



Presidents Annual Report for 2016

At the 2015 Annual General Meeting Margaret Major was elected as Patron. No President was nominated and the following members were elected to the committee:

Erika Aupperle, Richard Blunt, Gabrielle Coote, Nick Duncan, Chris Hogan, Kate Coote, Alicia Molloy, Angela Nicoll, Jane Sus-smilch, Robert Thompson and Ross Whitlock.

At the first committee meeting Dana Rose and Chris Barkway were co-opted onto the committee. Nick Duncan was appointed as Acting President and the following positions taken up by committee members:

Secretary: Kate Coote.

Treasurer: Alicia Molloy

Exhibition organiser: Dana Rose

Exhibition hanging: Richard Blunt, Nick Duncan, Robert Thompson.

New Suter fit-out: Richard Blunt,

Membership: Jane Sus-smilch

Newsletter: Erika Aupperle, Robert Thompson.

Winter programme: Nick Duncan, Angela Nicoll, Ross Whitlock.

During the year Chris Barkway, Chris Hogan and Alicia Molloy were not able to continue on the committee and so resigned. We were fortunate that Murray Dill stepped in to look after our finances up until this AGM and we thank him for doing it so willingly.

Again thanks to Kate Coote our hard working Secretary and first point of contact with the Society for many.

Also this year our auditor/accounts reviewer Barry Signal retired. On Barry's recommendation the committee appointed Simon Danson of Nelson Marlborough Audit as our new account reviewer.

Gabrielle Coote has advised that she will not be seeking nomination to the committee this year. Gabrielle has been committee member for 36 years, 6 of those as President. This continuity of service, dedication and resulting depth of knowledge has been invaluable to the Society.

Margaret Major has advised that she does not wish to continue as Patron we thank her for her support over the last three years.

History was made on 27th April 2016 when after nearly two years of negotiations a new agreement between the Society and the Bishop Suter Trust was finalised and signed. The negotiations took a long time because of the complexity of the 116 year shared history of both organisations and the need to get things right to avoid misunderstandings and safeguard a compatible future. The Society thanks the negotiators Nick Duncan, Philippa Askew and later Joanna Innes Walker and Doug McKee.

We moved back from our temporary premises in Halifax Street to the new Suter during September 2016. Richard Blunt was instrumental in specifying and in some cases constructing our requirements in the new space, for which we thank him.

Prior to moving back to the new Suter we had eight member exhibitions in the Suter Café in Halifax Street and one Society exhibition in the Refinery ArtSpace.

Since our return to the Suter we have held five exhibitions in the McKee Gallery:

- An opening exhibition of artworks from the Suter collection with a Nelson Suter Art Society connection. Included in this exhibition was a painting by Wanda Tait which was acquired by the Suter during the year.
- Three solo exhibitions by members, all of whom gave floor talks this proved to be a good way to attract more visitors.
- The Summer/Christmas cash and carry exhibition. We extended this exhibition to two months this year to give all members a chance to exhibit in the new gallery. Sales wise this was very successful with over 60 works sold. It is intended that we should repeat this format for next year's summer exhibition.

When the new agreement came into force on 1st October 2016 the hire fee for the McKee Gallery was increased from \$50 per week to \$100 per week. This increase was signalled in the budget prepared for the new agreement.

The committee identified a need to better promote the Society's spring, autumn and summer exhibitions to assist with this a \$5 non-refundable entry fee per artwork will be charged for those exhibitions.

Finally I would like to thank the committee, volunteers and Suter staff for their assistance during the transfer back to the Suter and for assisting at the Society exhibitions.

Nick Duncan
Acting President