes and plans can be tabled for consideration by AAD and SASA.

Much of the work the Board and I do would not be possible without the unconditional support of the lovely, even tempered Denice Daou, who is always friendly, helpful and willing to do that bit extra for both Jack, myself and the Friends. Many, many thanks Denice.

As Secretary FSASA, the role is very much about supporting the work and activities of the President. Jack Condous has been and is still, a driven, passionate and committed advocate for the Friends, and cares deeply for the role we can play in the support of our members and the support of future artists and graduates of SASA. Working with him this past year has been busy, challenging and hugely rewarding. He is an inspiring individual (as in college days) who continues to press one into doing our best and that little bit more. Many thanks Jack to you and your commitment to the Friends, who survive because of the endless work you do. And a huge thanks also to his wife, Judy, who continues to put up with, and support Jack in this demanding work.

Finally, thanks and appreciation go to the Board members, who, along with Jack, work tirelessly for the Friends, believe in our worth, care and work very hard to ensure that SASA, its students, graduates and identity continues to be respected and successful

Bente Andermahr
Secretary, Friends of SASA