



Artists Society of Canberra Inc

Annual Report 2018/2019 Financial Year

Prepared by:

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PO Box 3629
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ASOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 25 AUGUST 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My first year as President has been a bit of a roller coaster, but on reflection, has been a good productive year. Every event was a success and I am pleased to report that in the face of ever-increasing rental and running expenses we have run a tight ship and not had to pass on any costs to members.

Of course, the year would not have been the successful it was without the support of the Management Committee, and all our extremely hard-working volunteers. I particularly want to thank our Secretary Beth Johnston. Beth has kept me on track, tidied up in my wake and worked her socks off to get us to where we are now. Beth is stepping down for personal reasons, but will continue as a committee member and SAE coordinator.

I want to also give special thanks to our Treasurer Stephen Clively who willingly took on the job when Paige Le found her work/education/homelife balance did not allow her to commit to the high demands of ASOC. Although no longer with ASOC, Paige's hard work, particularly getting us through the Spring Exhibition, deserves our thanks. Stephen has worked incredibly hard to ensure that we are meeting our financial obligations, and bed down a new payment system. 2018/19 has been a year of change and this has not always been an easy task.

Everyone who has worked for ASOC deserves huge thanks; Public Officer Sue Reynolds, who has worked tirelessly to gain our long awaited charity status; Josie White our Workshops Coordinator who is fighting the good fight to keep workshops on the agenda; our very patient Membership Secretary Sue Cook; thanks also to Kathleen Mills the studio manager who has recently handed over to Kiran Grewal, thank you both, the studio is our home, it deserves to be loved, and it is. Thank you, Michaela Laurie, the newsletter editor who never seems to tire of reminding us of deadlines and never fails to produce a lovely read.... on time. Jenny Millet, the queen of our website, working quietly in the background in the mystical world of zeros and ones, is a powerhouse of technical know-how – thank you Jenny from everyone who has ever clicked on asoc.net.au.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the regular Management Committee members - Steve Tomlin, our cool design guru, Hans Van Haalen our 'good with numbers' Assistant Treasurer and Bill Causbrook with his can-do attitude and trusty trailer. Thanks, and farewell to Alison Sewell the key register manager and assistant for everything, Alison will be stepping down to take off travelling. Thanks also to Vice President Renae Morris who was prevented from attending a lot of meetings due to the constraints of mothering one small child and having another one during her term. Renae, who helped a lot behind the scenes with social media and the website makeover, will be stepping down to focus on the littlies.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in Workgroups; our Coordinator Tim Hardy and the individual Convenors and Deputy Convenors, your work is appreciated by everyone fortunate enough to have a place in a group.

I want to thank and congratulate all those members who have promoted art and ASOC through

workshops, exhibitions, competitions and private commissions. I won't attempt to name everyone, just thank you all.

I particularly want to congratulate Ann Mawhinney who won first prize at the Merimbula and District Art Group, Annual Art Exhibition in the category of "Other works on paper" for her pastel entitled "Calf hiding from Mum", and Sukhvinder Saggu whose abstract painting 'Push and Pull' won 2nd prize in the "International Artist" magazine challenge "Abstract and Experimental" theme.

Heartfelt thanks to EVERYONE who turned up to help when the call went out. Seriously we could not have survived without your generosity and good humour.

On a very sad note we lost our dedicated Librarian Jean Willoughby, Jean worked for ASOC up until the new committee took over in September 2018. It was a great shock to report her sudden death just recently. The Library is getting ready for a makeover, but more pressing tasks have taken precedence this year.

While thanking all involved in creating a successful year, we should not forget our sponsors who have generously supported us. I urge all members to use their services and make sure that ASOC is mentioned at the time. A list of supporters and sponsors is in the body of this year's report.

When I first took up the role of President I was very keen to hear from members, to discover what they wanted from ASOC, I talked of a planning day where everyone could contribute, and an online survey was planned (we still have it, just waiting to go). However, it became clear that we had to be aware of our legislative obligations and strategic direction first.

We engaged a consultant and had an energetic planning day for Management Committee members in March. Working from our values and core activities, we closely examined our governance and priorities and came out with a list of issues and a comprehensive action plan.

Since then we have spent a lot of time and energy in setting up a robust governance structure for ASOC. After attending a number of grant information sessions it was clear to me that we had to have tighter financial management policies and succession planning; while setting up online commerce we discovered that we needed privacy statements and refund policies; when applying for charity status we were required to have conflict of interest and complaints policies, an incident leading to an ongoing insurance claim highlighted the need for greater health and safety policies. A number of policies have been written and signed off by the Management Committee, there are still more to go. The list of policies is in the body of this report.

It is anticipated that a comprehensive handbook, with all the information needed to run ASOC effectively will soon be available, this will form part of our succession plan and lead to much easier handovers.

Which brings me to the matter of committee vacancies, please consider coming on board. An organization like ASOC is only as good as it's members. Over the years it has been members that have made ASOC the oldest ongoing cultural organization in Canberra. It has been members who have supported and nurtured each other, in good times and bad. This is an organization to be really proud of. I'm often asked what the difference is between us and other art groups, and I have thought long

and hard about this, but my answer is in the name – we are an ARTISTS society. Not just an art group, or a workshop provider, we are a society of artists. We run the show independently, without funding, in a way that works for all our members, entirely on volunteered time and energy.

To continue doing this we need people. Please consider nominating for a position on the 2019/20 Management Committee. I believe working on a voluntary basis should have an element of satisfaction and a bit of fun, we all do our best, we all hope we get it right, and so far, we mostly have. If the prospect of taking on a role seems a bit daunting, all members are invited to attend Management Committee meetings as silent observers

And that members planning day? It will still happen. We need to rewrite our Strategic Plan in 2020 and your input will be vital for our future.

Vickie Hingston-Jones
22/08/19

2018 – 2019 Management Committee

President:	Vickie Hingston-Jones
Vice President:	Renae Morris – standing down
Secretary:	Beth Johnston – standing down
Treasurer:	Stephen Clively (replaced Paige Le)
Assistant Treasurer:	Hans van Haalen

Members:

Susan Reynolds (Public Officer) - term ended

Sue Cook (Membership Secretary) – term ended

Josie White (Workshops Coordinator)

Alison Sewell - standing down

Steve Tomlin

Bill Causbrook

Key achievements

- Membership increased.
- The 2018 Spring Exhibition was a success with a large number of sales and a financial surplus.
- The 2018 Catchment Groups Exhibition was a success with a large number of sales and a financial surplus.
- The Summer Art Experience was a success and achieved a financial surplus.
- A partnership was formed with Lanyon Homestead.
- Workgroups flourished but income was lower than in 2017-18.
- Financial and reporting obligations were met without having to draw on investment accounts.
- Charity status granted

Governance

Management Actions

- Held a consultant led planning and development day to establish a workable action plan
- Applied for, and granted, registration as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission.
- Cancelled PayPal account due to unresolved issues
- Opened eWay account for secure payments
- Investigated outsourcing booking our scheme, decided on WooCommerce
- Appointed a Workgroups Coordinator
- Held consultative meeting and surveyed workgroups.
- Introduced guest speakers at Management Committee meetings
- Established a Key Register

Policy documents accepted and signed off by MC

- Management Committee members legal responsibilities
- Conflict of interest
- Privacy
- Sub-committees
- Health & safety policy and reporting procedure
- Workshops (work in progress)
- Workgroups
- Membership
- Financial control and reporting
 - Upcoming -
 - Conflict resolution
 - Document retention
 - Complaints handling
 - Media relations
 - Refunds
 - Copyright

Forms accepted and signed off by MC

- Register of conflicts
- Request to establish new workgroup
- Accident/incident report
- Expenses claim form
- Workgroup fees record
 - Upcoming -
 - Document retention & disposal
 - Workgroup exhibition report

Studio Management

- New chairs were purchased
- The donation table was de-commissioned due to a build up of unwanted items
- New drop sheets were purchased
- The studio was rearranged and cleared of unnecessary clutter

Communication

Social Media

- The ASOC Facebook page has 1144 followers with high engagement and some posts reaching over 2500.
- A separate Members Only Facebook page has been set up, there are currently 24 in the group, it is a good space to swap views and thoughts that are not necessarily suited to the public page. Members are encouraged to join.
- Our Instagram account has over 1000 followers.
- President's Email Updates are read by about 68% of members.
- The ASOC website has been updated and receives a steady stream of traffic. The move towards paperless and more secure financial transactions has seen a good uptake of online memberships, renewals and exhibition entries.
- The ASOC newsletter continues to provide in-depth features and information. Members are encouraged to read the electronic newsletter to help reduce the print publication's costs.

Monthly Member's Meetings

Members' Meeting drew a solid core of attendees. In the past financial year members have:

- met the new Management Committee
- brought along and talked about their most memorable creation
- learnt how to price an artwork
- shared their SAE experiences
- discussed the definition of medium categories
- been inspired by guest speakers Jodie Cunningham (the business side of art) and Paul Murray (art studies at CiT)
- deconstructed the Spring Exhibition
- learnt more about workgroups
- and generally enjoyed each others company, ideas and views

The Management Committee welcomes suggestions for future gatherings.

Events

The Spring Exhibition 16-25 November 2018

The Spring Exhibition entries comprised 75 oils, 68 watercolours, 41 acrylics, 38 mixed medium, 21 pastels, 21 drawing, 17 in printmaking and digital art, 20 miniatures, 17 Sculptures (open competition), and 170 works by students of the "Specialist" schools of Canberra.

Opening speaker Dr David Headon gave a rousing address on the importance of art in an historical and contemporary context. Judges were: Dr Deborah Hart, Head of Australian Art and Senior Curator of Australian Painting and Sculpture, National Gallery of Australia; Terence Maloon, Director of Australian National University Drill Hall Gallery; and Dr Amanda Stuart, Field Studies Coordinator, Environment Studio and Sculpture Lecturer, School of Art and Design, ANU School of Art; and for the Student/School Awards – Mr Jeffree Skewes, Head of the Art Studio MAP,

The exhibition was an outstanding success with sales greater than any previously recorded. The quality of work was generally observed as being of a very high standard. The previously untried Fitter's Workshop was an excellent venue in an accessible location. There was strong positive feedback from members of the public, our sponsors and exhibitors. Community interest in ASOC in general and the SAE was high.

It is estimated that over 1200 people visited the exhibition over the 10 days, with 79 paintings and two sculptures sold, value \$23,122.00. Final surplus \$1,571

It is regrettable that due to unforeseen circumstance the Specialist Schools have withdrawn from the 2019 Exhibition

The Judges' comments on the individual selections and winners were published in the October/November 2017 Newsletter. Photos of all the works can be seen on the ASOC Facebook page.

Thanks to everyone involved it was a huge effort and went without a hitch – at least none that we will admit. We thank all the sponsors, supporters and volunteers who made this outstanding event possible

The Summer Art Experience - 7-11 January 2019

An overall very successful event. Despite a slow start seven classes ran with 74 participants. Final surplus \$10,657 This achievement would not have been possible without our volunteers, the organisers, those doing the heaving hauling, those working in the background, the fabulous catering ladies and everyone who helped. Full account in the February/March newsletter

The ASOC/ACT Catchment Groups Open Art Exhibition - 11-18 April 2019

For 2019 the theme was "Space" to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the landing on the Moon, and its association with the Heritage Site - Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station. We have Alan Jones to thank for doing all the ground work for this event.

When it was discovered that last year's venue, the Fitters Workshop, was not available, a decision was made to make an approach to the Management of the Canberra Centre.

Extensive negotiations moved us from a restricted display for a few paintings to a large space on the first floor then a quick move to an even larger space on the ground floor to accommodate our surprisingly large number of entries.

Judges, Wayne Roberts and Peter Alwast, were impressed by the quality of work and had a hard time selecting the winning works. ASOC was well and truly on display and attracted immense community engagement. The exhibition looked beautiful, and, of 87 entries, 31 works were sold, totaling \$11,400 and we gained several new members and a \$3,161 surplus. Full account in the February/March newsletter.

Other Exhibitions

Congratulations to everyone who exhibited at other exhibitions. With pieces from all workgroups, Same Time, Same Place drew a good crowd at M16. Other workgroups held various exhibitions throughout the year. Members were reminded that our insurance company needs to be advised of events taking place outside the studio. A workgroups exhibition report/review form is planned for future events, this will be useful to assess the success of venues and ensure insurance compliance.

M16 and ASOC Studio Open Day - 3 August 2019

The studio open day was well attended and a great opportunity to showcase some excellent works and generally promote ASOC. The Saturday Sessions Group and Saturday Oils put on a fabulous display of their work, demonstrated painting and talked to the visitors while being serenaded by the jazz band in the foyer. Thank you to everyone who exhibited and helped.

Programs

Workshops

The Workshop Program for 2018/19 reflected the exploding number of art workshop offerings in the region. A full and varied program was offered, however of ten artists that were invited and agreed to take part, seven failed to proceed due to lack of numbers. One workshop was cancelled by the artist due to unforeseen circumstances and he did not reschedule. Chan Diassanayake ran an 8-week watercolour class that attracted barely enough participants.

It has become increasingly difficult to compete with organisations that can offer lower prices and larger spaces. In an attempt to survive in a very competitive situation, we will be looking at how ASOC might create a new niche market in the current environment, possibly a shift of focus to foundation courses leading into an SAE Workshop with encouragement to join a workgroup then exhibit at the

Spring Exhibition.

Our Workshop Coordinator Josie White continues to follow up suggestions for tutors made by members and to source additional instructors. She has also published an Expression of Interest notice on the website for 2020. It is open to artists/tutors to submit a workshop outline at any time. We are very thankful for Josie's hard work and tenacity during difficult times.

Our mutual agreement with the Canberra Art Workshop to run a combined Workshop Program, continues. This allows members access on an equal basis to either of the organisation's events continued. NatureArtLab also offers generous discounts to our members.

Workgroups

Maintaining the learning environment within ASOC, workgroups play a vital role in the life of our Society. 11 workgroups are in operation over six days of the week, Monday to Saturday, occupying the studio each morning and afternoon.

Income from Workgroups covers a substantial amount of the studio rent. Current legislation requires not for profit organisations to operate a secure and transparent financial structure, as well as a safe working environment. This obligation led us to examining how workgroups were managed.

In January 2019, a survey was carried out to investigate a number of aspects of the operations of workgroups. The results of the survey showed that groups operated in various ways with very little consistency. A total workgroup registration of 144 was reported. How many ASOC members this represents we do not know, because there are members who attend more than one workgroup during the week.

Groups ranged in size from 6 to 37. Large groups represent a safety issue and small groups represent missed opportunities if vacancies are not advertised. Fees had been collected in a number of ways and were often difficult to track. Workgroups appeared to operate organically and, although successful for members, many failed to meet current governance requirements and created a lot of work for the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

With all factors considered, and after lengthy discussion, a Workgroups Policy was created and circulated to Workgroups Convenors in August. The new policy will generate consistency across groups and meet financial management obligations as well as ASOCs duty of care to its members. Workgroup convenors and the coordinator are to be congratulated for working with MC in a spirit of cooperation to achieve this successful outcome.

Workgroup income for 2018/19 was \$17573, \$646 less than the last financial year.

The Lanyon Group

ASOC has secured the Artist in Residency position at Lanyon Homestead. We have access to a one-person studio and an exhibition area (outside school terms) in what was the old Sydney Nolan Gallery. This is an opportunity to do some great things that will really promote ASOC to the community. 7 artists work in two-week blocks and negotiations are in place regarding an exhibition at Lanyon. Judi

Power Thompson wrote a lively account of her experience at Lanyon for the August /September newsletter. Negotiations have slowed with a change of Lanyon Management, but we are working towards:

- An opportunity for committed artists to work in a dedicated space on long term projects with at least one guaranteed exhibition
- Free exhibition and meeting space if needed.
- Free and/or shared cost exhibition marketing
- Public awareness of ASOC in ACT Heritage marketing
- Long term exposure for ASOC in the form of sales in the Lanyon gift shop
- Opportunity for social events at the Lanyon Heritage Centre
- Engagement with the wider community
- Opportunity for joint grant applications
- Opportunity to conduct ASOC led workshops for at Lanyon

Media

During 201/19 ASOC received positive media support from

- ArtSound (FM 92.7 MHz)
- Living Arts Canberra (livingartscanberra.com.au)
- ABC 666 am radio Canberra
- City News

Sponsors

Capital Chemists

The Australian Artist

The Minty Sisters

Chroma

Discount Framing

Reframed

National Gallery of Australia

Icon Water

Molonglo Catchment Group

Southern ACT Catchment Group

Urban Jungle

Universal Express Group

Framing Pieces

Derivan

Capital Wines

Megalo Print Studio & Gallery

National Portrait Gallery

ACT Heritage

Ginninderra Catchment Group

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

For the year ended 30 June 2019

Auditor:

Mr Robert Coffey

ABN 84 972 082 768

(Retired Chartered Accountant and Business Adviser)

Robert F Coffey

29 July 2019

The Management Committee
Artists Society of Canberra Inc.
PO Box 3629
MANUKA ACT 2603

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Artists Society of Canberra, a nonprofit organization, which comprise the statement of financial position as of 30 June 2019, and Income & Expense Statement for the year then ended.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as of 30 June 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Australia.

Sincerely



Robert F Coffey