My year as president of the Leongatha Art and Craft Society Inc has been a busy one.

Advertising has been a priority to let the public know where we are. Even though people may have lived in Leongatha for many years, it is astounding that some are surprised to find our lovely gallery and the art that it holds. To help spread the word, we placed advertisements in several local newspapers and magazines, created new LACS flyers that were distributed to other galleries and stores in the immediate and surrounding areas, to identify our gallery we created new labels for sales with our name and details, and are continuing to update Facebook and our website on a regular basis.

Administrative processes have also been refined. The handbook is now up to date and a copy is on the front desk. A key register (to identify who has keys), and an incident form were created. The first aid kit is also updated and visible in the store room.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas get together and hope that this continues each year. It was fun to meet members in a setting away from the gallery and just relax and enjoy each other’s company.

I haven't had the opportunity to meet every member, but I would like to thank all members for their contribution. Even if members help in a small way, it makes it easier for all of us. I know we all lead busy lives and that everyone does what they can to help. A heartfelt thanks to all, and I thank you for accepting me as your president for the year.

Daisy Antoniou
Greetings Everyone!

As this will be my last report as Treasurer, I would like to thank the Leongatha Art and Craft Society Inc. for the opportunity of serving on the financial arm of the group. During my time over the last three years as treasurer I have had many an insight into the machinations of a small retail outlet. This experience has been a very positive and fulfilling one. There is much to be learnt at the base level of such an organisation, and I have long said that it is even worthy of being mentioned in one's CV. I have over the years worked in the finance industry and run a small business, so I am in a position to identify the skills that evolve from such a role. I would encourage our members to challenge themselves and come forward at the upcoming AGM on 28th March 2019, to put your hand up and learn a new, or improve on a skill, which in turn would make a real contribution to society within this important creative outlet, The Leongatha Gallery!

Now for an overview of our sales situation, which is almost identical to last years. This would have to reflect that we are performing in a similar fashion to last year, with a similar attention to the roster as well. If we can simply get the doors open more, we will sell more! As in previous years, I can report that the biggest individual items sold are our beautiful cards, followed by our knitted, sewn and felted items, which are on par with our unique popular jewellery and hand-crafted window hangings. The wooden, and little wired creatures are hugely popular, as are the magnets and little nick knacks. Our Christmas art and craft always does very well, as indeed that is our best revenue month. Our second biggest selling month is at the beginning of Spring, around the Daffodil Festival either late August or September. Our wood crafted work is also hugely popular. Then come our larger art pieces such as paintings, ceramics and glass and mosaics, and of late the beautiful creative work with resins. Also there have been some very interesting and unique pieces appearing in the gallery of late and I believe this adds a terrific variety for our visitors to choose from.

I shall be presenting a detailed financial report at the AGM, so hope to see you there! Thank you once again for letting me be the gallery treasurer. Going forward, I shall be concentrating on closer family issues, as well as moving off our rural property and hopefully we'll be free to travel a bit as well.

Outgoing Treasurer,  Patricia Hill

WOODWORKERS:

At our Annual Meeting in February, Eric Miles (56642239) was elected as President, Rob Parfett as Secretary (0427006347) and Glenice Emmerson as Treasurer (56622082). Our meetings will continue to be on the second Monday each month, with hands-on nights at Koonwarra on the Tuesday of the following week and Tuesday two weeks later. The aim is to work on club projects at these sessions. Woodturning lessons are available.

Most of the action recently has been concentrated on preparation of projects for the Korumburra Horse & Tractor Rally which has just been held at Nyora on 16th and 17th March. As always, the bush setting provided a very relaxed setting for hundreds of enthusiasts to exhibit and view a fascinating variety of old vehicles, tractors, engines and machinery, as well as see how working horses were used in old time farming practices.

Our Woodies' display table of finished items prompted some interesting questions and comment from visitors who also shared some of their tips and experiences with us. Children showed their willingness to try something new and how quickly they could learn to use the pyrography tool to create their own “artistic” masterpieces on wood.

Our next public outing will be at the Leongatha Daffodil Festival, Aug. 30, 31 & Sept 1.

If you can’t convince them, confuse them.

Harry S. Truman

Glenice Emmerson
The Leongatha Painters Group had a very successful Exhibition in Bair Street, Leongatha last November, the weekend of the Rose Festival. The Exhibition ran for 2 weeks with more than 20 paintings sold. The printed artist’s cards sold very well too.

This month we have another Exhibition at the Stockyard Gallery in Foster. It runs from 28th March to 22nd April. The Grand Opening is Saturday 30th March between 2pm and 4pm.

Our Painters Group meets on Tuesdays at the Guide Hall, A’Beckett Street, Leongatha, 10am, and we bring our lunch. It’s a good opportunity to share ideas with a supportive social group. We bring along anything we want to work on. Some people do watercolour, some work with acrylics or oils, lino cutting, pencil sketching etc. We also work towards having regular plein air sessions during the year.

Robyn Henn and Trish Rosel

MEMBERSHIP / ROSTER NEWS:

Currently we have 93 members and 12 Friends of Gallery. Many thanks to all who do their share of duty; we appreciate your time very much, it means the gallery is open more often, also with doing duty comes the benefit of a discount on sales of your artwork. It's been lovely to see several new members joining this year, bringing in wonderful new artwork to display in the gallery.

Please note the 3 positions I am currently doing (Membership, Roster and Newsletter) are open for members wishing to take on any of these roles.

Jenene Evans

NOTE: MEMBERSHIP SUBS OF $25 ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE BY JUNE 30TH, 2019

Members are reminded that if their artwork has been in the Gallery for more than 12 months, it needs to be taken home, except for cards.

DISPLAY COMMITTEE

This month has been steady with new items coming in and displayed as required. We have ordered new identity tags for pricing art work on the walls that match our last flyers. The art gallery sign in the portico has faded and is no longer visible so a new sign in a bright colour now covers the old one. This can easily be replaced if it fades or is damaged and a more artistic design would be welcome if anyone is happy to design it.

Once again, we remind artists and crafts people to replace work that has been in the gallery for over a year with new pieces. This brings new life to the gallery and lets the public see what you are doing now.

Display Team  Daisy Antoniou  Trish Rosel  Jennifer Warburton  Karen Pedretti
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Members with an email address please let me know so I can email you the Newsletter. My email is bundilla50@bigpond.com
Cheers Jenene Evans