

**Maitland Regional Art Gallery Members Committee
MINUTES**

Date: Thursday 8 June 2017 **Time:** 5pm **Location:** MRAG

Present: Jan Noble, Sui-Linn White, Sue Groom, Alasdair Smart, Andrea Pugh, Holly Fisher-Bidwell, Brigette Uren, Loretta Baker

Apologies: Catherine Kingsmill

Item 1: **Minutes of the previous meeting** 11 May 2017

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

Motion: The minutes of the meeting 11.5.17 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: H. Fisher-Bidwell Seconded: B. Uren

Item 3: **Correspondence**

Out:

In: Email from Amy Cavanough, Program Coordinator for Design Tasmania, requesting reciprocal benefits to MRAG based on our AFFM membership. MRAG Members to also receive free gallery entry and 10% discount in Design Tasmania gallery shop.

Business Arising

It was decided to accept and provide the reciprocal benefits requested by Design Tasmania, in the interim, with an option to change this following the review of current membership numbers.

Action: Sue to reply to Amy Cavanough

Motion: That the correspondence be accepted.

Moved: S. Groom Seconded: H. Fisher-Bidwell

Item 4: **Financial Report**

4.1 Treasurer's Report

Presented by A. Smart

Alasdair has made a slight change to monthly written report format to show MRAGM Profit and Loss (prepared by the treasurer) compared to MRAG Receipts and Payments (as per MCC Civil). Alasdair's figures include up to date expenditure whereas Civil often behind.

Final Statement of Receipts and Payments for April 2017 – Showing loss of \$635.00. Balance Sheet shows Total Equity of \$82,121.79

Draft Statement of Receipts and Payments for May 2017.

An amount of \$466.00 owed to Seraphine Café is not an MRAGM cost – this needs to be followed up.

Motion: Final Statement of Receipts and Payments for April 2017 and Draft Statement of Receipts and Payments for May 2017 – be accepted.

Moved: A. Smart Seconded: L. Baker

- In the drive to encourage membership it is important to frame the 'benefits' of membership by balancing the tangible e.g. discount costs with philanthropic i.e. support for the arts.
- Review benefits
- Simplify fees
- Fees could be increased with a councilor motion at council meeting. However, increasing fees may also deter membership, so a modest increase should be considered.
- Need to consider what costs can be reduced.
- Overall budget to be determined and decisions made about spending priorities.
- Analysis of members' spending currently shows a decline despite overall MRAG sales growth. Discount provided therefore may not be an incentive for membership.
- MRAG exhibition openings are very popular and attract large crowds. How can we encourage these people to become members?
- Sub-committee could be established to implement ideas for membership drive.

Motion: That a membership sub-committee be established.

Moved: S-L White

Seconded A. Smart

Action: Sui-Linn to plan sub-committee meeting time.

Item 6:

Progress Reports

6.1 Incorporation

Chairperson held a meeting On 1.6.17 with Mr David Evans, General Manager, Maitland City Council re proposed incorporation. (See written summary of meeting provided.) Mr Evans's preference is for MRAGM to remain an s.355 committee of council and to work with council to achieve certain aspects related to management of finances and access to government exemptions.

J. Noble presented a draft letter to Mr Evans in response to the meeting highlighting the following points to be followed up and requesting how those items pertinent to council will be implemented:

- Council to permit independent management of MRAGM finances by MRAGM committee.
- Interest on MRAGM money, held by council, to be transferred to the proposed MRAGM bank account for use as the Committee sees fit in support of MRAG educational activities.
- Charitable organisation status via Maitland City Council
- Tax exemption status and benefits to be provided via MCC.
- MRAGMC to continue to provide Business Papers and Acquittals for financial accountability.
- MRAGMC to review the Memorandum of Understanding to ensure recognition of MCC as the proprietor and legal entity responsible for MRAG.

The Chairperson recommended that no formal decision to be taken and to firstly await a reply from Mr Evans to the letter.

Motion: That the letter to Mr David Evans regarding the outcome of the meeting held with J. Noble be endorsed and the Chairperson's recommendation to defer a decision regarding incorporation be accepted.

Moved: S-L White

Seconded A. Pugh

6.2 Draft protocols – Protocol for bus Trips still to be done.

6.3 Events Coordinator's Report

Presented by A. Pugh & H. Fisher-Bidwell

Clare Hodgins (MRAG) is developing the art work for the MRAGM flags and totes with the appropriate red colour ready for printing.

5 expressions of interest have been received for the Tegal trip.

Holly has been in touch with the Sculpture By the Sea organisers to confirm arrangements and ensure the MRAGM group will be included in the timetable.

J. Noble invited the committee to consider how MRAGM could contribute to the Maitland 200 Years commemoration events to be held in 2018. Information from a Maitland 200 Years Meeting held on 25.5.17 was provided. The Art Gallery will be linking Free Art Sunday activities with the commemoration.

6.4 ARTEL Magazine Report

- Mai-Wel courier service is only available in the CBD so would be unsuitable for delivering ARTEL.

No further discussion took place regarding future options, cost etc for the ARTEL due to Catherine's absence.

Item 7:

General Business

7.1 Hunter Red Project

Neroli Foster from the Hunter Red Project will be invited to attend an MRAGMC meeting to present concepts for a large fundraising event.

7.2 Request for artwork for auction from Sarah Findlay

The only artworks available to MRAGM are those purchased by MRAGM to be used for raffles and fundraising. It would not be appropriate for these to be given away.

Motion: That MRAGM decline the request for art work/s from Sarah Findlay.

Moved: L. Baker

Seconded: A. Smart

Item 8:

No Other Business

Item 9:

Announcements

Next Ordinary meeting: 13.7.17

Item 10:

Close 7.06pm