



Society of Artists

NEWCASTLE INC.

2013

Annual Report

**Report for the Year 2012 for presentation to the
Annual General Meeting at 7.00pm Monday 25 March 2013**

Agenda

1. Meeting Open
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of last Annual Meeting
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements
7. Other Reports
6. Election of Office Bearers
8. General Business-
-Items for referral to the incoming
Executive Committee
9. Meeting Closed

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26th MARCH 2012

An Annual General Meeting was conducted from 7.00pm on Monday 26th March 2012. The meeting followed an ordinary meeting of the Executive Council and was attended by 31 members, as recorded in the Attendance Book. A record of the minutes was not taken.

As nominations received by the prescribed closing time did not exceed the number and/or designations of the vacant positions on the Council, an election was not necessary and the following people were appointed to the vacancies for the ensuing year 2012.

<i>PRESIDENT</i>	<i>Bob Saxon</i>
<i>VICE PRESIDENT</i>	<i>Gwendolin Lewis</i>
<i>SECRETARY</i>	<i>This position was vacant until July 2012 when Clare Fenton took up the position.</i>
<i>TREASURER</i>	<i>Jenni Gander</i>
<i>ART DIRECTOR</i>	<i>Joyce Dellaca</i>
<i>PUBLICITY OFFICER</i>	<i>Jill Campbell</i>
<i>LIBRARIAN</i>	<i>Margaret Schroder</i>
<i>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</i>	<i>Florence Humphreys</i>
<i>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</i>	<i>This position was vacant until June 2012 when Phil Bamford took up the position.</i>

<i>COMMITTEE</i>	<i>Chris Finch</i>
	<i>Ron (Joe) Donkin</i>
	<i>Julie-Anne Ure</i>
	<i>Hugh Cross</i>

Non-Members of the Executive Council

<i>SOCIAL SECRETARY</i>	<i>Elaine Collin</i>
<i>PUBLIC OFFICER</i>	<i>Cliff Hosking</i>

Written Reports from the outgoing Executive Council for 2011 including that of the President, the Librarian, the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer's Financial Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and were tabled.

The Social Secretary and Art Director presented verbal reports to the meeting.

General Business

Various information for forthcoming events were discussed. No items of general business were put forward to the incoming committee.

The President, Bob Saxon thanked the outgoing Executive Council and congratulated the incoming Council on their appointment, and declared the Annual Meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

2013 AGM Reports.

President.

We have had a successful twelve months with strong Society membership and enthusiasm. At the beginning of the year, we did struggle to complete our committee, being short of a magazine editor and Secretary. All had a happy ending though, with Phil Bamford and Clare Felton joining the team. During the year Jim Ferry retired as our Purchasing Officer, ending a long and productive commitment to the Society. Joe Donkin stepped up as our video technician and Hugh Cross established a very impressive Society web site. We had many interesting guest presenters at our monthly meetings and held successful exhibitions at the Raymond Terrace Shopping Centre and the Mattara Art Prize. We donated \$5,000 to the John Hunter Children's Hospital Kids Club from sales of our 2012 calendar and for the first time, held our Christmas party at the rooms. Joyce's workshops were well supported and attendances at our weekday sessions have increased. We continued our improvements to our building by upgrading our lighting and electrical services, replaced our library shelves and installed a ramp outside the entrance. Thanks to all on the Committee for your efforts over the past twelve months.

As our storage container is deteriorating, we need to plan ahead for its replacement. I'd like to suggest one option, and that is to dispose of the container and replace it with a similar sized extension to the eastern end of our building. This would improve the aesthetics of our site and secure our equipment storage arrangements. This is 'food for thought' for the 2013/14 committee to work on.

Bob Saxon

Treasurer

See attached document.

Jenni Gander

Vice President

Committee activities, apart from other duties, involved planning and arranging our monthly meeting guest presenters. The following are the guest presenters for 2012.

February	Kay McFarlane Smith	Oils
March	Warwick Webb	Pencil water colour
April	Trevor Weeks	Illustration
May	Ileana Clark	Charcoal and wax
June	Peter Lankis	Acrylics
July	Joe Donkin	
August	Caelli Joe Brooker	Printmaker/books
September	Speedpainting	Adamstown Newsagency
October	Chris Fussell	Acrylic portrait
November	Peter Lewis	Cartoons at Christmas party.

Gwendolin Lewis.

Secretary

The current Secretary took over the role in June of last year, following a vacancy of some months. The main requirements of the role is the minuting of meetings and responding to incoming mail. The Minutes of all meetings are stored in a labelled folder in the Society's library and are available for members' perusal, along with a list of new members for the month and the Treasurer's monthly Reports.

Monthly Executive Committee meetings since June 2012 have required minutes to be taken as have two post Mattara Art Exhibition meetings held in the latter part of the year to assist with organisation of the exhibition (now to be known as The Newcastle Art Prize) for 2013.

Since June, 2012, five letters in response to matters raised with the Committee by either Society members, members of other organisations or members of the public were written and sent.

Clare Felton

Art Director

It has been a busy year again with workshops on most available weekends, conducted by a wide variety of talented artists and teachers. 20 workshops were arranged between February and November 2012 with a profit of \$3,061 to the Society. Four workshops had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers.

These workshops are a wonderful way to develop your skills and enjoy the group activity, on a Saturday or sometimes over both days of the weekend. They are continually advertised in our newsletter. Keep an eye on this and get in early with an application for something of particular interest to you. Access to these is a very significant advantage in being a member of the Society.

My thanks as always to all of those who help set up and clean up afterwards.

Joyce Dellaca

Publicity Officer.

2013 achievements in publicity for the Society have been:

1. Organisation of an exhibition at John Hunter Hospital in February 2012 to publicise the 2012 Calendar. Artworks exhibited were by the artists featured on the calendar.
2. Arrangements are in place for another exhibition at John Hunter Hospital at the end of 2013 in conjunction with the 2014 Society of Artists calendar.
3. Publicity for exhibitions, especially Raymond Terrace Marketplace and Mattara, have featured on radio and in print media such as *Australian Artist*, *The Star* and *the Herald*.
4. Flyers to advertise workshops and meeting guests have been made and posted in appropriate locations as needed.
5. Activity on the Society's email address has increased significantly this year with the increasing use of the website. Queries are usually able to be passed on or responded to as appropriate.
6. With Gwendolin, I spoke at the Post Stroke Art class (organised by Juliet Ackery) about the activities of the Society.
7. Articles for publication in the newsletter about Adamstown Newsagency and Aaron framed it.
8. Development of flyer to advertise society.

Jill Campbell

Librarian

It has been a good year with our library with new books being donated from people and many thanks go to each

and every person who brought along those books, magazines and photos.

Our biggest surprise is our new library, not actually new library but the wonderful book cases etc that has now made the library look so great. I have arranged the books in order so that they can be seen much clearer and easier.

Only one concern and that is there are just so many missing books. Some of these books have been missing for quite a few years and it is sad to see the list getting longer each year. Hopefully we may just get a few back after seeing the list of missing books I placed on the table at the entrance.

This past year I have not sent out many overdue letter reminders but I can not emphasise enough for borrowers to return books on due date so that they can be shared by all members. I welcome to all our new members to use our library which has a wonderful display of books in all categories. I am usually in the library on Thursday mornings and in the rooms on Friday morning, if anyone wants to see me on anything to do with the library. We are very fortunate to have a great place in which to paint and socialise and a wonderful library, so come and enjoy it with us.

Margaret Schroder

Membership Secretary

We have had a constant stream of new members all year and presently have 316 financial members, While we have had about fifty members failing to renew their membership in 2012, the separate reminder slip in the newsletter is a great help in having most people pay fees on time.

Florence Humphreys

Website.

Host and Software

Our site is hosted on a Weebly server, created using its 'cloud' based software by the society's webmaster. The advantage of this intuitive 'click and drag' software, is that to create and edit the site no software needs to be held on a society committee member's computer. The site can also be edited by any person with access to the account password, and from anywhere.

Initially the site was created and hosted using a free Weebly account, having purchased a 10 year licence to the domain name. Because it is an American company, domain names with 'au' were not available. Although Australian domain names could have been purchased, the 10 year licence cost only \$346 including an option to reduce potential hacking. In May 2012, it was agreed that a Weebly Pro account was worthwhile to give access to a greater number of features, such as embedded documents and the ability to use our own footer text on each page (instead of 'Created by Weebly').

Visitation

Since the Society's website was created in February 2012, the number of visitors has steadily grown. It is now easily found by Google, the most common referring site. Currently, 'Unique visitors' average 30 to 50 per day, with some exceptional days over 80, as per the figure below:

Statistics for *www.SocietyofArtistsNewcastle.com*

Pageviews Unique Visitors



Over the Christmas holidays they were even higher, averaging over 40 most days:

Statistics for *www.SocietyofArtistsNewcastle.com*

Pageviews Unique Visitors



'Page Views' on any one day exceed unique visitors by about 8 to 12, that is, only a relatively few people search further than just one page. This indicates that our site is not what some of them were looking for, whilst others may have found what they want by going to the specific page they needed. This will be most common where someone has 'bookmarked' a specific page.

Summing the page views over the month gives a figure of about 1,180 for the month to 25 February. About 140 page views need to be subtracted from these, based on the 'referring sites' being obviously irrelevant, leaving about 1,000 intentional page views per month.

The most common page viewed, is surprisingly the 'About Us' page (see table below). This may be a quirk of search engines, rather intentional visitation in all cases. The next most visited page is, understandably, the home page, with 'Society Workshops' the next most common. Most of site's other pages, including the regular activities pages, tuition, members meetings and the exhibition pages, are also quite well visited.

Webmaster – Hugh Cross

Record of Attendance at Executive Council Meetings

(Provided in accordance with the requirements of Clause (11) 2 e (ii) of the Constitution)

Council Member

Attendance from possible 12 meetings

Bob Saxon	11
Gwendolin Lewis	8
Clare Felton	7
Jenni Gander	11
Joyce Dellacca	8
Phil Bamford	8
Margaret Schroder	6
Florence Humphreys	7
Jill Campbell	6
Chris Finch	9
Ron (Joe) Donkin	11
Hugh Cross	12
Julie-Anne Ure	5

Office Bearers for 2013

The following positions are to be filled:-

Members of the Executive Council

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Art Director
- Publicity Officer
- Librarian
- Membership Secretary
- Newsletter Editor
- Committee (4)
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Not Members of the Executive Council

Social Secretary

Public Officer

Notes