



Friends of the South Australian School of Art Inc

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FRIENDS SASA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: JACK CONDOUS

To be presented at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Friends SASA, 19th August, 2010.

DEAR FRIENDS

Our second year has passed so quickly. We have 147 financial members at the end of June and 7 Institutional Members, hopefully enjoying Friends SASA. Our Patron Dr Kym Bonython continues in his role and has continued to be very interested in our organization.

The first committee elected in 2008 resigned in July 2009 and sought re-election at our 2009 AGM, all for a two year appointment- thus allowing a continuity of operation for our Committee. One position is available for nomination at this AGM, as our current Secretary Lyn Robins wishes to relinquish her position and play a significant role in the future on the Exhibition Sub-Committee and mastermind workshops with her expertise, to meet our member needs.

The 2009/10 Committee has worked hard to continually clarify our role, its functions- thus directing its energy in a diverse range of activities held both within the University and in our community. This I believe has seen valuable outcomes for the benefit of our members and more importantly supporting the high reputation of students and staff of the South Australian School of Art (SASA).

Fund raising during this year (2009/10) has seen a \$1000 prize to be awarded for the first time to full-time or part-time students who are undertaking a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Specialisation) or Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication) program at UniSA.

During the past 12 months I am pleased to be able to report that we have had 2 successful exhibitions- one held at the Kerry Packer Civic Gallery in September/October 2009 and the other at the Regency Medical Centre in May 2010. 50 of our members have exhibited in these 2 shows and 20 works have been sold adding a handsome amount through commission of these sales.

A third exhibition is being planned titled "Second of the Friends" in the foyer of the Adelaide Festival Centre from 17th April until 21st May 2011. More details will be announced as we finalize our plans. Planning for this event commenced in May with Gloria Goddard and I visiting Galleries. In the meantime with the experience of our first show we plan to make a submission to Arts SA to support this significant project of Friends in 2011.

SASA WITHIN ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN AT UNISA

As indicated at our last AGM important changes were occurring in the UNISA with the merger of SASA and the Louise Laybourne Smith School of Architecture. Whilst we all know and hear that funding is a major issue for many Art Schools throughout Australia, I am pleased to be able to inform you that this transition to Art, Architecture and Design within the Unisa has been handled with care and sensitivity. The South Australian School of Art enjoys a continuation of high standards and reputation in our Community and throughout

Australia. We have all read in our last newsletter a report of student achievements over the past 6 months kindly provided by the Acting Director of SASA Mr Andrew Hill.

Working within UniSA (Art, Architecture & Design) Structure

Support and appreciation of our work has been forthcoming on a continual basis from the Head of Art, Architecture and Design, Professor Mads Gaardboe and Director of SASA John Barbour. (I know at this time we all wish to pass onto John our best wishes and speedy recovery in his recent illness). A particular thank you to staff of SASA (Art, Architecture and Design) welcoming us to their work place.

NEW LOGO

In 2009/10 we have our new logo up and running, we have a box postal address and an interview room as a part-time office where our filing /office work can be made easier on an ongoing basis. A particular thank you to Denice Daou, Jan Wissell, Christina Penhall, Sharee Kuchel, Jacinta Hughes, Koula Bouras and SASA Gallery Staff for their generous time, advice and assistance.

Friends SASA has a direct role to support SASA where and when it can, through the continuation of important projects whether it be the History Project, Scholarship and material requirements in the future.

We have held special events to raise funds for these purposes (eg Ann Newmarch interviewed by Jack Cross raised around \$1000) We will continue to do so by securing distinguished guests during this financial year.

I hope you will support our plans which began in April, for the following exciting activities that will happen commencing at the beginning of September 2010. These include:

- Art Purchase Exhibiton: Curated by Jack Condous with Judges.
- Paul Hogan and Andrew Hill: A special Kym Bonython Award.
- Workshops by Lyn Robins: Introduction to Water-Colour 28/8/10, and Pen & Wash-Tradition & Beyond 18/9/10.
- A "White Glove Event at the Art Gallery of SA on Friday 22nd October.
- A Symposium run by Vice-President Bill Morrow 30th & 31st October.
- Creativity in Teaching workshop run by Ron Corso & Stuart Gluth on 26th November 2010.

All of these are for the benefit of our members and the general community. I hope you can support these as well as our fund-raising through our wine sales that started at the end of June 2010.

Sales of prints and cartoons by Ann Newmarch, Toni Corso and Hugo Shaw have seen a profitable gain for Friends SASA. Friends of SASA member/artist Lois Turner has kindly donated \$100 to the History project for every work sold at her exhibitions over \$1000. All these activities in the past year or planned for this year indicate a vibrant committee wanting to do these for all to benefit-your continued support for their success is needed.

INVITATIONS

I have attended, at the invitation of the Chancellor, a number of functions at UniSA eg Festival openings, Graduation Ceremonies, Graduate Art Shows and Development Unit functions. Over 60 invitations have been received during the year to art exhibitions: exhibitions by members, staff or students at the Unisa or at Member Institutional organizations. This has been an exciting aspect of the work of the President although I have not been able to attend all these functions and wonderful exhibitions.

Over 800 Alumni have been identified by the Development Unit to receive our material - informing all of our events/activities. The Development Unit of UniSA has been most supportive advertising our events-publicizing these in University news and other publications. A particular thankyou to Yvonne Clark and Helen Black from this Unit. I would also like to thank Lindley King (who we seconded to our committee in 2010) for her excellent paper giving our organization a solid basis for development in this area.

Friends SASA continue to successfully negotiate use of the UNISA facilities eg Bradley Forum, Board Room, Civic Gallery, use of Gallery Spaces and equipment for exhibitions. We are very fortunate that we have not had to pay for hire of these facilities or equipment. Invitations have been issued to Graduates and Undergraduates to learn about our activities/events and I hope we can play a more prominent role informing students of our organization at "orientation week", on special occasions or by special arrangements.

The staff of SASA have made us all welcome-some have joined or participated in our activities during this year. A particular thankyou to Dr Pam Zeplin in her second year as Staff Representative.

RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

As I indicated at our last AGM, recruitment of new members to our organization remains a real challenge. Over 80 Graduates completed their studies at the end of 2009 and received their awards at the Graduation ceremony. Our opportunity to recruit these people and others is a real challenge. We wrote to each of these graduates offering a range of assistance but with little success. Another challenge we face is to encourage current members to continue their membership and for you to play a more significant role in our organization. If we could only harness the talent and ability of our members in our organization, I feel confident we will advance enormously. The personal approach to many members has worked, however to my mind an untapped resource, amongst our members still remains to be captured.

PUBLICITY & MARKETING

Access to our information has improved over the last 12 months through our stimulating web pages and newsletter. With over 70,000 hits on our web pages -coming from so many countries is very exciting. Our newsletter has proved popular and a major source of communication-we have hardened our stance as the newsletter will now be posted to members and not be posted on our web pages for 2 months in order to encourage more people to join our Friends SASA and receive this communication. Dr Jenny Aland continues to do a superb job with both the newsletter and the design and maintenance of our website. We commend you to keep information coming for us to use in future editions or on our website.

If you feel you have the skills and wish to assist us in any or both of these important avenues of communication please let us know so that we can ease the burden for Jenny and myself. A structure of sub-committees is proposed for future operations so that more and more of you can participate and contribute no matter how small. Please let us know how you would like to contribute.

THANKS TO THE 2009/10 COMMITTEE

Thankyou to Pamela Karran as Events Coordinator organizing a number of very successful activities. To Gerry Colella who continues as our official photographer. Brian Budgen for his design work and sign writing skills. To David Northcote for designing our new brochure and meticulously looking after our membership of Friends SASA. To Garrie Hisco who as you will

hear soon has had to handle a lot more funds as our organization grows. To Yvonne East for her assistance and support travelling from Victor Harbour to our meetings to make her valuable contribution. Gloria Goddard has brought a depth of experience, knowledge and assistance to our committee having spent many hours as Curator of the "First of the Friends" Exhibition that proved highly successful. If you wish to assist with other shows through our Exhibition sub-committee please see Gloria or myself.

A big thankyou to Lyn Robins who I persuaded to take on the role of secretary: however she will be stepping down from this position in order to assist more with the Exhibition work and to provide her expertise via workshop activities for our members and community. Thankyou Lyn for your work over the past 12 months. To Jack Cross again for your wisdom, encouragement and assistance with the interview of Ann Newmarch that was highly successful. To the Vice-President Bill Morrow who has played a significant role in the changes to our constitution and whose expertise in matters of law we have valued enormously.

A special thankyou to our member Ann Newmarch for your continued generosity of time for the 1st April 2010 function and the numerous prints donated and sold over the last 12 months assisting our fund raising in a major way.

A big thankyou to Dr Pam Zeplin and Dr Jenny Aland for their continued research and work on the History Project (for which I am pleased to inform you Friends SASA have so far made a contribution and commitment of \$2000) towards this project. With more modern forms of technology emerging in the future eg 'E-book', I feel certain a publication can occur sooner rather than later. If you know of a sponsor to support this project please let us know. Friends SASA Committee are committed to this project, as well as providing and supporting a range of other activities to meet the variety of our objectives as stated in our Constitution and particularly to meet your needs and those of the SASA.

I know that the History Project, together with the work done currently to present "A White Glove Event" at the Art Gallery of SA on 22nd October 2010 will prove to be very exciting projects. Here we ask you to support this event at which Jenny and Pam, with the invaluable assistance of Maria Zagala, Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs at the Art Gallery of South Australia, will present rarely seen works on paper by artists who were staff or students at the SASA for 100 year period: from 1861 to 1961.

OUR SPONSORS

Pimlott Framing, Premier Art Supplies, The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, SASA Gallery, RSASA, Art Images, Hill-Smith Gallery, Samstag Project, CraftSouth, Scarpantoni Estate Wines, The Real Distributor and Pro-Lab Imaging all continue to support Friends SASA. in a variety of valuable ways.

FINALLY

I have enjoyed my 2 years as President of Friends SASA. I have to keep telling myself that many of you are still working, retired or working on your own "masterpiece" to exhibit. We are a voluntary organization with a voluntary committee who come together to perform a variety of tasks in support of past and present scholars of SASA (within Art, Architecture and Design fitting within the structure of the UNISA). We come together as members to support a variety of projects and activities with goodwill and friendship.

Your ongoing support of the work of Friends SASA is a vital element in the valuable contribution we make not only to the work of the South Australian School of Art but also to that of the visual arts community generally.

JACK CONDOUS
President Friends SASA
9th August, 2010