



# Kiama Art Society

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024

### 45TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION REPORT

It's with a feelings of pride and a sigh of relief that I write this post event report about our recent Annual Exhibition. Pride, because it was a truly lovely display of paintings, most of them by KAS members. Relief, in that the hard work involved in organizing is almost over.

Reports and comments from viewers and exhibitors were extremely positive. Registration and hanging went very smoothly. We had very good attendance at the opening function, and over the long weekend. Numbers tapered off as the week went on, and then picked up again on the next weekend. Pretty much as expected.

However, sales were disappointing. There were so many lovely paintings just waiting for new homes, but I guess the economic situation and the cost of living pressures played a part in visitors admiring, but not purchasing. I believe this is the case in many aspects of business, so art is no different. Let's hope for an improvement soon!

THANKS. There are many KAS members and Society friends to thank. First – to all who exhibited –the standard of work was amazing. To prize winners and sellers – congratulations. You stood out in a very high quality field, so your success is well earned. To all who assisted with registration and hanging, a job well done. It is no easy task to keep the flow happening at registration, and placing and hanging is like fitting a jigsaw together, but it happened easily and quickly. Thanks to all the team.

Mega thanks to members and friends who gave up a morning or afternoon ( or in some cases a whole day) to the “sitting” task. We all have busy lives, but the exhibition couldn't work without the ongoing support we get from members. However, there were a few worrying moments, with spots on the roster that were empty till the last minute. That puts a lot of pressure on the organizers, so please consider this and put your name down early next time.

Thanks to members John Downton OAM and Carole Massey for donating our raffle prizes.

SPONSORS: We are so lucky to have the support of our exhibition sponsors – most are long term sponsors but this year we welcomed the Kiama Downs Pharmacy to our sponsor list. Sponsorship is what enables the exhibition to be a judged event, and that is a tradition that we would very much like to keep. Every prize is an important acknowledgment of the talent of the winning artist, but it also reflects on the passion and hard work of all artists who put their work up there to be judged. Thank you Melissa Ritchie, this year's judge, for giving your time and expertise, and for your very encouraging comments.

Of course, special mention must go to our two long term major sponsors – **The Kiama Leagues Club, and The Kiama Municipal Council**. These two organizations have supported us for many years, and it is their ongoing support that allows the KAS committee to be confident in planning each year for the next Annual Exhibition. It would be remiss of me not to give a special mention to the Leagues Club President Steve Willis and the Club’s Board of Management, and to CEO Jesse O’Brien and his staff for the many ways they assist us during our weeks at the club. We are so very lucky to have such a generous Community minded organization in our town.

COMMITTEE THANKS: Thanks to the members of the KAS Committee, and a personal and heartfelt thanks to my colleague and co-convenor of the Exhibition, Robyn McMillan. Robyn is Secretary/ treasurer of KAS, and devotes many hours every week to KAS matters. I am in awe of her capacity for work, and her ability to deal with the big issues, while never losing sight of the detail and finer points that matter to our membership.

FINALLY: CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS!

This year’s overall Winner was Illawarra artist Vladimir Begonja, with a vibrant, detailed and compelling painting of “Fitzroy Falls.” Following a tradition of many years, this painting will be displayed in the foyer of the Kiama Leagues Club, becoming a worthy addition to the Leagues’ Club Art Collection of Winning Paintings from each Annual KAS exhibition.

#### **Best in Show**

- 1st. Vladimir Begonja, *Fitzroy Falls*. Sponsor: Kiama Leagues Club
- 2nd. Jenny Albanis, *Silver Jug and Lemons*. Sponsor: Kiama Municipal Council
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lexie Watt, *Windbent Tree Bombo Headland*. Sponsor: Illawarra Financial Group

**Best Watercolour in Show.** Christine Hill, *Kangaroo Valley Pastoral*. Sponsor: Big4 Easts Beach Holiday Park

#### **Landscape and seascape**

- 1st. Heather Philpott, *Cloud Melody Boat Harbour*. Sponsor: Bombo Curtains & Blinds
- 2nd. Sylvia Hawthorne, *Shoalhaven Reflection*. Sponsor: Kiama Furniture One
- 3rd. Philip Miles, *Morning Frost*. Sponsor: CAAA Commercial Associates

**Kiama Local Council Area.** Sponsor of this section - Kiama Municipal Council

- 1st. Joseph Vella, *Deeply Rooted in Knowledge*
- 2nd. Sandra Gray, *Afternoon Light, Kiama*
- 3rd. Colleen Behl, *Kiama Skate Park*

#### **Abstract**

- 1st. Leonie Scott, *Misty*. Sponsor: Kiama Air
- 2nd. Catherine Carr, *Synapes*. Sponsor: HealthSAVE Kiama Downs Pharmacy
- 3rd. Matthew Charles, *All The Small Things*. Sponsor: Kerry’s Klothes Kiama

#### **Still Life**

- 1st. Kim Grivas, *Tetragona Comfort*. Sponsor: Burnetts on Barney.
- 2nd. Grace Paleg, *Amber Autumn*. Sponsor: Kiama Municipal Council
- 3rd. Suzanne Walker, *Passing Time*. Sponsor: Levers Picture Framing and Fine Art Materials

### **Figurative / Portrait**

1st. Salwa Woodroffe, *Julia Baird*. Sponsor: Raine and Horne Kiama

2nd. Vicky Hazzard, *Dott*. Sponsor: Art House Direct Nowra

3rd. Janetha Lyon, *We Are Family*. Sponsor: Bombo Curtains and Blinds

The **PEOPLE'S CHOICE** award was won by Vivien Tanner for "Last Light"

Sponsor: Kiama and District Business Chamber

ART SUPPLIES DISCOUNTS - two of our ongoing long term sponsors (ArtHouse Direct Nowra, and Levers Picture Framing and Fine Art Supplies, Wollongong) offer a 10% discount to our members. You can also arrange for Levers to deliver materials to Kiama for you to collect.

A 10% discount is also available at Alexanders' Art Supplies on presentation of your KAS membership card.

Congratulations and thanks to all who contributed to our 45th KAS Annual Exhibition.  
**WELL DONE!**

HELEN PAIN

President Kiama Art Society



**Winning Artist Vladimir Begonja with his work "Fitzroy Falls" which is now hanging in the Foyer at the Kiama Leagues Club**