

President's Report September 2024

Welcome to my second Annual General Meeting President's Report. Once again, the past 12 months has seen the PSVA, and its membership been very active in promoting the pastel medium through all its activities.

We are extremely lucky in having such a hard-working Committee throughout the year and they have supported a full program of demonstrations at our monthly meetings, along with a busy Paint Out program. Unfortunately, our first paint out at Churchill Island at Phillip Island had to be cancelled due to very inclement weather and power outages. The paint out to the National Gallery had to be cancelled too. The Paint Out program is very successful with several members and non-members attending our selected venues and producing exquisite works - sometimes during cold, windy and inclement weather. I would personally like to thank Janette Garbuio and Julie Kok for co-ordinating this program.

We had a very successful 2023 Exhibition with 7 paintings sold. Peter Smales was our judge and our new venue, the Sherbrooke Art Gallery in Belgrave, showed our exhibits to the best, given the layout of the gallery. We are pleased that we will be using Sherbrooke Art Gallery for our 37th Exhibition in November. For the Exhibition and throughout the year we were supported by our very generous sponsors. If you happen to purchase anything from our Sponsors, please let our sponsors know that you are a PSVA member so that they know you have supported them.

The Queenscliff Retreat in March was fully booked out and we were very pleased to have several Tasmanian members join us. Regina and I took the opportunity to present Sue Nielsen with her 10-year membership Badge. Regina Hona was a very giving tutor, and we enjoyed a Friday night dinner at a local hotel along with a demonstration back at our accommodation. Saturday night, again after dinner we met up and Regina showed her travel journals and the equipment that she uses ie view finders etc and along with a critique. This was very interesting, and the hints and tips given to us could be used the very next day. Thanks so much Regina.

In 2025, we have been lucky enough to secure our beautiful venue and Regina who has agreed to be our 2025 Tutor promises to be just as exhilarating as 2024. The flyer will be out in the next few weeks with part payments being made available. Please get in early to avoid disappointment. In March we hosted about 90 members who were presented with their 10, 15 and 20 year membership pins. This was such a fantastic initiative organised by Regina Hona. This was such a

lovely afternoon and many of the members were able to catch up with people they hadn't seen for a while. We also had "paintings in the round" with Barbara McManus, Linda Finch, Ricky Schembri and Regina Hona being our guest artists. We were lucky enough to have Sharon Martin, be our Master of Ceremonies and she did a brilliant job. Our Patron, Andrew McKenzie was given the role of Auctioneer in which 3 of the 4 paintings were sold. The profits were given to Very Special Kids, our chosen charity. Thank you to all that attended.

Michelle Hendrie has taken over the co-ordination of the MEA Competition and is supported by Nola Jones.

Our 2024 Program of demonstrations and Workshops

February - Alison Clark pastel pencils of a lion

March – Lyn Mellady – who guides through adjusting a painting from a photograph

There was no meeting in April due to it being Easter Monday.

May – Craig Penny – acrylic landscape

May – Alison Clark animal workshop

June – Cathy van Ee -pastel painting of a young child

July – Zoom demonstration – Critique of members' paintings by Leoni Duff

August – Stephie Clark – Workshop

August – Stephie Clark – demonstration

September – Kayleen West underpainting of gouache with a pastel painting over top.

Paint outs Program

February - Churchill Island – Phillip Island – cancelled due to inclement weather and power shortages

March - Blue Lotus Farm, Yarra Junction

April – Yarrowood Estate

May - Alfred-Nicholas Memorial Gardens, Sassafras

June – National Gallery/Ian Potter Gallery – Fed Square

July and August – no paint outs – due to winter

September – Petty's Orchard, Templestowe

October – Cooks Cottage, Fitzroy Gardens

November – Lavender Garden Farm, Wandin North

This year has been such a busy and positive one with so much to give our members in the way of workshops, demonstrations at our monthly meetings together with prize giveaways, paint outs, planning for our

Exhibition in November, and all with the support of our wonderful sponsors.

In October we will be having a Retreat in Bright with Steven McCall being our tutor. We will be working in the Bright Art Gallery from Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 October. On the Monday, we will be having a paint out for those that wish to attend. We look forward to this workshop and paint out. There are still a few spots left – please email workshop@vicpastel.com.au to discuss your participation.

In June next year, we will be having Stephie Clark back for a workshop and Monday night demonstration. In September we had Kayleen West take us through an underpainting of gouache with a pastel painting over the top.

37th PSVA Annual Exhibition

On Friday 1 November our Annual Exhibition will be commence and our Official opening will be held on Saturday 2 November. The Exhibition will be held at the Sherbrooke Art Gallery. Our Judge this year is Paul McDonald Smith OAM. Last year we had 100 people in attendance. The Exhibition will be open by our Patron, Andrew Mackenzie. Thanks so much to Julie Kok, Kerrie Carter, Eileen Broderick and Kerry Nicholls who have done so much work to get the Exhibition up and running.

Our AGM will be held on Monday 7th October and we will have Leanne Vassallo take us through her Journey to the Archibald's. There will be no meeting in November as we will be the midst of our Exhibition.

The end of year celebrations will be held on Monday 2nd December will be held with several Awards being presented, prizes, raffles and a trivia night. Please join us at the Hall in Mt Waverly on Monday 2nd December and please bring a plate to share – it will be such a fun night.

Sadly, our Treasurer Kerryn Young who has been looking after our financials this year even though she resigned last year, will be leaving the committee, as we have a new treasurer ready to fill the position. Kerryn has gone above and beyond for the good of the society. Regina Hona and Julie Kok will also be resigning. These amazing women have given so much to the Society over the years - it will be sad to see them go from the committee. Although some will still be available to assist us in the future. Regina will be taking over the administration of the Signature and Master Pastelist Awards.

Our new Master Pastelist Awards Program was released earlier this year with Barbara McManus, Lyn Mellady, Leoni Duff and Regina Hona having been given this prestigious acknowledgement.

The Master Pastelist (MP) Award accredits pastel artists who demonstrate expertise in pastel painting and who actively promote the goals of the Pastel Society of Victoria, Australia (PSVA). The Master Pastelist status is a life-time award.

In June, the Camberwell Art Show provided the PSVA (as a sponsor) with a limited number of tickets (day and night) to attend the Art Show.

We have had notification from the family of former member, that Elizabeth Kennedy, had passed away. Elizabeth was an Honorary Life Member and was also a treasurer.

The John Withers Scholarship Program is now in its third year. The workshop for 4 winners was held on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September 2024. Tutors for the two days were Linda Finch and Lyn Mellady. Thanks so much to these ladies who have passed on their knowledge to the Workshop participants. We also had 3 members join us for the workshop.

Congratulations and welcome to the 2024-2025 JWSP participants - Becca Wilkins, Fiona Fullarton, Sonya Bading and Ros Chiarotto.

A big thank you to John Withers and Andrew Mackenzie for having the forethought of getting this initiative off the ground and for their generous support.

As you can see, several of our committee have been working hard to give our members a very varied program. We also have several non-committee members assisting us throughout the year too. A big thank you to Lyn Leine, Norm Hansen and Ben Winspear who have worked on Zoom throughout the year.

Sharon Martin who is our Web Administrator has been working hard managing our website & IT infrastructure and providing training as required. Sharon has had a very busy and personally challenging year but has come through with "the goods"- we all appreciate the work that she does.

Julie Kok has been busy supporting the Society by administrating our main email inbox info@vicpastel.com.au and our Social Media accounts. Chris Smith has recently taken on the Social Media main Admin role. Thank you also to Brian Mellady for his assistance with hosting our website.

A big shout out to our committee and helpers - I cannot thank them enough and they make our PSVA a society that is truly interesting and diverse. They are:

Julie Kok, Kerrie Carter, Helen Permezel, Eileen Broderick, Kerryn Young, Elly Fowkes, Di Hill, Kerry Nicholls, Regina Hona, Michelle Hendrie, Sharon Martin, Chris Smith, Kelly Grace - Editor of VicPastel Magazine, along with assistant editors of Linda Robertson & Gail Newcombe.

The last thing to mention is we are in desperate need for committee members to assist with our program for next year. Our committee are hardworking and enjoy their participation with our other committee members who are staying on.

Please consider being on our committee to share the load. If you can afford about 1-2 hours a week, that would be appreciated and very rewarding for you too.

See you at the AGM.

Roz Long

President