

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT; JACK CONDOUS**

To be presented at the AGM of Friends SASA on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

Dear Friends,

Our third year has passed very quickly. We had 147 members as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and 7 Institutional Members continuing their support. We have had great sponsors continue during this last financial year.

In March 2011 Dr Kym Bonython our beloved Patron passed away. He was a great support to me and to our organization-when ever I made contact he was positive and always wanted to attend our functions. He will be remembered by many members as a wonderful eccentric man who gave so much to the Arts in SA and Australia. A number of our members attended the State funeral and we are grateful that the Premier kindly made available the eulogy he presented at St Peters Cathedral that we posted on our web site for all to read. Kym Bonython attended St Peters College as a student and I read with interest the write up about our former patron in the last school newsletter. Since his death I have had contact with the family who agreed the Kym Bonython Young Achievement Award supported by our sponsors Pro-Lab Imaging will continue as a major award for the coming Art Purchase Exhibition to be held in August/September 2011.

The 2010/11 Board of Friends has worked hard in presenting a variety of stimulating activities for our members. Activities highly successful such as the Symposium with Bill Morrow, Gloria Goddard, Gregor Ramsey and over 17 guest speakers. The unique White Glove event at the Art Gallery of SA with Jenny Aland, Pam Zeplin and Maria Zagala, Curator from the SA Art Gallery, presenting a great experience for those who attended on the day.

We have directed our energies in a diverse range of activities held both within the University and in our community. I continue to believe this has been beneficial to our members and more importantly supporting students and staff at the SASA. We have invited staff and students advertising our guest speaker at our AGM and to all other activities.

## **FUNDRAISING.**

Our fund-raising during 2010/11 has seen \$2500 awarded as Prizes and Travel Scholarships to full-time or part-time students who are studying at the SASA. The first of our prizes was awarded to Belinda Woods in December 2010-this Prize will continue in 2011 and the Travel Award to be presented in December 2011 for the first time. We have asked the Director SASA to inform us of the appropriate direction of such Prizes or awards for 2012. Members may also wish to inform the Board of future directions.

Friends SASA has a direct role to support SASA where it can and when it can through important projects whether it is scholarships, the History Project, special celebrations, achievements and material requirements in the future. Funds have been raised by membership and by raffles. We have had special events to raise funds (eg Max Lyle event interviewed by Jack Cross). Sales of art works, donated art works, prints, and cartoons have all contributed to our funds. More copies of the 3 cartoons are still available with copies given as a gift to the AAD. The three original cartoons by Hugo Shaw have all been sold at a profit. Sales of wine and Vintage Port have been well supported by members helping raise considerable funds to assist meet our objectives for Prizes or Scholarships.

At our end of year function held to coincide with the end of the academic year of the University, certificates of appreciation were given to 12 of our members and to our Institutional Members and Sponsors. This was a very successful event held at the SASA Gallery, acknowledging the support Friends SASA have received. Here a cheque for \$2500 was present to the Marketing and Development Unit for the 2011 Scholarship Program available as a Prize and Travelling Scholarship.

## **EXHIBITIONS.**

Many of our members are professional artists who have continually expressed a desire to exhibit their work. Many have said this is a very strong reason for joining Friends SASA-they wish to exhibit with colleagues. Over 100 of our members have since our first exhibition exhibited with Friends SASA. Whether at the "Second of the Friends" Exhibition, Regency Medical Clinic or other venues around South Australia-sale of art works have filled our bank balance as well as the artist's pocket. Whilst we may not have made a huge profit by using the Adelaide Festival Centre Foyer (Festival Trust charged 20% of all sales-\$1860 to use the venue and over \$1000 for opening the bar and drinks) many favourable comments were received from members and the general public. This venue, the official opening by Minister John Hill, lots of special guests and sponsors (with a good attendance by our members) was a most successful event. A special thankyou to Lyn Robins for the use of her machine for visa transactions at our exhibitions. Six works were sold at the opening of this exhibition.

## **SASA WITHIN THE STRUCTURE ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN AT UNISA.**

The SASA continues to enjoy its high standard and reputation in our community. The Friends Board and many of our members are passionate about the name within the structure of the University and continue to remind many of the Unisa staff of the exceptional artists who have emerged over the 150 year history, from the fine training and work of this very important Institution. It is interesting having just returned from Canada, what they have done, particularly in Vancouver B.C., where fine art institutions continue autonomously in a vibrant artistic community.

The University of SA is a big institution- we are in many ways fortunate to work within this Unisa structure, however if not careful one can be "lost, drowned and absorbed by the amorphous mass".

## **INVITATIONS**

Over the past 12 months I have attended a number of functions at Unisa. A special luncheon was held in February with the Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Hoj and a select group of the Board of Friends. Follow-up meetings with Professor Nigel Relph, Professor Mads Gaardboe, Professor Kay Lawrence and Andrew Hill have been held. As a result of the meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs Bente Andermahr, Secretary of Friends Board, was subsequently appointed to the AAD Advisory Committee. Invitations to exhibitions are received and on four occasions this year, I have been invited to open member artist's exhibitions at the Prospect Gallery, David Sumner Gallery, Trinity College and Art Images Gallery. Over 800 Alumni continue to receive our information through the Development Unit of Unisa. A particular thankyou to Yvonne Clark and Helen Black for their assistance and support.

## **USE OF FACILITIES AT UNISA/INVOLVEMENT STAFF/STUDENTS**

Friends SASA continue to successfully negotiate use of the Unisa facilities eg Bradley Forum, Board Room, office space, use of Gallery Spaces and equipment for exhibitions. We are again very fortunate that we have not had to pay for hire of these facilities, printing costs, use of office space or use of equipment. Thus giving us more funds for Scholarships or other projects.

With the assistance of Yvonne East we presented the work of the Board of Friends at the beginning of this academic year to over 250 Visual Art students studying at the SASA. This was highly successful. Invitations continue to be issued to Graduate and Undergraduate students to learn about and to join in any of our activities. 10 students were supported by AAD and Hill-Smith Gallery to attend the very successful Symposium in October 2010. Many students joined assisting the hanging the Art Purchase Exhibition in August last year and this year at the Adelaide Show Students working along side of experienced artists/members of Friends SASA.

The staffs of SASA have all continually been invited to join and participate in our activities.

Professor Kay Lawrence, Director SASA joined our Board in February 2011, as the representative on the Friends Board, replacing Dr Pam Zeplin- a two year academic rotation of appointment came into operation with the approval of the Head of AAD Professor Mads Gaardboe.

## **RECRUITMENT**

We have tried a few incentives and as I write my report over 65 members have renewed their membership for the 2011/12 financial year. A bottle of complementary Vintage Port as an incentive for early renewal can be collected after the AGM.

This still remains a major challenge for our organization. The personal approach to friends, colleagues, by all of us to join Friends SASA seems to work well.

## **PUBLICITY and MARKETING**

The web site has been a major success. I reported how we had just over 70,000 hits to our site last August. Today you will be pleased to learn we have had over 190,000 hits. An increase of 120,000 hits last financial year.

It was decided at our last Board meeting to assist raising revenue and to assist cover our costs, we would charge \$30 for an individual to post their invitations/information on our web pages under "Member Matters". Obviously our Institutional Members who pay \$100 per year would not pay this charge as their information is downloaded onto a special page.

The newsletter published 3 times per year is proving very popular and more people are taking advantage of contributing to this publication. Most members receive this by email; however our constitution requires all members to be notified in writing for our AGM. Those not on emails receive hard copy by post. Dr Jenny Aland continues to do a superb job with both the newsletter and the design and maintenance of our web site. I am continually receiving and forwarding suitable material for her use. I wish to encourage you to continue using this publication and make your contribution no matter how small.

It is much appreciated to all who have responded with old photos, articles or information for newsletter use and for the history project.

## **SPONSORS**

Pimlott Framing, Premier Art Supplies, The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, SASA, RSASA, Art Images Gallery, Hill Smith Gallery, Samstag Project, Craft South, Scarpantoni Estate Wines, The Real Distributor and Pro-Lab Imaging all continue to support Friends SASA in a variety of valuable ways. Over \$1200 was donated supporting the Second of the Friends "exhibition this year. Barton's Financial Planning and Wealth Management continued their generous financial support for the second exhibition.

## **THANKS TO 2010/11 BOARD**

Thankyou to Pamela Karran as Publicity/Events Coordinator organizing a number of very successful activities over the past 12 months. To Gerry Colella who continues as our successful photographer and promoted, obtaining and selling our wine. To Brian Budgen for his support with wine sales, design work particularly our new logo which has been widely applied and of course his sign writing skills.

To David Northcote as Membership Officer and especially Garrie Hisco ,(as Treasurer) has in his 3 years done a superb job indicating a growth and strengthening of our financial position during his term of office. To Yvonne East for applying her youth, her special skills and talents to the Board's advantage and in particular supporting us by travelling from Victor Harbour to our meetings. To Gloria Goddard with her vast experience and dedication in assisting with art shows and in presenting the second major exhibition so successfully.

A big thankyou to Bente Andemahr, for her meticulous secretarial work over the first 12 months of her appointment. She has organized all those meticulous/necessary procedures for the smooth running of our organization. To Jack Cross for his support and wisdom. To the Vice-President Bill Morrow, who has assisted the Board and myself in particular in the adoption of our constitution and whose expertise in matters of law we have valued enormously.

A special thankyou to all the artists for your support and generosity in contributing art works or prints (for sale through our web site) or through our functions.

A special thankyou to Dr Pam Zeplin who retired from the Board in February 2011 and to Dr Jenny Aland for her continued valuable research work for the History Project.

A number of the present Board of Friends will be retiring at this AGM.

Many having served 3 years since the of Friends SASA -beginning in August 2008. I feel certain we would wish to thank them for their service on our Board.

## **JACK CONDOUS**

**PRESIDENT FRIENDS SASA - 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2011.**