

PRESENT: **Sui-Linn White** (Chair), **Leeroy Chapman** (Vice Chair), **Keryl Collard** (MRAG Interim Caretaker), **Alasdair Smart** (Treasurer), **Councillor Ben Whiting**, **Sally Denmead** (ARTEL Secretary), **Holly Fisher-Bidwell** (MRAG Member), **Olivia Sophia** (Secretary), **Kattie Bugeja** (Arts Administrator).

APOLOGIES **Andrea Pugh** (Events Co-Ordinator)

ITEM 1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson acknowledged the Wonnarua People, the traditional custodians of the land on which the MRAG Committee meets, and Indigenous leaders, past, present and emerging.

ITEM 2 Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 December 2018 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: SD | Seconded: BW | Carried

ITEM 3 Business arising from the minutes

The cover price for the first issue of the re-launched ARTEL magazine is still to be determined. The amount of \$4 per issue has been submitted to Council's Fees and Charges, however it won't be approved until June. The Committee to await advice from Keryl Collard.

Financial matters and Event details not covered in the December Meeting to be carried over to section reports.

ITEM 4 Correspondence

Out: None

In: MRAG Member James Marshall has confirmed that he is available to join us at the March meeting to conduct a short workshop on Social Cost Benefit. Sui-Linn White and Holly Fisher-Bidwell to meet with him on Saturday 23 February to determine time allocation and structure.

ITEM 5 Update from MRAG Interim Caretaker

Keryl Collard, Interim Caretaker thanked the Committee for their welcome and acknowledged the vibrant and energetic legacy of outgoing Director, Brigitte Uren. Keryl is grateful to the gallery and library staff for their help, and will ensure that the Gallery maintains its respected profile and place within the community.

Applications for the position of Director close on 17 February and interviews will be conducted shortly thereafter – it's possible that a new appointment could be made by the end of March. Michael Rolfe of Museums and Galleries Australia will be on the interview panel.

Free Art January has again been a great success in 2019 with 1,200 people attending. The *Sit and Sketch* and *Yoga and Art* programs were both very popular. Michelle will provide an acquittal at the next meeting.

MRAG's next exhibition opening is on Saturday 23 February and includes the large Charles Blackman show of works from the MRAG collection.

2019 marks 10 years of MRAG. Gallery Patron Ray Wilson is hosting a cocktail event at his home in Sydney, and Gallery staff are looking at further options to celebrate this significant milestone.

Former MRAG Director Jo Eisenberg is hosting a tour of Allandale, arranged by the Friends of Grossman House. Jo Eisenberg has asked if we would like to offer our members a discounted ticket price of \$35.00 for this event. **Action:** AP and OS to put together an email that promotes upcoming MRAGM events, and also advertises the Allandale tour.

Moved: KC | Seconded: AS | Carried

ITEM 6 Financial Report

The Treasurer Alasdair Smart reported that Council's new accounting software *Horizon* doesn't show a lot of detail, and there is significant lag time before expenditure items are visible.

Opening our own bank account would make financial matters easier and clearer to manage, however AS cautioned that this step would take the Committee outside of Council's protection fiscally, and we should consider carefully the responsibility of managing our own financial affairs.

Following the Art Sale in 2018, the Committee is in a good position financially, with income of \$22,927 (yet to be finalised) in 2018.

Moved: AS | Seconded: HFB | Carried

ITEM 6.1 Business Papers

2018-14 (Christmas Party) – to be carried over to the next meeting when AP is present.

2018-06 (Acquittal – MRAGM Art Sale). Keryl Collard tabled the acquittal for Business Paper 2018-06 prepared by Cheryl Farrell, Collection Management Curator. The 2019 event was extremely successful, with sales, income and attendance all up from previous years.

Moved: KB | Seconded: BW | Carried

ITEM 7 ARTEL Magazine Secretary's Report

SD circulated the draft March issue, which is almost complete – aside from the cover. Discussion noted the magazine's excellent fresh, new look, it's engaging content and overall appeal. SD has offered Seraphine Cafe a free ad in *ARTEL* in a bid to build a partnership with them. Our House is reviewing their sponsorship arrangement with MRAG and would like to advertise in *ARTEL*. The Committee noted their interest and awaits further advice from Maree Skene who is negotiating their partnership. *ARTEL*'s advertising price of \$250 (full price) has been submitted to Council's Fees and Charges.

Moved: SD | Seconded: LC | Carried

ITEM 8 Membership Report

Vice Chair Leeroy Chapman circulated the Membership Report for January 2019, which shows **751** current financial members. Discussion noted that at the 2018 Action Planning Meeting a membership target of 900 for 2019 was set. Committee to consider tactics for reaching this target. *ARTEL* designer Jaime Pritchard will be designing a flyer to advertise MRAG memberships.

Moved: LC | Seconded: HFB | Carried

ITEM 9 Event Coordinator's Report

Confirmation of the 2019 Events Calendar to be carried over to the next meeting due to AP's absence. A trip to Murrarundi is tentatively scheduled for March 2019.

Action: AP and SW to discuss and advise Committee if this event is still viable.

ITEM 10 Announcements

2019 Meeting dates were circulated by OS.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 13 March 2018, 5pm

The Committee would like to offer the outgoing Director, Brigette Uren, a gift in recognition of her work with the Committee and the Gallery over the last five years. Committee Members will contribute up to \$50 each, and HFB and OS will arrange a gift.