

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-JACK CONDOUS

FRIENDS SASA-AUGUST AGM 2009.

A year has passed with over 140 members joining and hopefully enjoying Friends SASA. With this strong start our Patron Dr Kym Bonython has attended our functions and welcomed us at our meetings in his home, keeping him informed of our progress. Max Lyle has played a large part in this.

The Committee elected in the Bradley Forum last August, has worked hard to clarify its role, its functions and has directed its energy to achieve, in this short space of time valuable outcomes for the benefit of our members and more importantly supporting the students and staff of the SASA.

Donation has come from many members in the form of cash, goods, services or art works. Many donated art works (7 works alone by Ann Newmarch) have been sold raising over \$3000 in our first year of operation. Donations have also been used for the important History Project.

We are hoping to raise more funds with our coming exhibition as the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre is allowing us to use the Kerry Packer Civic Gallery for our coming exhibition, with commission on works sold, going directly to our Friends to use for the community.

Friends SASA started at a time when important changes were occurring in the University with the merger of the SASA and the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture. On the 1st June 2009 many of us attended the launch of Art, Architecture and Design. Professor Mads Gaardboe and John Barbour have continually supported the work of the Friends with many suggestions or ideas put forwarded for the benefit of our organization. It is pleasing to be able to report that this has been handled with care and sensitivity leading to an exciting form of operation for the future. Friends SASA has a direct role to support the SASA where and when it can through the history project, scholarships and material identified by the School.

Friends SASA has successfully negotiated within the University its place, using the services and organization eg use of the Bradley Forum, use of the Civic Gallery for our coming exhibition, invitations to numerous SASA Gallery exhibition and events, use of the Board room for our meetings etc. A particular thank you to the retired Professor Kay Lawrence, to Professor Mads Gaardboe, Head of Art, Architecture and Design and to John Barbour, Director of SASA. Doors have been opened, welcoming us to their place of work. This was very evident at our recent tour of the School of Art, Architecture and Design where 20 members visited the schools facilities. A particular thankyou to staff of Art, Architecture and Design: Denice, Christine, Jan, Sharee, Pam, Jacinta and Koula, the Architectural Museum Staff, the Library staff and SASA Gallery Staff for their generous time and assistance.

We have successfully negotiated, in our first year of operation, the use of the University newspaper to advertise our events and to use the University's web pages to disseminate information about our activities. I classify our organization as a new one but we are indeed very fortunate in being able to access such wonderful resources and facilities where the SASA enjoys a high reputation within the University and community.

Staff have been most welcoming, joined as members, and have participated in our activities during this past year. A particular thankyou to Pam Zeplin as the staff representative who has given me and my committee advice and assistance during the year. She has, at times, needed to keep my own enthusiasm in check.

Recruitment of Members

I guess we will all say 140 new members is a good start for any organization, many joining as Foundation Members. Our opportunity to recruit more people is a real challenge. Another challenge is for our organization to encourage you to now rejoin. We have produced our new pamphlet and membership card. These have been circulated widely, with public releases to galleries, institutions and organizations. We have found the best method of getting people to join is the personal approach made by many of our committee. Now we have our own web site people can more readily access our information.

We have used the Adelaide Review, RSASA, Adelaide Art Society, other newspapers/newsletters, the Helpman Academy" Update" magazine and three of the Art Galleries that are Institutional members to disseminate our information.

Our newsletter with our first 2 editions produced by Louise Roberts has been well received and circulated widely. Our latest edition produced by Jenny Aland again has been very well received as has the web site Jenny has so tirelessly produced. In the first 3 weeks our site had over 1400 hits throughout Australia and overseas.

Thankyou to Louise and more recently to Jenny for her work and to all those members who have contributed photos or articles to disseminate to others.

Thanks to the 2008/09 Committee.

To Pamela Karran as events coordinator organizing a number of successful activities and Gerry Colella for his excellent photography work. Brian Budgen for his work in posters, and signage. To David Northcote for looking after membership. Garrie Hisco a diligent treasurer. Yvonne East for her assistance and design of the invitation for our coming exhibition. Gloria Goddard for accepting the job as curator of our coming show together with a sub-group of members. To Ruth Flaherty our retiring Secretary-we hope your health is improving. To Jack Cross for your kind advice, wisdom and assistance.

To Winnie Pelz also retiring, wishing you all the best in your new ventures. Your interview with Geoff Wilson was excellent, raising near \$1000 .We hope we can call on your expertise in the future. (See our web pages to access this).

Thank you to Sarah Roberts as our overseas correspondent particularly for her research of friends /alumni groups with Chelsea College of Art and Royal College in the UK.

A big thankyou to Pam Zeplin and Jenny Aland for their continual research and work on the History Project with the help of many of our members. This is proving to be an exciting project where you have seen photos and short pieces published in our newsletter and on our web pages.

I must also thank Gareth Thomas for his technical assistance and advice.

Our Sponsors.

Pimlott Framing, Premier Art Supplies, Tim Russell Construction, Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre,SASA Gallery, Hill-Smith Gallery,BMG Art,Scarpantoni Estate Wines, Ross Savvas Gourmet cheeses, The Distributors, Barton's Accounting and Wealth Management and Eckerleys have all been very generous in these difficult economic times.

Please keep your eye open for several articles on our organization to appear in the September editions of the Adelaide review and the UNISA newspaper. We have written to 80 firms in Adelaide inviting them to preview the art works of our coming exhibition with the hope they will be prepared to purchase works.

Finally –I have found it to be an exciting first year of operation.

I would like to ask you a question: Are you satisfied as members with our organization? If you have suggestions which will improve our way of communicating/working please let us know.

I have enjoyed this first year as your President. It has been hard work but rewarding. I hope you feel the same.

I would like to move this report be received.

Jack Condous

President SASA for the AGM 2008/09