PRESIDENT:

After being in this position for 6 months I am now beginning to get a little more settled and still learning so much. The gallery is a wonderful environment, and every time I enter the building I think how very lucky we are to have such a place to display the eclectic works of our members. Many visitors comment on the lovely atmosphere as they walk in and how beautiful the gallery is. This wouldn’t be possible without the continued input of our members. Thank you to all whose help and commitment keep everything running smoothly and make us a showpiece for Leongatha that we are proud of.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome all our new members. There has been a number of new artists join our society, including those from the Leongatha artists group who were able to gain a grant to hold a pop-up exhibition by applying for a grant through council under the umbrella of LACS. I am looking forward to the exhibition as it is a reflection on all the LACS members. Everything that is displayed with the LACS name showcase the talent of our group and the area in general.

To keep our gallery open on a regular basis, we need more people to put in time for duty in the gallery. If you have not done so previously, please consider adding your name to the list. It is only through everyone’s generous giving of their time that we can keep the gallery open. This is especially important over the holiday period when there is more passing traffic.

Kindly, a new member, Trish Rosel, has generously offered her time and is opening the gallery on as many Sundays as she can. She reports that some Sundays are very busy, and that it may be good to open on the weekends over the summer months. If anyone can help with this we would be very happy to accommodate them. The more we are open, the more chance we have of selling our art and craft. I realise that not everyone is able to do gallery work as we all lead busy lives and have much to do beyond the gallery, however, the minimum time is only three hours per month and the reward is a reduction in commission should any of your work sell. Many thanks to all who are able to contribute in this way. Hopefully we will see more people on gallery duty so we can extend our opening hours over summer.

The daffodil show was a huge success and brought many people through our doors. I would like to thank all the woodwork people for their considerable effort in putting the display together and for the demonstration held in the courtyard. A special thanks to Glencie who played a significant part in organising this. The radio interviews organised earlier in the year were aired a few weeks before the daffodil show so provided much needed publicity. The more we make people aware of who we are and where, the better.
Another lot of flyers has been designed and purchased for the gallery along with stickers for bags. Flyers provide clients with something to take away with them if they are visiting our gallery. They are also sent out to many other galleries in the surrounds, information stores, framing stores, gift shops and anywhere else that we can place them to let others know about us and where we are. All of this provides a more professional look for our gallery.

Thank you all again for all the wonderful work everyone does to keep us going and for the quality and variation of work pieces that are brought in by our many members.

Daisy Antoniou

TREASURER/PUBLICITY REPORT:
Hi one and all, we're on the home run for Gallery Sales for the 2018 year. Comparing the most recent quarter of July, August and September to last year, sales have definitely been up. Mainly as it seems we have had the Gallery open on more days. From now on though, we still have quite a few days on the roster that need filling. Leading up to Christmas is one of our best-selling periods.

We have had quite a few new members, so that is great. Welcome to all of these people and thank you for feeling motivated and or inspired to join and to have more creative achievements going forward. Also a special warm welcome to new members from the painter's group as well.

We all get a buzz when some of our work sells, be it large or small. It gives us a lift I think, and then prompts us to get organised and create some more. One of the first questions I ask visitors in the Gallery is "if they do any art work themselves?". Predominantly the answer is usually "Oh no! I just love to see what other people have done. These people are so talented, aren't they?" I take away from this that 'arty' people are definitely admired and respected. So it's a valid reason to keep doing what we're doing, to create more, to think outside the box! Being creative is so good for our life balance. Keep it up and pass it on, especially to our children and grandchildren. It's all in the doing!

I think a lot of our visitors are repeat customers as well. They will give us a try before they go elsewhere, so it is important that we have as much variety of craft and artwork as we can. Local features of the area are often sought after. Recently different people have mentioned that they were looking for 21st Cards and couldn't see any there. Also cards with local animal's one visitor said...People love a story about your work as well, so put these things in your Bio that can accompany your work, or be accessed at the Gallery.

Thank you to our members and volunteers for using clear and easy to read figures when writing into the stock book or on the sales sheets. This is so helpful to me when recording the data into our computer system. Always try to imagine what it's like for someone else to read our writing, I know that it can sometimes be a hurried situation, but I do very much appreciate it when all runs smoothly at the end of the month.

Speaking of ends, I would like to give some advance notice to our Gallery membership that I will be standing down as Treasurer at our next AGM in March 2019. My husband and I are moving house and although this may free up more time after being on the land, we hope to get settled into a new build, and maybe having some time to travel around (once Grand parenting duties have been seen to!). There are so many parts of Australia that we have yet to see, so we will be taking little trips here and there going forward. I have held a few different positions in the Gallery over a greater part of the last decade, including President, Grants and Publicity Officer, and other committee positions, and have learnt a great deal about the running of a gallery. This is a particular skill set and it can really broaden your horizons, not to mention pad out your CV. Please look into your upcoming 2019 obligations and see if you can put your hand up for a stint as the Gallery Treasurer. I welcome any enquiries on 0408 816 683. No question too small!

With my Publicity hat on, look out for some Christmas Gallery advertising in the Sentinel Times Summer Discover Tourist Guide, the Coast Magazine, the Gippsland Lifestyle Magazine, as well as a freebie in the Sun Surf and Sand Magazine.

“Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.”
– Anais Nin
One of the benefits of being a member of the Gallery is that you may see some of your work in one of these glossy mags! Of course always let us know, if you haven't already, if this is not acceptable for your particular artwork.

Have a really good Christmas, and New Year everyone!  

Patricia Hill

WOODWORKERS:

Our Daffodil Festival working display in the Gallery Courtyard was very successful. There were lots of visitors to inspect the interesting array of finished woodwork and good sales of club projects and individual members' work. Quite a few locals commented on the history (and demise) of the significant Camphor Laurel tree shown in the feature on the display table.

Some novelty and high quality items in our mini-exhibition in the Gallery promoted further sales and many favourable comments.

“One only need two tools in life: WD-40 to make things go, and duct tape to make them stop.”

- unknown

Thanks Raeleigh Soderlund for sharing your considerable talent and assistance in setting up this display.

Now is the right time for members to add to the Gallery stock ready for Christmas shopping.

Glenice Emmerson

PAINTERS:

Recently in October, we had a 4 day workshop at the Guide Hall, when John Lovett, a well-known Queensland Watercolour Artist, (he also paints in oils and mixed media), inspired a fairly large group of our local artists with his techniques and talent. Everyone who attended was extremely enthusiastic about the whole experience, they learnt new techniques and have a large collection of varied work they did during the four days. Thank you to Florence Crighton for organising this.

We are now working towards our next exhibition, The Leongatha Art Show at 37 Bair Street from 9th to 24th November. The Opening is on Saturday 10th Nov 2pm to 4pm. Food and Drink will be provided. There will be exhibits from over 30 local artists, who work in various mediums, from pencil, pastels, watercolour, acrylics, oils and mixed media.

We meet during the school terms at the Guide Hall in A'Beckett Street Leongatha, around 11am till 2 or 3pm. (Bring your lunch) It's a friendly and social group, who are more than willing to share ideas and new people have been made to feel very welcome.

Trish Rosel

MEMBERSHIP / ROSTER NEWS:

We have 77 members and 11 Friends of Gallery at the moment. Many thanks to all who do their share of duty; we appreciate your time very much, it means we have the gallery open more often!!

A big welcome to our new members who have joined recently, bringing new art to the Gallery, also to the ‘Friends of the Gallery’ who have been a huge asset in helping with duty.
Members are reminded to check that their artwork hasn’t been in the Gallery for more than 12 months with the exception of cards.

“Thereover the notion that you must be regular. It robs you of the chance to be extraordinary.”
- Uta Hagen

DISPLAY COMMITTEE
The daffodil show provided an influx of new pieces from the woodworkers group who arranged the pieces beautifully in the gallery.

New flyers and stickers with our name and number to place on bags have been purchased and paper bags have stickers placed on them. Extra stickers are under the register.

The gallery has been a hive of activity with new material coming in from our members as well as rearranging the gallery and storeroom.

The store room has been rearranged to give us more space to move as it was becoming quite crowded and uncomfortable to move around in there.

A new(er) filing cabinet replaces the old one and has been filed away on a shelf giving us more floor space.

Trish and I have also gone through all the old magazines and art work that has been on storeroom shelves for quite a while. This has freed up very valuable shelf space so we now have room to place new incoming items. Thanks to those members who have collected older pieces of work and brought in new pieces.

There are still items on the take home shelves to be collected. It would be appreciated if owners could collect these to give us more shelf space.

We are now raring to go for Christmas so bring in your new pieces for our Christmas display.

Trish Rosel          Daisy Antoniou
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Jenene Evans

Members with an email address please let me know. My email is bundilla50@bigpond.com

Cheers Jenene Evans