



Address: Platypus Gallery
111 Lachlan Street
Forbes NSW [Emails: forbesartss@gmail.com](mailto:forbesartss@gmail.com)
[m platypusgallery@gmail.com](mailto:platypusgallery@gmail.com)
www.forbesartssociety.com

Presidents Report 2016-7

This I think is the sixth time I have presented this report to the Society and it will be my second last. This I think is the sixth time I have presented this report to the Society and it will God willing there will be only two more. That is of course should I be re-elected tonight. It is time for others to take the reins of the Society.

As I look back over the past year or so I am impressed by all that we have been able to achieve.

Restructure

One of the smallest things that the Committee has done this year has had a significant and largely unseen impact. During the year the Committee restructured the Society within the guidelines of the constitution. The original committee was composed of painters who met regularly on Thursdays. The function of the Art Society had largely been about painting and drawing. However this is not what the formulation of the Constitution envisages it was to cover all the visual arts, hence the name Arts Society. Over the past four years or so our activities have been broadened from painting to photography to sculpture and printmaking ceramics and recently members have taken an interest in using art to help sufferers of dementia and disadvantage not to mention our recent foray into consolidating the Society financially by fundraising and grant applications. Administratively this became cumbersome and difficult. The committee decided to form three sub-committees two of which were already functioning (Somewhere Down the Lachlan Sculpture to include under its auspices the Wiradjuri Dreaming Centre Project Committee, and secondly Grazing Down the Lachlan). The third committee to be formed is what is now known as ArtsWeb a committee dedicated to fostering the remaining visual arts. This is largely what the original committee did. With these three sub-committees in place the Committee, which would include representatives of each of the sub-committees, could concentrate on matters associated with policy, planning, governance and finance. The sub-committees have much greater autonomy in decision making and have their own financial accounts.

Some members of the Arts Society Committee decided that they wanted to move to the ArtsWeb committee and their vacancies have been filled by appointment. The elections tonight are to confirm those appointments and to elect members whose term has been completed. Klara has chosen to continue on the committee but has resigned as secretary a position she has filled for many years. Allison Baker resigned during the year from the Committee. I would like to thank all retiring members and all who have served the Society with such diligence during the year.

Business Plan

The other significant thing completed this year is to prepare a draft Business plan which has been accepted by the Committee this is the first business plan we have been completed and it discusses all aspects of the Society's operation and sets all of the parameters of operation of the varying sub committees. Further it talks about the Society's planned activities, sources of income and objectives for the future. It will be a very important document. One thing of note is that it recommends a change to the Aim of the Society so that it is broken down into a vision and mission statement to give greater clarity as to what we are doing and why. currently we have an

Aim

'The aim of the Society is to foster the visual Arts and encourage their enjoyment in the communities of our Region',

the proposal is to change this to include a vision and mission statement to read

Vision statement: To create a vibrant community through the development of arts & culture.

Mission statement: To so develop the visual arts and in particular the Somewhere Down the Lachlan Sculpture Trail and Sculpture around town that Tourism will become a major product of the Forbes Shire and the Central West NSW.

One of the driving forces to get out business activities sharpened is because we have been negotiating with Evolution Mining about entering into a partnership arrangement which we hope will be finalized late this month. You

will have noted that Evolution have become a major sponsor of our Grazing project.

Each subcommittee has undertaken many activities during the year,

ArtsWeb

The Camera Club

The Camera Club meets monthly (regular attendance of about 8 members) where they discuss cameras and their operation, examine and discuss photos watch selected videos of photography and generally discuss all aspects of photography. The club also holds excursions during the year this past year there have been excursion to the Forbes Rodeo and the Motor Show, there has also been a treasure hunt where we had to take some prescribed photos in the Forbes CBD.

Painting group

The painting group has functioned weekl during the year with a regular attendance in the warmer months of 12-15 and in the cooler months 8-12

The group has run regular workshops this past year Jenny Forster mixed media - 25/26 November 2016, with good attendance. Klara Ward - negative space watercolour - 4 and 11 May 2017, with good attendance and Colin Darley - pastels - 12/13 October 2017 again with good attendance. They have also held a number of Exhibitions

. "Amazing Abstract" last November 2016, then "A Best of Regional Art" in March. Heritage week in in May, Heather Burdette the last weeks of June "As the Crow Flies-the Quickest way Between Two Points" and Photo comp "Life as You See It", end of July. there have been others more recently.

Grazing Down the Lachlan

This is our first fore into fundraising and foodie events and it could not have gone better there were 700 guests, the day before there were 900 cattle around AMAZING, the night before there was a total fire ban proclaimed so no wood fired BBQ so one BBQ was modified overnight to take gas burners! Such ingenuity was typical of the work of the Grazing Committee so ably led by Wendy Muffet.

But what a success, the weather was warm but not as hot as expected; the wind on site was calm despite blowing a gale elsewhere. The day for the guests was calm and easy going because everything had been so beautifully organized. All I spoke to were full of praise they will be back next year with their friends. Congratulations to the team and all their helpers. What is more there was a profit (yet to be finalized) despite the heavy expenditure of the first year.

The event has been widely praised by SBS, and Tourism NSW and by our Councilors and Mayors and Councilors from adjacent local government areas. people came from Sydney, Melbourne Canberra and from various locations on the coast.

Somewhere Down the Lachlan Sculpture

This past year has been more about hold ups than progress. The highlight of the year surrounds AMAZING with the sculpture being finally installed on site during the hottest day of the year. so after a twelve month waiting to floods to recede and other matters. It was finally installed and has proved to be a valuable asset for tourism with thousands of people visiting the site with many a photograph being take on site.

Sites for each sculpture on the trail have been chosen and there are two sculptures (Damian Vicks the Hunter which is in the art park and Andy Scott's the Bull is waiting patiently in Jemalong station to be installed. Installation has been held up by Lands Office. We hope to have it resolved in the next few weeks.

Negotiations have begun with the Lachlan Shire Council regarding their part in the trail as they have agreed to take part in the project. Also discussions have begun with the local Wiradjuri people as the land for the sculpture trail is on an aboriginal land claim. I should say we have approval from the Peak Hill Land council and are working with the Condobolin land council to gain similar approval they have been most helpful.

The Sculpture Competition did not run this year due to lack of interest by sculptors consequently the funds allocated for the competition from the Council and the Forbes Services club supplemented by the grazing profit will be used to install two bronze dogs to go around town. The future of the sculpture competition is yet to be determined.

Expansion of the Wiradjuri Dreaming Centre.

This project is progressing slowly the local schools are engaged to produce materials for the education of school children about Wiradjuri culture this material will be placed on a new web site. Designs for the education hub have been completed and it is hoped that that building will be installed over the next few months. Sculptures are hoped to be finalized early in the new year.

What lies ahead.

- Grant seeking from government grants both state and federal, private companies and philanthropic organizations. A greater effort in this will be placed on a gallery and or a studio.
- Continued development of the sculpture trail, commissioning of sculptures.
- In the next twelve months we should complete the Wiradjuri dreaming Centre. Not to mention a new round of grazing.
- It looks to me like this coming year is going to be no less active than this past year.