

Bass Coast Artists' Society Presidents report - AGM 31/08/2020

2020 has certainly been a challenging year. COVID-19 has taken its toll on many and disrupted us all but these difficult times have brought out the very best in our wonderful community. I know many of you have helped each other by catching up, whether it be by phone, vide conferencing or in person, and although this may not seem like much it means such a lot.

For Bass Coast Artists' Society (BCAS) the disruption has been major and I would like to give special thanks to all our members for your ongoing support and understanding. I would also like to thank each and every one of our Committee for working so hard during this very difficult time and, as you will see, achieving so much for our Society.

Last year our stated focus was to increase awareness of our Society, renew partnerships, encourage new members, young and old, and increase learning opportunities. Although COVID-19 has hit us hard we were still able to achieve much of what we set out to do. Here are just a few of our achievements this year:

- Successful in gaining a Council grant for funding to refurbish our Exhibition signs and artwork stands in preparation for the next BCAS Annual Exhibition;
- Successful in gaining a Council grant for funding to run a one off 'Affordable Art Exhibition';
- Collaboration with ArtSpace to hold workshops at the Goods Shed with discount for BCAS members;
- New Website launched, allowing for better communication, information sharing and online membership application;
- NBN installed for tutor/coordinator and committee use;
- Lighting in the workshop area of The Goods Shed upgraded;
- Re-invigorated Life Drawing and Portrait groups;
- Introduced tutored oil painting and clay workshops;
- Introduced Plein Air outings;

Working more closely with ArtSpace since August last year has been an absolute pleasure and has offered both organisations opportunities, particularly with workshops, that would not have been available to us previously. A great partnership that I'm sure will continue to grow and thrive into the future.

I would also like to thank the Bass Coast Shire Council for their support, for engaging us with proposed changes in the area and for all the work they have done for us. Repairs to the Goods Shed, upgraded lighting in the workshop area, car park area improvements including automatic lighting, changed tap fittings, and improvements to the entry have all been completed this year. These changes have not only improved accessibility and security but also make our experience more pleasant.

We have a wonderful space and terrific opportunities for members of our community to create art. More than that, we have become a family of sorts, a community meeting place for like minded people to share time, knowledge and ideas. All of the committee give their time because they are staunch supporters of both the arts and the positive community contribution our organisation makes. They have done an incredible job and none of our successes would have been possible without their hard work.

This AGM marks the end of an unprecedented year for us and a wonderful two years as President for me. I would again like to thank everyone for your support and thank the incoming committee for nominating. I am excited by the fresh thinking you will bring to help us grow and thrive into the future.

Diana Holmberg

President

Bass Coast Artists' Society Inc.