



## Annual General Meeting 19 May 2024

### President's Report

Welcome to our guests and our committee. I am pleased to report that as we reflect on the year since our last AGM in June 2023, your Society has had success in its events and raised money to support the expenses of the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts, ensuring that every dollar contributed to BFA goes directly to grants to young Central Coast Artists.

The 8 October Book Talk on "My Mother, the Spy" with co-authors Cindy Dobbin and Freda Nichols and moderated by David Abrahams of Central Coast News, was a near sellout and had a lively discussion on a previously unrecognised part of the history of the Bouddi Peninsula. Thanks to **Robyn Warburton** for its production.

The annual Bouddi Art Show with the theme of "Seasons" was another success showcasing the depth of talent on the peninsula. Held with the Arts trail, the Art Show was a financial success. Our Vice President, **Margaret Crane** has our thanks for a magnificent event.

The Cathi Ogden Jazz Concert on 17 February hit the mark as a sellout event. The concert was the ideal event showcasing the professional musicians in our community and bringing Cathi and world-class musicians Bill Risby and Jonathan

Zwartz. This was the first production of new committee member **David Eddie** for the Society, and David's massive success bodes well for future productions.

Words @ Wagstaffe on 16 March brought top-drawer writers to Wagstaffe Hall for the fourth year in partnership with the Words on the Waves team. The theme for Words at Wagstaffe was *Truly Criminal*, drifting to the darker side of the tracks for a day of thrills, true crime and mystery – Well done, **Margaret Crane**.

We venture into new territory with the upcoming "Duet at Wagstaffe," bringing ABC Radio piano stars to Wagstaffe Hall for the first time on the Central Coast. Ticket sales of over 80 so far for the 9 June event tell us that there is appetite and appreciation for this type of music in our arts-savvy community. **Veronica Crowe** is the producer for this event.

More events are in the planning stages.

This committee is chock full of unique skills and talents. Like any committee, we have transitions. With regret and massive thanks, we say "farewell and following seas" to Membership Secretary **David Lonie**, who for over five years has been the public-facing curator of our members with considerable success. David, we will miss you.

We will welcome two new members to our committee tonight in **Merran Adams**, whose long service across our community will be a real asset to the Society and **Roger Hayward**. Roger, who also doubles as the sound pro for many events, will take on the mantle of Membership Secretary. Thanks to **Graeme Anderson** for convincing Roger to join us.

Book sales continue to bring income to the Society as we near exhaustion of the book "Bouddi Peninsula – A Very special place." Thanks to **Liz Turbott** for re-energising book sales and finding new selling venues. And a nod to our historian, **Robyn Warburton**, for authorship of books on people and places in our area.

I am in debt to our two Vice-Presidents, **Margaret Crane and Graeme Anderson**. More than once, they have brought their long service wisdom to steer a less seasoned President away from pitfalls – Margaret and Graeme, you have my gratitude.

With recent changes to the charitable status of organisations such as ours, **Corinne Attard** has used her legal expertise to navigate the new scheme to our advantage in serving this community. Corinne has my profound thanks for getting this right.

Our trusted Treasurer, **John Stedman**, who serves in this role for the Society and our Bouddi Foundation for the Arts, has excelled. Not only has John kept accurate accounts, but his smart decisions on the investment of funds for both organisations have literally paid off. I rely on John for wise counsel.

For myself, the opportunity to merely support this multitalented team has been immensely gratifying this past year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter G Park', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter G Park

President, The Bouddi Society, Inc