

Maitland Regional Gallery Members Committee  
MEETING MINUTES Thursday 13 September 2018

**PRESENT:** **Leeroy Chapman, Brigitte Uren, Andrea Pugh, Holly Fisher-Bidwell, Ben Whiting, Andrea Pugh, Sally Denmead, Alisdair Smart**

**APOLOGIES:** **Olivia Sophia, Sui-Linn White**

**Moved:** Brigitte Uren | **Seconded:** Sally Denmead |  
Carried Unanimously

**ITEM 1 Acknowledgement of Country**

Vice Chair, Leeroy Chapman, offered an  
Acknowledgement of Country

**ITEM 2 Minutes of the previous meeting:** 9 August 2018

The following anomalies were noted for amendment:  
- Apologies: Andrea Pugh was an apology  
- Director's Report: *Finding Country* is drawn exclusively from the Gallery's Collection, not "mainly" as stated  
- Art Sale: It should be clarified the Art Sale Business Paper does not include cost estimates for the opening event. It was resolved that subject to the above amendments that the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Moved:** Leeroy Chapman | **Seconded:** Holly Fisher-Bidwell | Carried Unanimously

**ITEM 3 Business arising from the minutes**

*I Talk Travel* and the Business Membership category:  
Brigitte outlined the context of the discussion at the previous meeting, noting Committee Members' concerns about protocol and governance, particularly in context of a newly established category.

**Action:** On Councillor Whiting's advice, the Director was asked to develop a protocol statement for adoption at the next meeting, outlining opportunity for businesses who donate \$1000+ (cash/in kind) may be considered to receive free business membership

**ITEM 4 Correspondence**

**Out:** Nil

**In:** Complaints through Front of House regarding Senior Card holders not having access to membership concession.

**Action:** The Committee notes comments as consistent with previous years and maintains MRAGMC policy on this matter is consistent with policies of other galleries' member associations.

**ITEM 5**

**MRAG Update from the Gallery Director**

Congratulations to Leeroy Chapman on his deserving win in being awarded the Brenda Clouten Memorial Scholarship for Young Achievers in the Visual Arts. The Director outlined the judging process to the Committee as appropriate given the winner was awarded to a Committee Member and the potential for a perceived conflict of interest. Disclosure statements were signed by all Judges (Sponsor, Gallery Director and Independent Artist). Brigitte Uren knew five of the applicants and abstained from voting for the shortlist.

The Spring exhibition opening was the strongest on record with 500+ visitors in attendance, however short staff did make for a challenging day for MRAG team. The Olive Tree Markets was flatter than usual due to weather, with c. 1100 visitors between 9am-2pm

Grant applications were submitted to the Regional Cultural Fund, Create NSW for air-conditioning upgrade (seeking \$346,000) and a landscaping upgrade (seeking \$264,400), as well as an application to the Office of Environment and Heritage for contribution to the air-conditioning upgrade (Seeking \$100k). These are necessarily the Director's priority.

Staff transition at the Gallery: Kattie commences maternity leave on 12 October. Maree will replace her and Anna replaces Maree. We are currently finalising the appointment of Anna's replacement. Kim is on long service leave also. The Director's priorities, once grants and staff are settled, are the AGM and Art Sale, followed by the Arts in Health fundraiser, which is progressing very well. All are encouraged to attend on 2 November. The Summer 2019 Program is also close to being finalised and the layout of the full program of 2019 events has begun.

It was resolved that the Director's Report be accepted  
**Moved:** Brigitte Uren | **Seconded:** Leeroy Chapman |  
Unanimously Carried

**ITEM 6**

**Financial Report**

The MRAG Members' position for July: **\$76,421**

It was resolved to note the report, rather than ratify the reports due to Council's transition to a new financial system and the potential for anomalies at this time.

**Moved:** Alasdair Smart | **Seconded:** Holly F-Bidwell

The MRAG Members' position for August: **\$76,862.71**  
It was resolved to note the report, rather than ratify the reports due to Council's transition to a new financial system and the potential for anomalies at this time.

**Moved:** Alasdair Smart | **Seconded:** Holly Fisher-Bidwell | Unanimously carried

## **6.1 Business Papers**

2018.07 MRAGM Free Art Sunday, request of \$8,910

It was resolved to sponsor Art Tutor fees to continue the MRAGM Free Art Sunday program as per the proposal for Option 4.

**Moved:** Brigitte Uren | **Seconded:** Alasdair Smart |  
Carried Unanimously

2018.08 Free Art January - Fun Park, request of \$4,320

The proposal was tabled by the Director, noting the same structure as in previous years, however this year would see an additional 'whole body' yoga art tour program, extending the visual arts base to music, dance, theatre introduced in 2018 to physical movement in 2019. The Director met with Closebourne Village to discuss a potential opportunity for similar art yoga classes for seniors as part of Free Art January to be sponsored by Closebourne Village. Further discussion needs to take place to ascertain levels of funding and governance related to MRAG's capacity to accept cash contributions if it comes from developer Lend Lease or the Village management. Accordingly the Director will encourage all sponsorship to limit MRAGMC investment, however within appropriate guidelines.

It was resolved to sponsor Fun Park as part of Free Art January program.

**Moved:** Brigitte Uren | **Seconded:** Andrea Pugh  
Carried unanimously

- ITEM 7      Membership Report**  
Total of 637 current financial members.  
Action: MRAG to send a final renewal letter.
- It was resolved that the Membership report be accepted.
- Moved:** Leeroy Chapman | **Seconded:** Andrea Pugh  
Carried Unanimously
- ITEM 8      Art Sale**  
Cost of stretching canvases from Yuendumu: it was resolved to stretch all large canvases as per quote from Aaron Framed It c. \$700, as an additional expense to the Art Sale Business Paper.
- It was resolved to seek a min of \$100 profit on each of the 30 x 30cm Warlurkulungku artworks, with a retail price c. \$195 per canvas. There was further discussion about the potential to auction the large works on the night of the opening, but not resolved.
- The Committee acknowledged Olivia's contribution to obtaining Nell's artwork, offered by the artist as a donation in full. It was resolved to sell this work by silent auction and include a statement about Nell's Maitland heritage and her motivation to offer this work by donation for a young person to be able to acquire it. It was noted that artist statements will be available for the Child/ Family Member artworks and Nell's story only.
- Rosters: everyone to check rosters and put names in where feasible. Almost all complete for prep, but availability on the night and post event needs to be resolved.
- It was resolved that the Art Sale Report be accepted.
- ITEM 9      Moved:** Leeroy Chapman | **Seconded:** Alasdair Smart  
Carried Unanimously.
- Event Coordinator's Report**  
Art Sale – catering has been resolved. Amy Vee, folk musician to perform on the night

Olive Tree Markets: no memberships were sold but good PR for the members to be at key events.

Sculpture on the Farm: 14 bookings to date. PR needed. Hamper fantastic thanks to Olivia's efforts. Query regarding alcohol to be included in the raffle identified as a potential governance risk. TBC.

Xmas Party: Blackbird Bakery catering for the event. Quote from Seraphine too high to consider.

It was resolved that the Event Coordinator's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Andrea Pugh | **Seconded:** Alasdair Smart |  
Carried Unanimously

**ITEM 10**

**ARTEL Magazine Secretary's Report**

The latest issue has been released and looks fantastic

No progress has been made on a new format for ARTEL and await resolution at the AGM to commit to 2 issues per annum.

It was resolved to accept the ARTEL Magazine Report

**Moved:** Sally Denmead | **Seconded:** Brigette Uren  
Carried Unanimously

**ITEM 11**

**AGM and Annual Report**

Division Reports to be emailed to the Secretary by 1 October, collated by 11 October and made available to the public at the front reception from the 12 October.

Despite best efforts, the Chair and Director have been unable to prioritise the Constitution documentation and it is unlikely this will be presented at the AGM.

Agenda items are yet to be finalised, however the meeting needs to be brief to accommodate the Art Sale opening at 6pm.

Committee members should confirm their intent to reapply or otherwise so that recruitment can commence as early as feasible.

**Announcements**

Next ordinary meeting: Thursday 11 October, 5pm  
AGM and Art Sale: Friday 19 October, from 5pm

Meeting closed at 7.15pm