

FRIENDS OF THE ARTS (A.C.N. 009-844-231)

Trading as FRIENDS OF THE ARTS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019/2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors has pleasure in submitting its Report for the Financial Year 2019/20.

Six Directors were appointed to the Board of Directors at the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

- Ian Kennedy
- Robyn Clark
- Louise Carroll
- Marilyn Strauss
- Rebecca Paranthoienne
- Nicole Pericic

Rhonda White accepted an invitation to fill a casual vacancy on the Board but before that was formalised she has chosen to remain a volunteer committee member but not a Board member.

A list of the names of Directors and attendances at Board meetings appears on the last page of this Annual Report. The Directors do not receive any remuneration for Board services nor is anyone paid an honorarium. All Board work undertaken is completely voluntarily, and without recompense.

At the meeting of the board on 28 January 2020, the following Directors were elected to executive positions:

President	Ian Kennedy
Vice President/Secretary	Rebecca Paranthoienne
Treasurer	Nicole Pericic

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Board of Directors has pleasure in submitting its Report for the Financial Year 2019/20.

A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019-20

This has been an extraordinary year for the Friends with venues closed, gatherings restricted, and events cancelled. Unfortunately, the Arts fell to the bottom of everyone's priorities, including government.

The Friends held off Board meetings for many months as we waited to see what would happen. We recommenced Board meetings in September as restrictions started to lift generally.

The Gift Fund had little income to distribute this year, and the applicants for scholarships were also in a hiatus in their training, and therefore the Gift Fund made the difficult decision to hold off scholarships for 2020.

Looking forward, the Friends and the Gift Fund Management Committee remain committed to supporting a range of arts and cultural initiatives in our region with corresponding opportunities for our members to participate in a wider range of events and activities.

We look forward to the HOTA Art Gallery being completed and opening early next year and it is rapidly growing and asserting its position in the HOTA precinct next to the office of the Friends.

We are sad at Beverly McIlwain's passing. She generously provided for the Friends Gift Fund in her Estate to the extent that the Gift Fund will achieve her husband Jock's original goal when he initiated the fund with Tony Wilkins to have a fund with 1 Million dollars the income from which can forever support the Arts on the Gold Coast.

We are forever grateful to the McIlwains for what they have done for the Arts on the Gold Coast.

Events

The Friends pre-purchased a limited number of tickets to some shows at HOTA for 2020 which we sold first to Life and VIP members as a priority (before we opened remaining tickets for sale to social members).

On 27 February 2020 a group of VIP and Life members of the Friends enjoyed an entertaining and informative High Tea with renowned Australian Actress Noni Hazelhurst, who appeared in the play 'Mother' at HOTA during that week.

On 5 March 2020 a group of Friends members enjoyed the wacky Monty Python's Spamalot from VIP 'House' seating at HOTA with a complimentary drink at the interval.

'Sleeping Beauty – Moscow Ballet La Classique', which was scheduled for Sunday 29 March 2020 was unfortunately cancelled by HOTA and ticket holders received a refund.

We had pre-purchased tickets to Opera Queensland's performance of Tosca which was to be held in August this year however that was also cancelled before we had sold the tickets to our members and HOTA provided us with a refund.

On 6 October we held a High Tea at Bumbles Café, Budd's Beach, Surfers Paradise to pay our respects to Beverly McIlwain and her husband Jock on their amazing generosity to the Friends of the Arts Gift Fund. The event was sold out and attended by members and past and present Board members and presidents. Retiring Chair of the Friends Gift Fund Tony Wilkins gave a moving account of the history of the Gift Fund.

Future events and Fundraising

We are promoting a new Friends of the Arts Foundation raffle, as fundraising for the Friend's charitable purposes.

Tickets are only \$5 and the prize is a Season Pass for two people to the European Masterpieces Exhibition at the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art and a nights accommodation at the Riverside Hotel Brisbane.

We look forward to the opening of the HOTA Gallery and we will endeavour to provide opportunities for Friends members to enjoy a private tour of the new Gallery.

B. MEMBERSHIPS

Member type:	Numbers: [1,228 total] [115 up from last AGM]
Social membership: Website Subscriber Previous Members with email:	Total: 890 116 658
VIP	34
Life Members [Online & Post]:	Double Membership: 116 (232 total members) Single Membership: 106 Total Life Members: 338

Our membership categories

We continue to provide two membership categories being:

- **Social Membership** which is free for anyone to remain on our database and to continue to receive electronic newsletters and updates and invitations to events;

and the other membership option is :

- **\$20 VIP Membership** (Voting, Involved and Priority), meaning that you become a voting member of the Friends, become more involved in the direction of the Friends as a charitable organisation and that, where possible, VIP and Life Members are offered a priority opportunity to purchase tickets to shows which are being pre-purchased by the Friends.

HOTA continues to honour Friends Life Members' HOTA benefits.

VIP Members and Life Members remain voting members of the Friends and anyone else is welcome to become or remain a social member and receive our monthly electronic newsletters at no charge.

I would encourage Social members to take up our VIP membership option so you don't miss our priority and exclusive offers and so that you contribute to the funding of our organisation as it pursues its charitable purposes for the good of the Arts on the Gold Coast.

C. ADMINISTRATION AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board have been ably supported with administrative and meeting assistance by Ella Graham of McLaughlins Lawyers.

The legal name of the company is Friends of the Arts however the Board chooses to undertake its main activities under the business name owned by the company of Friends of the Arts Foundation.

D. GIFT FUND

The Gift Fund is administered by a management committee appointed by the board of the Friends. The committee was chaired by Tony Wilkins OBE, JP(Qual) and includes; Daniel Endenburg, FIPA, MAICD, MREIQ; and Ian Kennedy LLB and Rebecca Paranthoene, Friends Board member and Vice-President.

The Committee of the Gift Fund had to make the difficult decision this year to not advertise for applications for grants from the Gift Fund.

The general restrictions as a result of the Covid crisis impacted our fundraising abilities and the decision has been made to hold off providing personal grants until 2021. We have been able however to maintain our ongoing annual Griffith University QCA Honours Scholarship.

This years recipient of the annual Friends of the Arts Foundation QCA Honours Scholarship was Ashley Llambias. See Ashley's message below and the article about the receipt by her of the Friends of the Arts Foundation Scholarship in the extract from the Griffith News article below.

Finally, it was with some sadness that we announced at the end of the financial year Tony Wilkins retired as Chair of the Management Committee of the Friends Gift Fund. See Tony's farewell message below. Ian Kennedy was voted by the Management Committee to hold the role of Chair.

Tony was instrumental in establishing the Gift Fund with the support of Jock McIlwain with the dream that it become a perpetual fund forever able to distribute its income each year to talented young Gold Coast artists and performers who are in need of direct financial support to take the next step in their training and a career in the Arts.

Tony has managed the Gift Fund with diligence, dignity and compassion. We hope to be able to call upon his wisdom and experience as we continue the great work he started.

On behalf of all the Friends and the recipients of the support from the Gift Fund we thank him and wish him well in his retirement from the Gift Fund.

Shortly after Tony's retirement the Gift Fund received a generous bequest from long time supporter Beverly McIlwaine. Shares valued around \$500,000 and cash of \$460,000 were given to the Friends of the Arts Gift Fund bringing our total investments to \$1.2 million. This was received after 1 July 2020 so doesn't show in the accounts presented today, which are to the end of the financial year.

This extremely generous bequest secures the dream hatched over a decade ago by Jock McIlwaine to establish a sustainable perpetual fund to support young performers.

We look forward in the coming year to re-opening the grants to young performers as well as continuing the Griffith Scholarship. The Gift Fund will now have the resources to expand their support for, primarily, young performers and artists on the Gold Coast including through support of groups such as the Gold Coast Eisteddfod and Gold Coast Theatre Awards.

A farewell message from Tony Wilkins

Dear Friends,

I have been writing this letter for a while but this is it. I am tendering my resignation from the Management Committee of the Friends Gift Fund formally.

My first attempt was far too long but it is hard to just say "Goodbye".

When I first floated the idea of a charitable fund to the Friends Board there were some who thought that I had gone mad. We went ahead anyway. With the help of Ken Brown and Mark Niall we applied for permission from various authorities to be registered and able to offer tax deductible donations. This took over a year but we eventually launched in December 2006 with the generous backing of Jock McIlwain.

Since then we have given away a total of over \$237,000 to help 36 young people achieve their dreams. We can be proud of our part in their achievements. I will miss the interaction with the youngsters and their parents.

Now there is the prospect of a big donation and more opportunities to help.

Although i have resigned from the Gift Fund, my wife Julia and I remain Life Members of the Friends and are looking forward to attending events when they resume.

Regards,

Tony Wilkins OBE”

E. OTHER MATTERS

As required by the Corporations Act, the following information is provided:

The amount which any member is required to contribute if the Company is wound up is \$20 from each financial member.

F. THANKS

The Friends is a voluntary organisation and its success is due to the many people who support it.

The Board of Directors thanks Tony Wilkins for working with Jock McIlwaine to establish the Gift Fund and for the many year he chaired the Gift Fund Committee and administered the process of receiving applications and interviewing applicants for scholarships.

We also thank Daniel Endenburg for his work with the Gift Fund Management Committee.

Importantly, the Board of Directors wishes to thank our members, Social, VIP and Life for their continuing support.

This Directors' Report accords with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Ian Kennedy

President
26 November 2020

Board Member Meeting Attendances 2019/2020

Name	Position Held	Date Appointed as Director	Meetings Attended	Apologies
Louise Carroll	Director	02.10.2018	4	0
Rebecca Paranthoiene	Vice President/Secretary	18.09.2009	2	2
Ian Kennedy	President	19.09.2017	4	0
Robyn Clark	Director	19.09.2017	3	1
Marilyn Strauss	Director	28.05.2019	4	0
Nicole Pericic	Director/Treasurer	27.08.2019	3	1