

Nelson Suter Art Society

Presidents Report for 2015

The elected committee members for 2015 were:

President: Nick Duncan

Vice President: Philippa Askew

Secretary: Kate Coote

Treasurer: Murray Dill

Committee: Ann Braunsteiner, Lyn Cain, Gabrielle Coote, Lee-Ann Dixon, Chris Hogan, Trish Kennedy, Alicia Malloy, Angela Nicoll and Ross Whitlock.

Barry Driver kindly agreed to manage the Society's Web Site

Ann Braunsteiner later resigned due to a conflict of interest with her new position at the Nelson Arts Council.

While the Suter Gallery Redevelopment is underway the Society is being headquartered on the Mezzanine floor of the Temporary Suter on Halifax Street. Also, we have kindly been offered one wall of the Suter Café to continue our members' exhibitions.

We held 12 Suter Café exhibitions during the year.

Because of the Suter Gallery redevelopment we were not able to hold our traditional spring and autumn group exhibitions this year. In their place we had a winter exhibition at the Nelson Provincial Museum and a spring exhibition at the Reflections Gallery at WoW.

While we have received good feedback about all our exhibitions sales have, at best, been modest and insufficient to financially maintain the Society into the future should this low level of sales continue. It is hoped that sales will improve when we move into the new Gallery

We held six events in our winter programme

- A happy hour at Founders Brewery and Café
- Two critique evenings at the Refinery ArtSpace one chaired by Ian Bowell the other by Ross Whitlock.
- A film evening at NMIT featuring Ralph Hotere, kindly organised by Angela Nicoll.
- A Speed painting exhibition at the Suter Cafe by Ross Whitlock.
- The Art Debate between Secondary schools, held at Nelson College.

A major issue for the committee this year was the negotiation of a new agreement with the Bishop Suter Trust to enable our continued presence in the redeveloped Suter Gallery and then obtaining the acceptance of that agreement with the society membership.

To this end we held four Special General Meetings to explain the terms of the negotiated agreement, to discuss issues raised and then for the membership to ratify the agreement. We could not achieve this ratification and as a result Nick Duncan, Philippa Askew, Murray Dill, Lyn Cain and Lee-Ann Dixon resigned as committee members. New committee members were co-opted onto the committee to carry on business as usual. Those members were.....