

PRESENT: Holly Fisher-Bidwell, Leeroy Chapman, Brigette Uren, Olivia Sophia, Sally Denmead, Sui-Linn White, Ben Whiting, Andrea Pugh.

APOLOGIES: Alasdair Smart

ITEM 1: **Welcome** from the Chairperson and the Cultural Director, who thanked the Committee for the renewed sense of optimism and activation in the team.

ITEM 2: **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Motion: The minutes from meeting 14 December 2017 are accepted as a true and accurate record, following adjustments to item 6.3 and two points in item 4.3.

Moved: Brigette Uren. **Seconded:** Olivia Sophia.
Carried

ITEM 3: **Correspondence In:** Shahrzard Gronehout, the President of the Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery Society contacted Andrea Pugh to discuss cross-promotion with MRGAM (but not co-production). Shahrzard would like to meet with Brigette Uren or Sui-Linn White. **Action:** Sui-Linn White to arrange meeting with Shahrzard.

Correspondence In: Daniel Sullivan from Cuseum contacted Brigette Uren regarding digital membership. Cuseum is a digital membership company for Museums and Galleries from the United States. Perhaps not the best fit for MRAGM in terms of not being a local organisation. No action required at this stage.

ITEM 4 **Update from the Cultural Director.** Tabled: *MRAG Artistic Program for 2018*. Free Art January was a huge success with 3,852 children attending and 7,727 visitors in total. The *Summer in Maitland* Campaign was brilliant, the weather was in the Gallery's favour, and the staggering of events throughout the day was successful. The self-directed activities were also very well received.

The overall response to Free Art January was so positive that Playgroup NSW now run three sessions per week at MRAG, with three volunteer committees running them.

The next exhibition opening will be Saturday 17 March. The Gallery has an exciting exhibition program for the year which promises to be diverse and widely appealing.

Sydney gallerist Dominik Mersch, has been in touch about supporting the Art Sale and there has also been contact from a craft brewery regarding sponsorship/ collaboration. All in all, the Gallery has had a great start to the year.

Motion: The Cultural Director's report is received and accepted: **Moved:** Brigette Uren. **Seconded:** Holly Fisher-Bidwell. **Carried.**

ITEM 5: **Financial Report** The following documents were tabled: *Final Statement of Receipts and Payments for November 2017, Final Statement of Receipts and Payments for December 2017, Draft Statement of Receipts and Payments for January 2018.*

The MRAG Members' position at the end of December 2017 was \$70,245.00.

The MRAG Members' position in the Draft Statement for January 2018 is \$69,802.00

Motion: The Treasurer's report is received by the Committee, but confirmation to be sought on the cash position at the end of December 2017, in view of financial commitments listed.

Moved: Sui-Linn White. **Seconded:** Sally Denmead **Carried.**

ITEM 5.2: **Business Paper 2018-1** For MRAGM Matinee Fundraiser event. The Events Co-ordinator has secured in-kind items, and the total financial request is \$1000.

Business Paper 2018-2 For MRAGM Archibald, Wynne & Sulman Coach Tour. Total financial request is \$2,050.

Business Paper 2018-3 For Sculpture on the Farm Coach Trip to Fosterton/Dungog. Olivia Sophia to organise Dungog hamper prize instead of artwork for the raffle. Total financial request is \$1,250.00

Motion: Business Papers 2018-1, 2018-2 and 2018-3 are accepted and approved. **Moved:** Andrea Pugh. **Seconded:** Holly Fisher-Bidwell. **Carried.**

ITEM 6: **Membership Report** Tabled – *Membership Report to January 2018*. Report shows high number of financial memberships for January and Membership generally in a strong position.

Discussion point: it would be useful for Committee members to attend Free Art January events next year in order to convert high Gallery visitation into further engagement with MRAG and memberships.

Motion: The Membership Report is received and accepted. **Moved:** Leeroy Chapman. **Seconded:** Andrea Pugh. **Carried.**

ITEM 7: **Art Sale** – Brigitte Uren, Leeroy Chapman, Olivia Sophia and Cheryl Farrell met prior to meeting to discuss organisation of Art Sale.

Suppliers to be contacted for the 2018 Art Sale include: Janie Miller (who has given MRAGM the bulk of the prints in the past), Lara Scolari, Bruce James, Natalie Duncan, Mai Wel, Newcastle Print Makers, Yuendumu Art Centre, and local emerging artists. MRAGM artwork assets will also be available for sale. A Child Members' wall is proposed as a new initiative, where the first 50 Child Members to collect canvas/ materials from the Gallery will be included in the exhibition, and their work will be available for sale.

Motion: Given the significance of the fundraiser, and to ensure transparency of the selection process, an Art Sale subcommittee consisting of Leeroy Chapman, Olivia Sophia and Brigitte Uren will be established. The Sub-Committee will help to resolve which artists are included in the exhibition and will report back to the Committee at monthly meetings. They will assist MRAG with administration and organisation of the event. **Moved:** Leeroy Chapman. **Seconded:** Sally Denmead **Carried.**

ITEM 8: Event Coordinator's Report – Run Sheet for Fundraiser Matinee tabled. **Action:** Committee Members to respond to Andrea Pugh regarding volunteer availability. **Action:** The roster for the Olive Tree markets is on the MRAGM Google drive, please put your name down if you have availability or email mragmembers@gmail.com

Tabled - *MRAG Members Survey*. To be printed and circulated with the 26 February mailout of ARTEL Magazine.

Motion: The Event Coordinator's Report is received and accepted. **Moved:** Sui-linn White. **Seconded:** Ben Whiting. **Carried.**

Brigette and Sui Linn met with Frank from the Maitland Repertory Theatre to discuss a possible cross-promotion event: hot (*cauliflower*) soup to be served at the Gallery before the performance of "All's well that ends well" at the Repertory Theatre on 17 August. The Gallery will stay open late. Preliminary suggestion that cost will be \$10 in addition to ticket price. It will be an opportunity to promote MRAG memberships. Frank will get back to the Committee on the Repertory Theatre Committee's response.

ITEM 9: ARTEL Magazine Secretary's Report – Tabled *ARTEL Summer Issue* with double page spread on member artist Helen Hopcroft who is also on the cover. The ARTEL Secretary has experimented with a Q&A section in this issue. "From the Chairperson" and "From the Cultural Director" are also shorter, and exhibition blurbs have been moved up. Two ads for MRAGM events on back cover of this issue.

MRAGM Committee Member feedback on ARTEL Magazine has been received. Sally Denmead will await feedback from the MRAG Members survey before completing review of ARTEL Magazine.

Motion: The ARTEL Magazine Secretary's Report is received and accepted.

Moved: Sally Denmead. **Seconded:** Olivia Sophia **Carried.**

ITEM 10: **General Business** – Discussion of MRAGM’s Constitution and goals for 2018 to take place at next meeting. **Action:** Chairperson to draft and circulate an outline of goals for 2018 as well as the MOU with Council and invite feedback.

Brigette Uren attended event at the Rotary Group of Maitland Sunrise, who would like to use our networks for cross-promotion where appropriate. Discussion noted that the Sunrise Club’s upcoming golf day fundraiser is not the right event for use of MRAGM e-list however their book sale later in the year could be an appropriate way to support them.

Announcements – Next ordinary meeting:
Thursday 8 March 2018 at 5pm

Chairperson declares meeting closed.