



PEMBERTON ARTS GROUP INC

Pemberton Community Organisation of the Year 2016.

Established 2004.

Chairperson's Report AGM October 22, 2024

PAG has experienced an action-packed year. Settling in to the new studio space continues to present challenges, with the Shire of Manjimup now applying for a LotteryWest grant to complete the Colocation project, including a ceiling for our studio. Never-the-less, it is a pleasure to work in the studio and enjoy positive responses from workshop participants and visitors. Since moving to the studio, there have been more than 10 workshops held, either hosted by PAG or by independent presenters, with another 3 booked for November. PAG makes a small income from such events to allay ongoing costs.

These workshops, our regular art sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and Tony Windberg's classes for adults and children provide opportunities for locals to experience the space and pursue their creative interests. The kiln has been successfully used with inspiring creations emerging and people keen to play with clay.

Our exhibitions still deliver a high standard, thanks to our amazing team of volunteers. At our recent spring exhibition, themed 'Renewal', we had over 800 visitors and just over a third of all works was sold. A great outcome for artists, those who bought the artworks and for PAG. Our membership increases each spring with membership now at 80, including honorary members. Visiting artists are invariably impressed with the professional look of exhibitions, with one commenting "This is the best exhibition I've seen anywhere on the art trail." (Southern Art trail). In autumn 2025 we look forward to Sculpture in the Vines as well as our Pemberton Art Prize 2025.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the incredible support given to artists and PAG from our sponsors and donors. It is genuinely touching to see the response from artists who are acknowledged with an award. I cannot stress enough the impact art activities have on people's well-being. There is clear evidence each time I work in the studio with others.

While I plan to continue working hard with and for PAG, particularly to support the committee in their increasingly demanding roles, I know that after 15 years as Chair/Coordinator that it's time for a step back. No doubt it will take some time to transition, but fresh vision and energy will be welcome. With the additional accountability associated with managing the Community Arts studio, grants and acquittals, exhibitions, workshop and every-day activities, it's now a more complex task for the whole executive team and we need to redefine our roles to adjust to this different era in our evolution.

I sincerely thank the committee for their contribution to our very special art group, as well as our sponsors, donors, members and volunteers for their support and loyalty.

Best wishes going forward into the future – I will still be here to help.

Please join us after this meeting for some refreshments.

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Chair/Coordinator

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