

President's Report 2022

Good evening, everyone, I'm Jane Wilcox, President of the Friends of TMAG.

Today, I am very pleased to present the President's report for the financial year 2021/2022.

This year we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of our founding. This achievement represents 40 years of encouraging the engagement of you, our members, with TMAG, expanding your horizons, helping you to discover new passions and assisting TMAG with purchases to help support curators and collections.

In the last 12 months, the Friends of TMAG committee again presented at least two events each month, with a diverse range of topics covered. We did see a drop in event attendance when the Tasmanian borders opened, but registrations are again gradually increasing back to pre-Covid levels.

We held five off site events this year, including a visit to the Spring Bay Mill at Triabunna, which saw us reconnect with the Expedition of Discovery undertaken there by scientists from the Herbarium in 2019. Visits to the house museums also featured. We arranged a Monster Soup Kitchen at Narryna, which coincided with a display, 'Pills, Potions and Pandemics', and a sell-out tour of Markree.

Our floor talks continue to be popular, with science, art and history well represented. Amongst others, we explored the Migrant Experience Project, Gay Hawkes' exhibition 'The House of Longing', and calligraphy past and present, referencing an exhibited artwork in 'This Too Shall Pass'.

Behind the scenes events were well patronised and we were able to run an art conservation experience in the conservation lab three times, due to overwhelming interest.

We successfully branched out into the world of drama when we hosted an event around Blue Cow's production of 'The Winter's Tale', performed in the Central Gallery. We also held an event when TMAG presented a performance on the newly acquired grand piano, on loan from the TSO.

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A highlight of our birthday celebrations was a reception at Government House. Guests were led on a tour of the art of Government House focussing on the art connections between TMAG and Government House.

We also hosted an inaugural members morning tea. We have eleven members who were with us back in 1982 and still have active membership.

The continuing legacy of Covid 19 has seen our membership drop somewhat this year, but we were pleased to welcome members of the TMAGgots into our fold, when their group wound up at the end of the financial year. Currently we have 719 members.

The Friends of TMAG has also been able to donate \$13,500 this year for items as diverse as a great white shark mould and necklaces and baskets for the Pacific Cultures exhibition.

I would like to thank the members of our dedicated committee. Without your commitment, none of this would happen. Sadly, one of our committee members, Irene McGuire is laying down her role this year. I thank her for her commitment over the last three years. Of particular note during this time, she successfully persuaded Peter Hughes, Senior Curator (Decorative Arts) (no mean feat!) to bring exhibits and talk at a wonderful event on textiles. She also enticed Gay Hawkes and Sarah Day to converse at the wonderful event celebrating Gay's exhibition, 'The House of Longing'. So, thank you Irene! We will miss you!

As we move into the 41st year of our existence, with the help of the committee and you, the members, we will continue to engage with, explore and narrate wonderful Tasmanian stories. Our 40th year, I'm sure, will prove to be our best yet.

JANE WILCOX
President