

President's Report 2019

A very warm welcome to this 52nd year of the Flinders Art Show annually held over the Queen's Birthday Weekend in June.

We trust there is something here for all to enjoy whatever is our individual taste in Art. Our tradition is that we show all work that is entered and provide the opportunity for artists to sell their work whilst using the proceeds of the weekend to benefit the local community.

The previous year our 51st was a wonderful success exhibiting 362 art works and distributing \$33,000 to the list of beneficiaries as per the back of this catalogue. We know that additional funds do make a difference to our community particularly the volunteer Fire Services, the Southern Peninsula Food for All and Community Support Groups and the Hastings Police Senior Citizens Register.

This year we have identified works done "en plein air". The Peninsula is the perfect place to paint outdoors with so many vistas to capture; it just seemed right. Our more recent photography section is gaining momentum and this year we reached the maximum with some disappointed artists keen to enter next year. Small works remain very popular and the "kindy children" love to include their work located in the marquee.

Our judges this year are Lisa Byrne who is the Director of the McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery. Lisa provides incredible experience in the Arts including Board Appointments, Books, Awards, Grants, Projects and numerous Exhibitions and we thank her sincerely for her interest and thoughtfulness in selecting the winners. Lyn Beaumont, our local, much loved Equine Artist has considered all the work relating to Equestrian pursuits and has selected the winner of the Flinders Hotel Equine Award.

We always look forward to our Opening Night, it is special with the winning artists receiving acknowledgement and a cheque for each prize category. Our MC Neil Mitchell adds that professional touch making everyone feel very welcome, providing us with interesting anecdotes and ensuring the formal part of the evening is the highlight.

Each year food is generously donated by local businesses and prepared and served by Odilia Ross and a team of volunteers including the local "kindy mums" to ensure a fantastic Friday night.

Numerous people “pitch in” to make it all happen, the Flinders CFA and the Cricket guys who really do “do the heavy lifting”, the bar crew, volunteers on the door, sellers and the “hangers” who spend days up and down ladders.

Each year we have a superb group of Sponsors who ensure that the Artists have prizes which in turn ensures that we have an eclectic group of art works to exhibit. Donors are our “life blood” and they give generously, some are listed in the catalogue and others wish to remain anonymous - we thank them all.

We also wish to thank our Honorary Experts who each year unstintingly share their skills to make the Art Show such a success.

They are:

Odilia Ross - Honorary Caterer

Andrea Jenkins - Honorary Curator

Neil Williams - Honorary Website

David Gibb - Honorary Lawyer

This year our Committee farewelled Robyn Oswald Jacobs and we thank her for her participation. Our new Committee person is Barbara Higgins who has a long history of community volunteer work and art experience and we welcome her energy and commitment to the Flinders Art Show.

As you are reading this I do hope that you may think about volunteering, our community depends on each of us doing what we can to help. It is a challenge, in our ever busy world, to spend time volunteering for something we enjoy, please join us or other community opportunities and participate.

Finally, I thank the great collegiate team that contribute to the success of the Flinders Art Show, long may the tradition continue.

Sincerely
Christine