

Presidents Report for 2020

Well what a year this past year has been for all of us, full of changes and challenges that we did not see coming at this time a year ago. We all made our plans and laid out what we wanted to do, where we wanted to visit. Treasures that we were going to unearth, memories that we would make. Great times to be had with friends and families. Then early this year along came an invisible threat which turned all of our worlds upside down, all our travel plans, and everything else we had mapped out gone in the blink of an eye, with the arrival on our shores of the Virus dubbed COVID -19. Plans put on hold or delayed at first, thinking this will all be over in a matter of weeks. Then came the lock downs, which caused us some problems and further delayed plans. This uninvited virus was to change things for a long time. When we had the initial lock down and then the relaxation, and life started to return to normal. But by then it had caused the cancellation of a number of events that had been planned. Our AGM and get together to be held at Casino had to be cancelled, then the Faceting courses to be held also had to be cancelled. All these steps were taken by the board to protect the health and wellbeing of you our members and fellow facetors. Then came stage 2 and down into lock down once more which has placed more stress on us and how we live our lives. However, we have adapted.

One of the changes that happened came about at the end of July early August when both the President and the Treasurer tendered their resignations for personal reasons to the Board. The Board had a special meeting on 9 August to ensure we met ASIC requirements in maintaining an operating structure. This met the requirement in our Articles; which state that the Board can appoint an Interim President, Treasurer. The outcome is that I am filling the role of President until the 2021 AGM where a new president can be elected. Lisa Han is Interim Treasurer. Paul will continue to organise the 2021 Annual and the 2022 IFC Competitions. He will also remain as the head of the J & R Panel.

Our Membership continues to grow. At the end of August, our membership numbers stood at 839 members.

Membership fees have undergone a restructure and are detailed in another report. This is the first restructure of the Membership fee's in more than 5 years. This was necessary due the large increase in costs associated with the printing and postage of Facet Talk. We have also been advised by Australia Post that their cost could increase during this year. Part of the restructure will allow us to offer Joint membership at the same cost of Ordinary membership.

Facet Talk continues to be the main tool in promoting and communicating changes in our wonderful hobby and art. It remains the premier magazine in this field worldwide, and is much sought after overseas. A big Thank You to John and his team of helpers in Carol and Lisa. I know that John is always encouraging us to contribute original articles to make it remain what it is. With all the time that we have to spend at home we could use it to good advantage and write some articles for Facet Talk on the way you do things. You never know when you may be able to help another member overcome a problem they have been having.

Workshops have been held in some country areas and have been well attended by both Guild and Non Guild members. The workshops usually see an increase in membership afterwards as the participants see the benefits of belonging to the guild.

Part of that adaptation has seen the holding of virtual workshops and meetings. Even our Annual General Meeting has had to adapt and will be held later in September than normal and as a virtual meeting. The reports and voting will be conducted on line, something different than we are used to. I encourage all of you to participate in the AGM as we still have to satisfy our requirements under ASIC. It will give many more members a chance to participate in the AGM than usual. If you cannot attend please ensure that you fill in a proxy form so that your voice will be heard. Instructions on how to access the virtual AGM will be posted later.

There is a good side to the lock down, not being able to travel, or go to town has given us time to do some serious cutting and enjoyment of our great hobby. I know that there are a lot of you who have built up a great collection of stones within your skite boxes, ready to show off when we can once more get together. I have heard that a lot more members have said that they would enter the competitions, not to beat somebody but to get an indication on how they are going in meeting the standards.

May all your meets meet, your Facets be flat, unless you are Concave cutting.

Thank You

Reg Hall.