

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

Trading as FRIENDS OF THE ARTS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018/2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors has pleasure in submitting its Report for the Financial Year 2018/19.

Ten Directors were appointed to the Board of Directors at the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

Dorothy McCormack*
Janice Christison*
Elaine Kennett*
Louise Carroll
Georgina Coundouris
Rebecca Paranthoienne
Ian Kennedy
Robyn Clark
Janet Cahill*
Sally Romano*

During the year Dorothy, Janice, Janet, Sally and Elaine resigned.

Marilyn Strauss and Nicole Pericic were appointed to fill casual vacancies on the Board on 28 May 2019 and 27 August 2019 respectively.

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 nor is anyone paid an honorarium. All work undertaken is completely voluntarily, and without recompense.

At the meeting of the board on 16 October 2018, the following Directors were elected to executive positions:

President	Ian Kennedy
Vice President	Rebecca Paranthoienne
Secretary	Sally Romano
Treasurer	Elaine Kennett

Nicole Pericic was appointed Treasurer on 27 August 2019.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Board of Directors has pleasure in submitting its Report for the Financial Year 2018/19.

A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018-19

This report marks an end to my first year as President of the Friends of the Arts. Again we have gone through a year of significant change for the Friends of the Arts, including:

- Operating under the new Company Constitution
- Operating under the new name 'Friends of the Arts' and also adopting the additional business name 'Friends of the Arts Foundation'
- Running the administrative services of the Friends of the Arts separate from HOTA

The new Constitution reflects the Friends wider support of the arts and culture across the Gold Coast. For the Friends it means an opportunity to support 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 have come a long way. The Gold Coast Arts Centre grew out of the efforts of the original Friends. Over the decades the Gold Coast Arts Centre grew, providing even more opportunities for the Arts on the Gold Coast. In recent years that change has coincided with changes of the name from the Gold Coast Arts Centre to Arts Centre Gold Coast to the present Home of the Arts (HOTA).

Throughout the history of the Arts Centre, the Friends have always been a separate and independent organisation from the Arts Centre Gold Coast. The Friends have been a not-for-profit company with the principal focus being to promote and encourage artistic and cultural pursuits of all kinds through active support of the Art Centre. In more recent years the Friends established their charitable gift fund to sponsor and support young artists and performers. In addition, in recent years the Friends have provided support for other events such as the Gold Coast Eisteddfod and Gold Coast Theatre Awards.

A time of change

In 2018 HOTA had notified us they would be discontinuing their traditional support of the Friends by way of member benefits and providing administrative services to the Friends. We negotiated a transitional arrangement that had HOTA continue to provide their usual membership benefits to our members until 30 June 2019. Attempts to extend that arrangement were unsuccessful.

From November 2018, all membership matters, enquiries and general administration was moved from HOTA to the Friends of the Arts. As a volunteer organisation that has proven difficult for the Friends and we have undertaken that with the support of paid administrative assistants and the free use of the offices of McLaughlins Lawyers as a head office for the Friends and for board meetings.

As part of the process of the Friends being required to undertake their own administration, all membership data and documents were transferred from HOTA to the Friends.

Events

The Friends provided sponsorship to the producers of the FAME musical performance at HOTA during January 2019, to help defray the costs of the 32 young individuals who performed in the musical.

The Friends also bulk purchased tickets to shows during the year for the benefit of Friends' members. This included the Sapphires on 15 March 2019 with a pre-show drink and an opportunity for a question and answer session with the performers after the show.

In May 2019, we had a successful Gift Fund movie night for the movie 'Rocketman' raising funds for the Friends Gift Fund.

In June 2019, a group of Friends' members attended pre-show drinks and canapes on the rooftop of the office of the Friends at McLaughlins Lawyers before walking over to the Queensland Ballet's performance of Dangerous Liaisons.

Members and guests enjoyed a Friends morning tea fundraising event at the Southport Golf Club on 22 July 2019 where we had the opportunity to present this years Friends of the Arts - Griffith Queensland College of Arts Scholarship to the very deserving awardee Kirsty Gordon.

The event was also an opportunity for the Chair of our Gift Fund, Tony Wilkins, to present the Friends of the Arts Gift Fund Beverly McIlwain Award to Jackson Smith-Leishman.

Since the end of the financial year we hosted another rooftop experience for the Bell Shakespeare production of 'Much Ado About Nothing' with preshow rooftop drinks and canapes at McLaughlins Lawyers before the group walked over to the performance at HOTA.

We were pleased to report during the year that Nina Fan, a previous recipient of Friends of the Arts Gift Fund, was chosen as the first recipient of the Emily Reinhart piano scholarship to study at Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, as well as being invited to perform as part of the Brisbane 4MBS Classic FM Music Festival.

Another successful Friends' fundraising function was a Friends luncheon on 3 October 2019 at Milan on Tedder Avenue where our guest singer, Isabella Wiesenthal, was pleased to announce to the Friends that she had been accepted into the New York Academy of Performing Arts. The Friends were able to raise over \$1,000 from the general support of this event and the raffle and the silent auction prizes, which the Friends continue to apply in the pursuit of our charitable purposes.

The guest speaker was artist, Annique Goldenberg, from Southern Cross University who described the techniques she implements in her art and the inspiration she gets from nature and water.

Future events and Fundraising

The Friends are securing a limited number of tickets to the following shows at HOTA in the coming year and we will let Life and VIP members know as a priority when these tickets are available for purchase (before opening remaining tickets, if any, for sale to social members), to attend as a group of Friends and, where available, with pre show rooftop drinks.

- 27 February 2020 – High Tea with Noni Hazelhurst
- 5 March 2020 – Monty Python's Spamalot
- 29 March 2020 Moscow Ballet's Sleeping Beauty
- 28 August 2020 Opera Queensland's Tosca

We are also going to be promoting a new Friends of the Arts Foundation raffle, with major prizes to be drawn throughout the year, as fundraising for the Friend's charitable purposes. Prizes will include special arts opportunities that you couldn't otherwise buy.

B. MEMBERSHIPS

Member type:	Numbers: [1,113 total]
<u>Social membership:</u>	Total: 744
Social Member (emailed to join):	22
Website Member (via website)	59
Previous Members with email:	663
VIP members:	31
Life Members:	Double Membership: 116 (232 total members) Single Membership: 106 Total Life Members: 338

Changes to membership categories

During May and June 2019, we previewed to our members the proposed changes to the membership structure because the transitional arrangement with HOTA, to continue providing the HOTA benefits to our members, was coming to an end on 30 June 2019.

From 1 July 2019, we have provided 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.

As part of the transitional arrangements with HOTA, HOTA committed to continue 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 Board arranged for the Friends of the Arts to acquire the business name Friends of the Arts Foundation and that is the name the Friends of the Arts primarily now chooses to trade under for its main activities.

D. GIFT FUND

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

"The Gift Fund has not been immune from the organisational changes forced upon the Friends. Apart from name changes there have been the effects of falling interest rates and the pressure on personal finances which have reduced donations. Even so we were able to offer help to nine young people with grants totaling \$19,000 during 2018/19.

The Beverly McIlwain award was made to Jackson Smith-Leishman who subsequently was offered places in the Royal Ballet School in London, the Princess Grace Academy in Monaco and

the Houston Ballet School in USA. However he declined these offers as he considered himself too young. He will attempt to impress again at international competitions next year. There are some very highly talented young people on the Gold Coast but most of them need help to progress to the top of their profession. Donations to the Gift Fund are always welcome and will help many of them.

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 Dorothy McCormack, Janice Christison, Janet Cahill, Sally Romano and Elaine Kennett for their voluntary contribution to the governance of the Friends of the Arts while they were on the Board during this financial year.

I make special mention of the hard work and dedication of our recent Treasurer Elaine Kennett as she kept the books in order, followed up our members and actively supported our events.

I make a further special mention for Gina Coundouris who is not nominating for the Board again after three years of service to the Friends. Gina was always great at picking the shows to support and organising the events runs by the Friends. Gina will be missed and we wish her well and will see her at our events as a guest rather than organiser.

Importantly, the Board of Directors wishes to thank our members, Social, VIP and Life for their continuing support. Without their support and generosity we would not be able to continue supporting HOTA and the wider arts community.

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

Ian Kennedy

President

23 November 2019

Board Member Meeting Attendances 2018/2019

Name	Position Held	Date Appointed as Director	Meetings Attended	Apologies
Gina Coundouris	Director	20.09.2016	10	2
Louise Carroll	Director	02.10.2018	9	3
Janet Cahill	Director+	02.10.2018	3	0
Rebecca Paranthoiene	Vice President	18.09.2009	10	2
Dorothy McCormack	Director++	02.10.2018	2	0
Ian Kennedy	President	19.09.2017	11	1
Robyn Clark	Director	19.09.2017	10	2
Janice Christison	Director+++	02.10.2018	3	0
Elaine Kennett	Director/Treasurer++++	24.10.2017	8	1
Sally Romano	Director/Secretary+++++	23.04.2018	2	0
Marilyn Strauss	Director*	28.05.2019	6	0
Nicole Pericic	Director/Treasurer**	27.08.2019	3	0

- * Elected to these positions at board meeting of 28 May 2019
- ** Elected to these positions at board meeting of 27 August 2019
- + Resigned as a director on 26 February 2019
- ++ Resigned as a director on 28 January 2019
- +++ Resigned as a director on 26 February 2019
- ++++ Resigned as a director on 22 August 2019
- +++++ Resigned as a director on 22 January 2019