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President's Report AGM 2023

This past year has been one of exciting changes and some tough challenges, but overall, a wonderfully rewarding year, working with a committee of dedicated people whose common focus is the City of Parramatta Art Society and its' members.

During this election year, we have given the gallery and studio a fresh new look, making it bright and inviting and in keeping with today's modern galleries. While our major works small paintings continue to sell well, the introduction of "loose works" has added another very successful layer to our repertoire.

Through the magic of electronic banking, we have ensured that artists are paid promptly and the accounts are balanced. Members are kept up to date with brochures and reminders and a bi-monthly newsletter. We have a state-of-the-art gallery and studio in which to paint and display our work. We have demonstrations, workshops, outside exhibitions, life drawing, classes and plein air events.

None of the above can happen without a great deal of work by the committee. They are there, every step of the way, planning, organising, ordering and repairing equipment, liaising with council and venue management, designing brochures and entry forms, keeping social media and the website up-dated and hanging paintings and ensuring the gallery has been washed and polished and opened for business every day.

This committee has been fabulous. They have worked together, supported each other, laughed together and cried together but they have never complained. What a privilege to be a part of this team of wonderful people. I cannot thank them enough.

Apart from the committee, there are others to thank. Our small group of volunteers, who turn up for gallery duty each week. Those who helped out at our Winston Hills exhibition and our volunteer "hangers" who are there for every changeover, climbing ladders, hanging paintings and ensuring the gallery, when open for business, is looking its' very best.

Thank you to the members who continue to support the art society, especially to those who support the exhibitions with an amazing variety of fabulous paintings. We think each new exhibition is the best one yet, but you keep surprising us with new, exciting and inspirational work, surpassing all previous exhibitions. There is no end to your talent.

Sadly, we have lost some members and some close friends. Our thoughts and condolences are with those who have suffered these losses. Some of our members have overcome severe illness. We hope their rehabilitation and recovery is speedy and successful.

My year as President has been a rewarding one, but I know that it has been made so by those who have supported and helped me throughout this time, and for that, I sincerely thank each and every one for that support and help.

Jan Toulis
(President)