

**LOCATION | TIME:** Maitland Regional Art Gallery | 12 April 2018, 5-7pm

**PRESENT:** Ben Whiting, Leeroy Chapman, Andrea Pugh, Brigette Uren, Olivia Sophia, Holly Fisher-Bidwell

**APOLOGIES:** Sui-Linn White, Sally Denmead, Alasdair Smart

**ITEM 1 Acknowledgement of Country**

Brigette Uren acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the MRAG Committee meets, the Wonnarua People, and paid respects to Elders past and present.

**ITEM 2 Minutes of the previous meeting: 8 March 2018**

**Motion:** The minutes from meeting 8 March 2018 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Moved:** Olivia Sophia **Seconded:** Holly Fisher-Bidwell

**ITEM 3 Business Arising from the minutes**

None.

**ITEM 4 Correspondence**

**Out:** none

**In:** The Newcastle Art Gallery wrote to Brigette Uren to start a conversation between the NAG Society and MRAGMC regarding potential bus trips during *Hunter Red*. Brigette responded by sharing contact details for MRAGMC.

**ITEM 5 MRAG Update from the Gallery Director**

There are some upcoming staff changes at the Gallery: both Kattie Bugeja and Ashley Grant will be taking maternity leave this year.

There is a huge artistic program coming up in the next six months. From May-August the Gallery will have its most dynamic period yet, including collaborations with community groups, the Repertory Theatre and the Newcastle Music Festival. Visitation has gone up 8% from October-March and the Gallery believes that the majority of the 8% are completely new visitors. The Gallery has spent time building relationships with Aboriginal community, and actively trying to engage

new audiences.

**ITEM 6 Financial Report**

**6.1** The Financial Report was prepared by Treasurer Alasdair Smart and presented by Committee Member Holly Fisher-Bidwell. The following two documents were tabled:

*Final Statement of Receipts and Payments to 28 February 2018*

*Draft Statement of Receipts and payments to 31 March 2018.*

The only difference between the Draft Statement for February and the Final Statement for February was the WHO printing cost of \$1,137 for ARTEL , which has now registered in CIVIL.

The Draft Statement for March 2018 reflects a cash position of \$67,135.

Once all commitments are taken into account there is a year-to-date loss of \$8,501.36.

**Motion:** The Final Statement of Receipts and Payments for February 2018 and the Draft Statement of Receipts and Payments for March 2018 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

**Moved:** Holly Fisher-Bidwell **Seconded:** Andrea Pugh

**6.2** *Acquittal for Business Paper 2017-06 (v.2) Free Art January-Fun Park:* presented by Brigette Uren. Committed funds were used to support the highly successful Free Art January Program, which attracted more visitors than the Archibald Prize exhibition at MRAG. The Summer in Maitland Campaign contributed to the program's success as did the self-directed activities on offer.

**Motion:** The acquittal for Business Paper 2017-06 (v.2) is accepted and approved.

**Moved:** Leeroy Chapman **Seconded:** Olivia Sophia

## ITEM 7 **Membership Report**

**7.1** Current Membership Report: Presented by Vice-Chair Leeroy Chapman.

As of 31 March there are 818 Current Financial Members including 19 new members in March 2018, which is a very good result for March compared to the last three years.

**7.2** Committee Members Leeroy Chapman, Ben Whiting and Olivia Sophia attended the MRAG opening launch on 17 March. A membership table was set up and three new members were recruited. Discussion noted that the presence of Committee Members at the opening was very positive and should continue at future events this year. It was also noted that the Committee has equipment for a more engaging table display that will be used next time.

Upcoming Openings & Events at MRAG:

- **Sat 12 May Olive Tree Markets:** Olivia Sophia and Holly Fisher-Bidwell to attend stall.
- **Sat 12 May Matinee Fundraiser:** Andrea Pugh to coordinate, other Committee Members to advise availability.
- **Sun 27 May MRAG Opening:** Olivia Sophia and Leeroy Chapman to attend opening.
- **Sat 8 September MRAG Opening:** Committee Members to advise availability.
- **Fri 19 October Opening of *Maitland Contemporary: MRAGM Art Sale*:** Olivia Sophia and Leeroy Chapman to attend, other Committee Members to advise availability.

**Motion:** The Membership Report is received and accepted.

**Moved:** Holly Fisher-Bidwell **Seconded:** Andrea Pugh

## ITEM 8 **MRAGM Survey results**

There was a fantastic response to the MRAGM survey, with 186 online respondents and 33 hard-copy surveys being returned. Some immediate observations included a trend towards ARTEL being produced twice yearly, and for the introduction of online payment

options for Membership Fees. Committee Members to review survey results for more fulsome discussion at the May Meeting.

**Motion:** The MRAGM Survey results are received and accepted.

**Moved:** Andrea Pugh **Seconded:** Leeroy Chapman

**ITEM 9 ARTEL Magazine Secretary's Report**

The ARTEL Secretary Sally Denmead is on leave, planning has begun for next issue.

**ITEM 10 Event Coordinator's Report**

**10.1** The Logistics and PR for the Matinee Fundraiser Event on 12 May are coming together nicely, although only 3 tickets have been sold so far. The event is listed on the Gallery's website, and email campaigns and marketing will be coming shortly. Please look out for them and share across your networks.

**10.2** Discussion noted that new fundraising initiatives be considered, specifically retro melamine plates. These would work well with *Cool Art July*. It was proposed that 50 are ordered at a cost of \$22 each.

**Motion:** The Membership Report is approved and accepted.

**Moved:** Andrea Pugh **Seconded:** Ben Whiting

**MRAGM Constitution**

Sui-Linn White and Brigette Uren met and went through Constitution document and Draft Management Plan. Their discussion focused on defining what the Committee is really here for, namely access and equity.

**ITEM 11 Announcements**

Next ordinary meeting:  
Thursday 10 May 2018 at 5pm

