

Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting

Held on the 31st of July, 2021 from 2pm via Zoom

Present: Beverly Allen, Annick Anselin, Jenny Barlow, Debra Bartlett, Margaret Beal, Andrew Carr, Thea Clark, Helen Cohen, Sandra Cumming, Barbara Davison, Alison Dickin, Suzanne Dixon, Melinda Edstein, Lee Elvy, Dianne Emery, Robyn Fletcher, Pria Graves, Sandra l'Anson, Lorna Jackson, Sarah Kelsey, Fiona Lange, Nigi Lechner, Jean MacDonald, Justine Molloy, Judy Morris, Carolyn Murdoch, Leonie Norton, Noeline O'Connor, Susie Palfreyman, John Pastoriza-Piñol, Katrina Reeve, David Reynolds, Anne Saville, Tanya Scharaschkin, Sue Stuart, Pam Surman, Janice Thompson, Lynne Uptin, Rosie Wade, Susan Wilcockson, Jessica Yang.

Apologies: Robyn Langford Brown, Del Dunckley, Liz George and Marta Salamon.

The 2021 Annual General Meeting was officially opened by our BASA President, Sandra l'Anson, at 2pm.

Sandra l'Anson introduced herself and welcomed all of those who joined the meeting via Zoom. Sandra commented that it was pleasing that every state of Australia was represented and also welcomed Pria Graves who joined us from California.

Prior to commencing the meeting, Sandra took the opportunity to thank the BASA committee. She extended particular thanks to Thea Clark, Vice President, for her contributions to all that was achieved throughout the year. Sandra commented that Thea is perhaps the most important member of the Committee due to being responsible for setting up and maintaining the website and the additional associated issues, such as online exhibitions, forums and, more recently, the online demonstrations.

Sandra went on to introduce the other committee members; Marta Salmon, Secretary; Marg Beal, Treasurer; Sue Stuart, Website Editor; Andrew Carr, Events Co-ordinator and our new member, Melinda Edstein. Melinda has agreed to be our Social Media Co-ordinator.

We also have two additional members who are an important part of the committee but currently do not attend the monthly meetings. They are Fiona Lange, Public Officer and our Newsletter Editor, Alison Dickin.

Sandra reported that we currently have two (2) vacant positions, should anyone be interested.

Sandra also thanked Anna Voytsekhovich and Annick Anselin for their time and expertise in organising social media posts to help promote BASA to a wider audience.

Minutes of 2020 AGM

The minutes and the agenda were emailed and posted to the membership in preparation for the meeting and were taken as read.

Sandra moved that the minutes be accepted. This was seconded by Carolyn Murdoch who was also present at the 2020 AGM.

Committee's Annual Report

This report is for the financial year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021:-

Meetings

The committee continues to meet via Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of each month with committee members in Adelaide, Exeter, Hobart, Sydney and three from Melbourne.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was submitted by Margaret Beal, Treasurer, for the 2020 to 2021 financial year. The accounts were audited by Diamond Accounting & Taxation Services Pty Ltd, Katoomba NSW and were emailed or posted to the members in preparation for the AGM.

The following was reported at the AGM by Sandra l'Anson on behalf of Margaret:-

- The income for this period was \$28,142.
- Expenditure for the same period was \$24,834.
- A profit of \$3,308 was recorded for the period.
- The bank balance as at 31 March 2021 was \$92,206.

There were no questions arising from the information presented.

Sandra moved that the report be accepted and it was seconded by Sue Stuart.

Membership

The following statistics in relation to membership were presented by Sandra l'Anson:-

- As at 31 March 2021, we have a total of 396 financial members. This is an increase in numbers when compared to the previous two years.
- All states and territories across Australia are now represented.
- There has been an increase in membership since 1 April with 33 new members recorded which is very encouraging. Of these members, 6 are from the ACT, 6 are from NSW, 4 from Queensland, 1 from Tasmania and 16 are from Victoria.
- We also have several international members.

Newsletter

Alison Dickin submitted the BASA Newsletter Report and the following was read to those present by Sandra l'Anson on her behalf:-

'It's always a pleasure producing the quarterly newsletter for BASA.

My role is to organise and edit the collection of articles, advertisements and photographs etc which are sent to me for inclusion.

This is a newsletter by members for members. Any contributions/articles which relate to botanical art are always welcome including notice of exhibitions, workshops, etc.

I'm always on the lookout for artists to profile so please don't be shy! Or if you have suggestions of an artist who you think would make a wonderful 'Profile Artist', please let me know. I would also like to thank Sandra, Thea and Sue for their ongoing help with the newsletter'.

Exhibitions

The **Flora Online Exhibition** was the only exhibition held for this year due to COVID-19. It ran from 14 November 2020 to 14 February 2021. A total of 55 artists submitted 104 works in this exhibition. Whilst only 7 artworks were sold, it was a worthwhile exercise.

Jenny Phillips was this year's judge of the **Madelaine Taylor Awards** for Best in Show. For those who may be wondering as to why the Awards are so named, BASA was very fortunate to receive a bequest of \$50,000 from Madelaine Taylor and the interest from this money is used for the exhibition awards.

The **Best in Show** award went to Andrew Carr for his graphite tryptich of the Eucalyptus megacornuta – Warty Yate.

The **People's Choice Award** went to Carolyn Murdoch for her painting of the Kangaroo Paw.

Highly Commended Awards of \$50 each went to Christine Cresswell, Leda Turner and Sandra l'Anson.

Honourable Mention Awards went to Rochelle Maree Caligiuri, Leonie Norton and Vicki Philipson.

Unfortunately, The **Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show** was cancelled again due to COVID-19.

Future Exhibitions

Sandra outlined the following exhibitions and commented that the committee are hopeful that these will go ahead despite the current COVID-19 situation:-

Flora 2021 – Fitter’s Workshop, Kingston Arts Precinct, **Canberra** – 29 September to 10 October 2021. This is scheduled to take place during Floriade.

Flora 2021 - Long Gallery, Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart, **Tasmania** – 26 October to 6 November 2021.

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show – 23 to 27 March 2022.

Japanese Gardens, Cowra, NSW – We currently have a booking for this event which is scheduled to take place in September 2022.

Sandra commented that there is a further need for members to share and forward information on social media to promote such exhibitions.

Website and Online Activities

Thea Clark presented the following information in relation to our BASA website and online activities:-

Thea advised of the following forums which were organised online due to the COVID pandemic and the subsequent extensive lockdowns which have disrupted exhibitions and botanical art classes.

Online Forums – The following forums were held and prizes of \$50 each were awarded to the winners:-

- **From the Garden** – Marta Salamon
- **Winter Wonders** – Bev Allen
- **Bright and Beautiful** – Vicki Philipson

The abovementioned entries/artworks were then used to form part of a BASA calendar which was created. This was both popular with our members and also proved to be profitable. A total of 200 calendars were printed and 148 were subsequently sold. It is planned that a calendar will be produced again for next year and images will be selected from online exhibitions, print sales and the like. The artists will be contacted upon selection and the calendars will then be sold at future BASA exhibitions and events throughout the year.

Online Card Sales - Andrew Carr organised this online event which was well received by our members. A total of 233 cards were sold. As this event may clash with the Hobart exhibition, it is yet to be confirmed as to whether it will go ahead next year.

Online Demonstrations - These demonstrations have also generated extremely positive feedback. The Committee envisages that it may be in a position to organise several more at regular intervals in the future.

Online Marketplace for second-hand items – Whilst to date we have only had 3 members submit items for sale, it has given members an opportunity to sell their items and for others to make purchases.

Online Print Sale – Thea advised that this event ended today (31 July 2021). Thea is the admin contact for all such activities and Sue Stuart is the contact for content issues.

Thea advised those present that Sue Stuart is the content editor of our website, Melinda Edstein, our new committee member, will take on social media activities to further increase the visibility of BASA and botanical art in general.

Election of New Committee Members

Sandra advised that there have been no nominations received for committee positions. However, she commented that there is one position vacant. Sandra invited those present to consider joining.

The Committee is as follows:-

Existing Committee

Sandra l'Anson - President	-	Exeter, NSW
Thea Clark – Vice President	-	Melbourne, VIC
Marta Salmon - Secretary	-	Melbourne, VIC
Margaret Beal - Treasurer	-	Adelaide SA
Fiona Lange – Public Officer	-	Bargo, NSW
Alison Dickin – Newsletter Editor	-	Blue Mountains, NSW
Sue Stuart – Website Editor	-	Hobart, TAS
Andrew Carr - Events	-	Melbourne, VIC
Melinda Edstein – Social Media Co-ordinator		Sydney NSW
2 Vacant positions		

General Business

It was noted that no items were submitted for General Business. Sandra invited those in attendance to put forth any new ideas and suggestions for the committee. There were no further comments or questions from those present.

Sandra l'Anson, BASA President, took the opportunity to thank everyone for their attendance and declared **the meeting closed at 2.17pm.**

Presentation

(Sandra commented that this was perhaps the moment everyone was waiting for!) ...

We were very privileged to have **John Pastoriza-Pinol** join us at the 2021 AGM.

Sandra welcomed John who is a Melbourne based botanical artist and a much sought-after tutor, teaching classes regularly for the Friends RBG Melbourne, Geelong Botanic Gardens, as well as classes in Macedon. During normal years, (i.e. with the exception of COVID related disruptions), John also holds two and three day workshops.

John is the recipient of many awards and accolades. This has afforded him international recognition as one of Australia's foremost contemporary botanical artists. His work is now held in numerous public and private collections around the world.

Those present were fortunate to listen and watch as John shared some of his vast knowledge and experience as well as demonstrating some valuable techniques.

Sandra l'Anson thanked John Pastoriza-Piñol on behalf of the Committee and those present for his highly enjoyable and engaging presentation.