



# Annual General Report 2024- 2025

OBJECTIVES OF MITCHELL HOUSE ARTS INC.

THE OBJECTS SHALL BE:

- a) TO FOSTER AND DEVELOP EXCELLENCE AND RECOGNITION OF ARTS AND CRAFTS IN THE PLANTAGENET SHIRE AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS WITH MITCHELL HOUSE AS THE CENTRE.
- b) TO PROMOTE AND MARKET MITCHELL HOUSE AND PLANTAGENET AND ITS ARTISTS
- c) TO ENCOURAGE THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND DEVELOP PROGRAMS WHICH SUPPORT THE ARTS IN PLANTAGENET WITH MITCHELL HOUSE AS THE FOCUS
- d) TO FOSTER AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE OF ARTS AND CRAFTS TO THE SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL LIFE OF PLANTAGENET

## CONTENTS

.....	1
<b>President’s Report</b> .....	2
<b>Gallery Report</b> .....	4
<b>Plantagenet Art Prize Report</b> .....	5
<b>Painting Group Report</b> .....	7
<b>Plantagenet Potters group Report</b> .....	7
<b>Secretary’s Report</b> .....	8
<b>Treasurers Report:</b> .....	9
<b>Auditors’ Report</b> .....	12

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## ***President's report for AGM 2025***

It's been an energetic, busy year at Mitchell house during 2024. Once again, I acknowledge the solid teamwork of the executive who keep MHAC on track. *Thank you, Heather, Julie, Venessa and Trish.*

### ***Plant***

- The painting of the three gallery spaces and hallway, with added hanging rails in the hallway. This has enhanced the display of artworks and refreshed the appearance of the gallery overall. The painting was enabled by a grant from the Plantagenet Shire (applied for in June), which also allowed us to install...
- A reverse cycle air-conditioner to service the pottery room and to...
- update and improve signage at Mitchell House.

### ***Exhibitions***

- Members participated in Art in the Porongurups over Easter.
- 30 x 30 (maximum size) fundraiser for MH 6th to 13th July. The new size was an experiment as a desire to have a change of canvas/board size was raised, while those favouring the 9x5 could submit a work on this sized board also.
- MBCC exhibition of student work. Ended 9th August. Well received.
- Art Trail exhibition *Country Living*, 21st September to 6th October
- Collaboration with Lake Grace Artists Group & Wagin Camera Club *Deconstructed* held in December
- Plantagenet Art Prize (PAP), held in MH for the first time in many years. 27th Feb to 9th March. The opening was very well attended, which gave us some logistical issues to solve before the next PAP in 2027.

### ***People***

- 42 members, which includes an impressive number of potters.

- Sara Foot: 2023 was her final year of membership, with ill health preventing her from continuing as a valued member of the painting group in 2024. We miss her sense of humour and whimsical personality.
- Tracy Sleeman from Albany facilitated our session to develop a strategic plan for MH. This was sent to the Shire of Plantagenet which paid for this facilitation. A finalised version of this will be available soon.

### ***Gallery***

- The gallery continues to operate under the able leadership of Heather Roberts, who also efficiently co-ordinated the painting of the gallery during October. She is assisted by Joanne Francis, who regularly attends the gallery on Fridays and Saturdays, occasionally on a Sunday. Heather is most appreciative of all those who volunteer on the gallery roster. It is timely to note that all members who Exhibit are obliged, as part of their membership, to go on the duty roster 5 times a year. Please consider, as this year begins, which days you wish to put your name down for.

### ***Publicity***

- We have a Facebook page that is now linked to an Instagram account. This page is operated by our Publicity Officer, Joanne Francis, and posts can be edited by myself and Heather. We are in the process of updating administrators.
- The PO also submits an edited fortnightly article to Plantagenet News.
- Our Secretary, Venessa, has built a website for MH (thank you Venessa!) and this is now live: [www.mitchellhousearts.com.au](http://www.mitchellhousearts.com.au) Our next steps will be to ensure that people wishing to visit can Google us and the website come up as a result, and that the page remains updated.
- Mitchell House also receives online publicity via ArtSouth, the Shire of Plantagenet, [thebarkerartscene.com](http://thebarkerartscene.com), [barrymackieart.com](http://barrymackieart.com) and Mountain Country Tourism.
- Great Southern FM also advertises MH, thanks to MH member and community radio presenter, Michelle Stanley.

- Annually we take out ad space in the Southerly magazine leading up to the Art Trail.

### ***The Future***

- The annual fundraiser, usually held in July.
- The art trail: September, proposed theme – *Close to Me* – what do you think?
- Collaborations with other art groups?
- More student exhibitions?
- Workshops!
- Individual members' exhibitions in either gallery 2 or 3?

JENNY ROSE/PRESIDENT

## **GALLERY REPORT**

### ***Annual gallery report 27 march 2025***

The opening of the year exhibition continued with art from the "Make it Local" Exhibition with some new changes until it came down in July for our 30 x 30 Small things fundraiser with 61 items for auction and selling all bar 27. We need to decide do we continue our fundraiser for 2025 as 30 x 30? or any size above, and include 9 x 5 boards or half boards and full boards and canvases Of 30 x 30?

Our new signs were painted by Dave Johnson and our new flags arrived in July. The next main event after that was the Art Trail 2024 on 21st September. With the theme of Country Living. Even though we had 16 painters, 18 potters, and textiles and resin artworks and 131 sales, the advertising, art south fees, and cost were high. It was voted for 2025 to continue to participate in the Art Trail in September 2025 but to not advertise in the Southerly, thereby saving \$330. Members will pay a one-off entry fee of \$20 to exhibit in the art trail.

The gallery was cleared by 14 October for the painting of all the walls and fixtures and new rails put up. We are very pleased with the result. Still awaiting The windows in the gallery 1, annex and gallery 3 to be repaired by the shire. Pottery and art were sent to Lake Grace and returned with the Wagin Camera Club

Photography, and Lake Grace pieces in mid-December along with galleries 2 and 3 set up with members work in the theme of flora and fauna. Lake grace and Wagin came down on December 22nd when we closed for 2 weeks to the 3rd of January 2025

The Art Prize commenced on 27 February to 9th march with at least 150 visitors on opening night. There were 93 entries in the main categories and 24 in the Mitchell House Junior Youth Award. All in all, a very successful art prize. (See Art Prize report and Treasurer's report to the executive for costs and sales.)

The Easter Art Trail commences on 12 to the 21st of April. We have not paid to enter this although we have rehung the gallery and will endeavor to have a great looking exhibition and are seeking volunteers for the roster to be manned during this time.

Looking forward to an interesting and productive 2025

HEATHER ROBERTS/GALLERY COORDINATOR

## PLANTAGENET ART PRIZE REPORT

### ***Art Prize Report And Feedback March 20 2025***

Main Entries 93 (plus MHAC Junior Youth Award 24) total 117 entries.

The new rails in the hall and entry being used for the children's art enabled the art to be spread out and displayed well. Printing of the catalogues was done by Officeworks and the category cards and item display cards designed by Venessa with our logo were printed here. This helped add to the professional look of the exhibition. Feedback received was very positive about the general look of the exhibition and quality of works displayed.

150 plus people attended the exhibition opening night. There was Lots of good feedback from visitors and exhibitors, With some constructive criticism outlined below and taken on board to improve the overall event for next time.

Positive Feedback was:

- New improved painted look and extension of the Gallery hanging space.
- White walls and fixtures showcased the artwork better.
- Professional looking exhibition.
- Quality of art works was exceptional.
- Use of Mitchell House as the Art Prize exhibition space instead of Frost Pavilion.
- Including the 10-15 yo Mitchell House Art Centre Junior Youth Award.
- Good sponsorship response, helped make it a success financially (see Treasurer's report.)

Negative Feedback:

- Couldn't hear the speeches (conclusion: Investigate a sound system for next big event)
- Some usual comments regarding the judging and category placement of some items (a learning experience re hanging and ensuring definitions of categories are very clear. In future we may reserve the right to re-categorize the work if the coordinators feel it is mis-labeled)
- Should the children's items come from a workshop and copied from YouTube? (some felt this was not all their own work. However, homage work has been hung in the major galleries and museums for hundreds of years and these were children. Obvious plagiarism may need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis and a policy may be developed around this and work to be hung in the gallery)
- Was there enough food (catering is being reviewed and a better system will be hopefully developed. However, only 41 RSVPs were received for an eventual turn out of at least 3 times as many. The committee feels that this would have been difficult to address under any circumstances. Looking at free booking systems like Eventbrite or Humanitix for the future.)
- People were serving themselves with drinks (We had a person with an RSA there but will need to review access to the drinks to avoid this in the future.)

- How can we improve it next time? (An ongoing suggestions document is being kept ensuring that good ideas are not overlooked)
- What to do if we have a larger number of entries? (Being investigated and looking to incorporate the Pottery area for display with the purchase of 2 Gazebos to set up outside for catering, one suggested option.

HEATHER ROBERTS/ART PRIZE COORDINATOR

## PAINTING GROUP REPORT

Still a relatively small group of painters on Tuesdays although we have 16 Exhibitors. Sadly, Sara Foot was unable to return this year due to ill health and was placed into care at Bethel in Albany. I'm sure she would love visitors.

In May we welcomed Lila, with her lovely vibrant flow art and incredible Textiles and now sadly she also is unwell. In September Louise Stewart Brown From Albany joined our group with her vibrant art and textiles, a most welcome New member.

Before the Art Prize, we welcomed Andy Arnold and with the company of his 2 very docile labradors, it was nice to have a male in the group. A shame we had to shut the group during the Art Prize, it would be nice to have another area in which to paint in the future (dreaming\*) instead of in the gallery space.

2 potential new painters are coming soon. Jenny and I are looking forward to extra company on Tuesdays.

*\*a dedicated studio/workshop space as a capital works project has been Identified in the Strategic Plan and for future grant opportunities as they arise. We need consultation with the Shire before we can go ahead - ED*

HEATHER ROBERTS/PAINTING GROUP

## PLANTAGENET POTTERS GROUP REPORT

**Potter's Report 2025**

Last year was a busy and fruitful year with most of our regular members participating in our group activities.

We started the year with Art in the Porongurup. Our chosen theme was "Wild Things". We created a vibrant display of all things wild and fanciful with quite a number being sold. Some also put work in the bazaar in the Porongurup Hall with sales.

Then it was time to work on "Deconstructed Blooms", a difficult subject, but the final result was good with around ten pieces going to Lake Grace and two being sold.

The "Small Things" Exhibition was next on our agenda and quite a few members presented pieces for sale. The "Dinkum Dunnies" created a lot of mirth and enjoyment and certainly addressed the rural theme of Mitchell House's Art Trail exhibition.

Time to choose our theme for the 2025 Art In the Porongurup, out of the blackboard list the chosen subject was "From the Sea". The coral outcrops and wondrous creatures are nearing completion.

It has been pleasing to see the interest shown in producing work for the gallery and that participating members are getting used to manning it.

TRISH POWELL/PLANTAGENET POTTERS

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

It's been a few months only for me as I came in during the middle of the year. Many thanks to my predecessor, who did a great job.

I have concentrated this year on updating systems and getting more into the online space. Many members of course don't operate or want to operate this way but having all of our historical and operational documents on the failing and old laptop was a risk. (We do keep hard copies of important documents but that means coming into the Centre)

We have linked our existing Gmail account to a Google drive. This allows access to authorized users from home and allows documents to be sent via links. Again, not all members find this easy or want to work this way and that is fine, we will continue to accommodate the members' needs.

In addition, we have purchased an external hard drive, and all documents will be stored there to enable the laptop to have more accessible memory and hopefully extend the life of the device while we continue to seek grant funding to replace it.

Other digital additions are a Google calendar, a schedule chart, a newsletter MailChimp account, and a Canva account to make some of the desk top publishing in house. This was used extensively during the Plantagenet Art Prize.

We have a number of grant applications submitted and are waiting to see if we have been successful in upgrading the earmarked equipment.

VENESSA MILER/SECRETARY

## TREASURERS REPORT:

The following is to be considered with the auditors below.

Memberships 2024: **42**. Memberships (financial) as at 25/3/2025; **32**

Treasurer's Report to	<b>31-January-2025</b>			
2023/24 FY Report closing balance			\$7,818.54	
Reverse accrual in 2023/24 FY report			-\$114.77	
Opening balance in bank			<b>\$7,703.77</b>	
	Income	Expenses	Balance	
Gallery Sales	\$13,185.50			
Payment to Artists		\$ 10,512.40		
Commission to MH			\$2,673.10	
Memberships	\$5,380.00		\$5,380.00	
Potters	\$1,089.00		\$1,089.00	Contributions to Electricity
Donations	\$84.00		\$84.00	
Fund Raiser	\$1,496.00		\$1,496.00	
Grants	\$13,250.00	\$13,233.50	\$16.50	
2025 Art Prize	\$7,175.00	\$790.76	\$6,384.24	

Misc	\$47.15		\$47.15	
Mt Barker Co-op		\$470.63	-\$470.63	
Gardening		\$745.00	-\$745.00	
Electricity		\$1,781.39	-\$1,781.39	
Stationary		\$297.10	-\$297.10	
Advertising & Promotion		\$1,424.60	-\$1,424.60	
Post Office		\$182.25	-\$182.25	
Water Corporation		\$252.32	-\$252.32	
Repairs & Maintenance		\$1,796.07	-\$1,796.07	
Software		\$269.00	-\$269.00	
Insurance		\$1,972.00	-\$1,972.00	
Bank charges		\$242.62	-\$242.62	
Other		\$278.85	-\$278.85	Raised toilet seat and Misc
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,706.65</b>	<b>\$34,248.49</b>	<b>\$7,458.16</b>	
	\$41,706.65	\$34,248.49		
Closing balance in bank	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$15,161.93</b>	
Bank Balance x-chk			\$15,161.93	
			-\$0.00	

<b>Grants</b>	Received	Spent	Balance
Contribution to signage	\$550.00	\$533.50	\$16.50
Contribution to gallery painting	\$7,600.00	\$7,600.00	\$0.00
Contribution to air conditioning	\$5,100.00	\$5,100.00	\$0.00
	<b>\$13,250.00</b>	<b>\$13,233.50</b>	<b>\$16.50</b>
<b>Total Grants &amp; Art Prize</b>		<b>\$20,425.00</b>	<b>\$14,024.26</b>
<b>(See General meeting for art prize final figures)</b>			<b>\$5,197.74</b>
	Received	Spent	Balance
<b>Movement Excluding Grants &amp; Art Prize</b>		<b>\$21,281.65</b>	<b>\$20,224.23</b>
			<b>\$2,260.42</b>
Bank Balance excl Grants & Art Prize			\$9,964.19
YTG			\$0.00
Bank Balance after YTG			<b>\$9,964.19</b>
Movement in Bank Balance			<b>\$2,260.42</b>

<b><u>Advertising &amp; Promotion</u></b>		Spent
Art South		\$599.00
Plantagenet News		\$16.00
Flags		\$226.52
Mt Barker Tourism membership		\$50.00
Ad in Southern Art+Craft Trail		\$330.00
Domain registration		\$29.90
Wordpress for website		\$79.20
Poles for flags		\$93.98
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,424.60</b>
	x-check	<b>\$1,424.60</b>
		<b>-\$0.00</b>
<b><u>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</u></b>		
Light repair x 2		\$273.57
Painting Gallery 2 & 3		\$1,400.00
Fence & building numbers		\$63.50
Covers for acoustic panels		\$59.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,796.07</b>
	x-check	<b>\$1,796.07</b>
		<b>\$0.00</b>

# AUDITORS' REPORT.



m| 0438 902 448 e| maggie@mhaccounting.au | www.maggiehillaccountingandtax.com.au

27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Mitchell House Art Centre  
PO Box 343  
Mount Barker WA 6324

The President

Re.: Audit for Financial Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

I have completed my audit of the art centre's financial records for the 2024/ 2025 financial year.

The scope of my audit was to be satisfied that there are adequate processes in place to correctly prepare and record the financial transactions for the year.

The financial records provided reflect the club's operations for the year and its position at the end of the year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maggie Hill', written over a horizontal line.

Maggie Hill GDATL  
Maggie Hill Accounting and Tax Pty Ltd  
Fellow - NTAA