

Maitland Regional Art Gallery Members Committee

Minutes

Date: Thursday 9 June **Time:** 5pm **Location:** MRAG

Present: Brigitte Uren, Cheryl Farrell, Loretta Baker, Jan Noble, Sui-Linn White, Lizzie McLaughlin, Alasdair Smart, Sue Groom

Apologies: Catherine Kingsmill, Andrea Pugh

Item 1: **Minutes of the previous meeting 12 May 2015.**

Motion: The minutes of the meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: S. Groom

Seconded: L. McLaughlin

Item 2: **Business Arising**
See Progress Reports & General Business

Item 3: **Correspondence**
In: Minutes of AMG of Australian Federation of Friends of Museums
Out:

Item 4: **Financial Report**
4.1 Treasurer's Report
Presented by Alisdair Smart
Final Statements of Receipts and Payments for April 2016 and a Draft Statement of Receipts and Payments for May 2016.

Alisdair explained that there are two sets of figures. The first statements in the report (pages 1 & 2) is generated by Maitland Council and the other is prepared by Alisdair. Alisdair generates the second statements in an attempt to explain the real situation at the time of the committee meeting because the Council figures may not always include all income/expenditure at this point in time.

'Creditors' in statements include art tutors, although these are not included in the draft figures for May.

Motion: Treasurers report to be accepted.

Moved: A. Smart

Seconded: L. Baker

4.2 Business Papers

i. **2016:04 Print Sale**

Presented by Cheryl Farrell

Date of Print Sale 4 November – 20 November 2016

Discussion points:

- Suggestion to make improvements to the opening night of the Print Sale and marketing of the sale.

- Inclusion of works from local artists groups presents difficulties for this year due to time involved. However, the Mai Wel artists will be invited for this year and others considered in the future if this is successful.
- Art works from the Australian Galleries will be considered on consignment. However, these require 20% commission plus the added cost of transport.

Motion: MRAGMC to authorise expenditure of \$3729 for items directly related to the preparation, engagement and decommission of the 2016 Print Sale.

Moved: A. Smart

Seconded: L. Baker

ii. **2016:05 Free Art Sunday**

Presented by B. Uren

Purpose of this paper is to seek funding to continue the MRAGM Free Art Sunday program.

Discussion points:

- Due to the popularity of this program it was considered in previous discussions that additional tutors would be necessary to cope with large numbers. However, a new strategy has been used and additional art tutors are not always necessary. When workshop spaces are full children and families are offered a number of self-directed Art Trails and activities. It was agreed that this was an effective strategy and acknowledgement was given to the Art gallery staff for the implementation.
- Family membership provides substantial profit and is above other areas of membership.
- A possible fee increase may be necessary to support the program.
- A total of \$9,540.00 was requested for 2016/17 financial year. This amount seemed less than the previous year, although the change in request is based on less tutors being needed. Alasdair to double check previous costs for tutors for the program.
- The program could be funded quarterly with regular progress reports provided.

Motion: That MRAGM sponsor Art Tutor fees to continue the Free Art Sunday Program from June 2016 to July 2017 at a cost of \$9,540.00.

Moved: L. McLaughlin

Seconded: S-L. White

Item 5:

Membership Report

5.1 Current Membership Report

Presented by B. Uren.

12 new members in May with 5 renewals giving a total of 843 members.

Discussion points to encourage new members:

- Make a target of 25 new members per month.

- New residents of Maitland to become members through information provided by Maitland City Council.
- Promotion for membership in Newcastle.
- Target areas of Maitland with less membership.
- Build retention of members.
- Build more active engagement of members.
- Create different categories of membership.

5.2 Membership review update

Report from Focus Group 6.6.16 presented by Sui-Linn White

A written report was provided containing responses from the participants to the focus group questions.

Main points:

- Young people not particularly interested in 'membership' but prefer the idea of a 'project' type of involvement that has a clear start and finish.
- Subscription to events might be a more suitable 'membership'.
- Membership to a 'fringe group' may be more appealing/meaningful.
- Young people have wide art interests that the art gallery/MRAGMC could consider for example video, photography, music, spoken word, film festival.
- Marketing to young people needs to be considered through social media, suitable posters etc.
- It might be useful to have a young person as a committee member.

Next Focus Group meeting – 27 June 2016

It was noted that conducting this focus group is a good example of the MRAGM and MRAG working together to plan for the future.

Motion: Reports to be accepted

Moved: S-L. White

Seconded: A. Smart

5.3 Membership renewal letters.

To be discussed next meeting.

Item 6:

Progress Reports

6.1 Draft Constitution; Draft Policy & Standing Orders; Draft MOU

Discussion points:

- The constitution is in the final stage of the draft.
- The name of the 'Print Sale' might need changing based on the Business Paper presented at this meeting.
- The 'ARTEL' section of the Policies and Procedures document is incomplete at the stage. Jan & Sue to meet with Catherine about this as soon as possible.
- Once these documents are finalized they need to be presented to Lyn Morton and Bernie Mortimer at Maitland City Council for approval to proceed with the process of incorporation.

The following items relate to MRAGM becoming an incorporated association:

- It was decided to leave the name of the organisation as Maitland Regional Art Gallery Members.
- All financials will be the responsibility of MRAGMC, independent of council. Because of this new financial systems & member's account need to be established.
- A specific system will be needed for processing new memberships when these are paid at the front desk of the art gallery. Once formulated this will be included as an attachment to the MOU.
- MRAGMC will need access to the membership data base.

Actions:

Everyone is to please read over the Draft MOU and Draft Policies and Procedures and send comments to Jan within 2 weeks.

J. Noble to contact Lyn Morton to arrange meeting for documents to be presented.

A. Smart and B. Uren to meet to plan how financial systems could operate after incorporation.

6.2 Events Coordinator's Report
No report available

6.3 Newsletter Secretary's Report
No report available

Item 7:

General Business

7.1 Register of interested members wanting to be part of Committee and Committee activities.
Jan to write list and present at next meeting.

Item 8:

Any Other Business

8.1 Paul Selwood in the MRAG sculpture garden
An invitation from Watters Gallery has been extended to MRAGM to participate in a talk and tour of the Paul Selwood sculpture survey at MRAG on Saturday 20 August 2016. Time is yet to be arranged.

Item 9:

Announcements

Next meeting 14 July 2016

Item 10:

Meeting closed 7.05pm