

PRESENT: Sui-Linn White, Leeroy Chapman, Brigette Uren,
Andrea Pugh, Olivia Sophia, Holly Fisher-Bidwell

APOLOGIES: Ben Whiting, Andrea Pugh, Sally Denmead, Alisdair Smart

ITEM 1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson, Sui-Linn White, acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the MRAG Committee meets, and recognised the efforts that MRAG has been making in building ties with local Indigenous communities.

ITEM 2 Minutes of the previous meeting: 12 July 2018

Motion: The minutes from meeting 12 July 2018 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Olivia Sophia | **Seconded:** Sui-Linn White |
Carried unanimously

ITEM 3 Business arising from the minutes

Confirmation that letters of thanks for the Matinee Fundraiser were sent out by Sui-Linn White.

ITEM 4 Correspondence

Out: Letters of thanks for the Matinee Fundraiser.
In: Email query about upgrading a Membership from an Individual Membership to a Family Membership from Gallery Officer Maree Skene on 26/07/18

It was unanimously agreed that upgrading memberships in this manner should be allowed. Further, MRAG staff may respond to any such requests to upgrade memberships in the future without firstly going through the Members Committee.

ITEM 5 MRAG Update from the Gallery Director

It has been a particularly busy period for Gallery administration, as well as preparation for the Spring Season. The upcoming exhibition, *Finding Country*, is mainly drawn from the Collection, however there are no Aboriginal artworks from our region in the MRAG Collection and the Gallery is working to improve that.

MRAG is in the process of applying for grants to upgrade the site's gardens and the Gallery's collection store. There are plans to transform the collection store into an interactive collection and education space.

Brigette is currently focused on funding, staff, and future planning. Kim Blunt is on long service leave. Kattie Bugeja's final day in the Gallery before taking maternity leave is 12 October. The Gallery has created a new, temporary 12 month role to manage exhibition install and de-install, which were previously incorporated into Kattie's role.

The Arts and Health Fundraiser (formally the Art and Dementia Fundraiser) will be held on 2 November. The guest speaker is Helen Ritchie and the theme is *From Ballroom to Bollywood*.

Motion: The Gallery Director's Report is received and accepted: **Moved:** Brigette Uren | **Seconded:** Leeroy Chapman | **Carried unanimously.**

ITEM 6 **Financial Report**

6.1 Treasurer's Report, presented by Brigette Uren
All formal reports for the AGM have been delivered from Council. The year finished at \$ 71,421.00.

Maitland Council has implemented a new financial management system, and there are some teething problems, so the draft report is more of a snapshot.

There were no expenses this month, and an income of \$4,485.00 in membership fees. The current financial position is \$76,431.00.

Motion: The Treasurer's report is received and accepted. **Moved:** Brigette Uren. **Seconded:** Olivia Sophia. **Carried unanimously.**

ITEM 7 **Business Papers**

7.1 Free Art Sunday Proposals.

Brigette discussed the current Free Art Sunday model, and a number of new options for the future. The current model features a tutor-led activity each week with unique workshop content. Free Art Sunday is usually in the workshop space and is more or less aimed at young families. This model is expensive and new content each weeks means more admin for Gallery staff to purchase supplies etc.

It was suggested that offering a hybrid of self-directed and tutor-led activities over the course of the month,

with guest artists on the fifth Sunday of the month, would be more cost effective and would cater to an adult audience as well. The Guest artists would be funded by Create NSW, and could provide a more holistic, all-ages kind of program. This model would mean that tutor-led activities would be only offered once per month. Discussion noted concern about losing the tutor-led activities which have been very popular so far, and also the possibility of recruiting a different group volunteer tutors to reduce costs.

ITEM 8 Membership Report

8.1 Current Membership, presented by Leeroy Chapman. There were a number of renewals in July, but also a large jump in expired members. For July the total expired members were 1158. There were 20 new members and 61 renewals. The total number of financial memberships at the end of July was 599.

The opportunity to offer "I Talk Travel" a gift Business Membership was discussed. The Committee will review at the next meeting opportunities for how businesses can collaborate with MRAGM.

Motion: The Membership Report is received and accepted. **Moved:** Brigette Uren | **Seconded:** Sui-Linn White | **Carried unanimously**

ITEM 9 Art Sale

9.1 Sub-Committee Report, presented by Leeroy, Olivia and Brigette.

It was decided that the title of the exhibition and fundraiser event be: *MRAG Contemporary Art Sale*. Information around affordability and fundraising would be communicated in the blurb.

Leeroy Chapman tabled Business Paper 2018-06, prepared by Cheryl Farrel. The Business Paper requested \$4,079.00 towards the cost of running the Art Sale, and also requested rostered volunteer support from the Committee. The volunteer roster will be uploaded to the Google Drive by Olivia.

Motion: Business Paper 2018-06 is approved and accepted. **Moved:** Leeroy Chapman | **Seconded:** Olivia Sophia | **Carried unanimously**

ITEM 10 Event Coordinator's Report

10.1 Update on the Repertory Theatre Soup Kitchen Event presented by Sui-Linn White. It was agreed that alcohol should be for sale during the event; red and white wine at a cost of \$7 per glass. Committee members to serve soup. The exhibition spaces and shop will be open.

Motion: The Event Coordinator's Report is received and accepted. **Moved:** Sui-Linn White | **Seconded:** Leeroy Chapman | **Carried unanimously**

ITEM 11 ARTEL Magazine Secretary's Report

11.1 Report on Current Issue.
In Sally Denmead's absence, Brigitte reported that the current issue is on track to meet deadlines.

ITEM 12 Action Planing Meeting Report

12.1 Report on Action Planning Meeting held 30 July 2018. **Action item:** Sui-Linn to circulate draft report on the outcomes of the meeting for all members to provide comment on in two weeks time.

ITEM 12 AGM and Annual Report

12. 1 AGM planning and Annual Report
The Committee must prepare an Annual Report for the AGM. Each Committee Member to prepare a report on their area. **Action item:** Olivia to circulate last year's report to each member to aid them in their preparation. **Action Item:** Brigitte and Sui-Linn to continue their work on constitution.

ITEM 13 Announcements

Next ordinary meeting:
Thursday 8 September 2018 at 5pm