

The Bouddi Society Inc.

Annual General Meeting – 6 May 2019

Management Committee's Report for 2018

On behalf of the Governing Committee of the Society I would like to report to members on what we believe has been another active and productive year in the pursuit of the Society's goals: to encourage, promote and enrich the cultural life of this wonderful community that we are so lucky to be part of.

1. The Bouddi Society

Once again the Society engaged in a number of events and activities that provided entertainment in a variety of modes, continued its important activities in documenting and promoting the area's history, and, through the Society's charitable wing, the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts' extraordinarily successful grants program, furthered in a practical way the artistic development of many committed and gifted young people of the Central Coast. As a committee we believe that the health of our organisation and its continuing viability is dependent on it being well-rounded and balanced in its activities. This is attained, we believe, by addressing the past through our publications and historical photographs collection: the present by providing a variety of entertainments to our members and the public; and the future by investing in the development of the next generation of young people who will ensure that the cultural life of our community is safeguarded and improved.

Following a review of the Society's constitution in 2017 members approved a number of amendments at the AGM and notified those changes to the state and federal regulatory bodies. The management committee also approved minor amendments to the rules of the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts.

In the June long week-end the Society held an art show with 'Bouddi: the Power of Place' as its theme. Organised by Vice-President Margaret Crane, the event was successful in raising nearly \$14,000 in art sales of which \$9,000 went to local artists for their work.

In November we screened the movie "The Man From Hong Kong" at Wagstaffe Hall. Not only did patrons enjoy Asian street food as part of the proceeding, but they were hugely entertained by local actor, writer, poet and raconteur, Bruce Venables, himself a member of the Royal Hong Kong constabulary at the time the movie was shot. Bruce displayed and explained some of his fascinating memorabilia from those days.

In December the Society re-published the book "Reflections from The Beach and the Bay", a fascinating collection of memories and anecdotes about days past on the Bouddi Peninsula. The stories were originally collected and edited by the late Jill Baxter and the value of those tales in providing a link to the past has only increased over the years. The book's popularity has meant that this is the third printing the Society has undertaken. For this edition the text was revised by Robyn Warburton who, having more than capably picked up Jill's historical torch, added some new material and photographs. The attractive result is already proving popular.

And speaking of attractive publications, at the urging of its editor, Peter Park, it was decided to print the Bouddi News in colour. The modest increase in publication costs has been more than compensated by the enhanced impact the pamphlet has in disseminating and informing our community about our plans and achievements.

2. The Bouddi Foundation for the Arts

The Society's charitable wing, the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts, chaired by John Bell, had another productive year in encouraging and supporting talented young artists on the Central Coast. It advertised for expressions of interest in its grants program in early June and received 47 applications. As the program becomes better known there has been a steady increase in the response to it. The Foundation applies a sophisticated examination of applications culminating in expert panels auditioning a short-list of candidates. This year, a total of 17 grants totalling \$21,000 were made through this process. Two additional grants for exceptional circumstances brought the total grants for the year to \$29,500.

In July the Foundation provided additional assistance to the brilliant young flautist, Alyse Faith, by organising a fundraising event for her at Wagstaffe Hall. Alyse had recently completed with honours her music degree in Melbourne and had been admitted to one of the world's most prestigious music education institutions, the Royal Academy of Music in London. Alyse will undertake her Master's Degree in Music Performance. Alyse has had a long association with the Bouddi Society and the Foundation having first performed in front of us when she was eight and it is most gratifying to watch the trajectory of her development and success.

Finally, the Management Committee would like to thank the Society's members for their ongoing support and I personally would like to thank all the committee members for their ever cheerful help and assistance and their hard work in ensuring that the Bouddi Society continues to contribute to the cultural richness of our community.

Phil Donnelly

President

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