

Maitland Regional Gallery Members Committee  
MEETING MINUTES Wednesday 10 July 2019

**PRESENT** Sui-Linn White (Chair), Councillor Ben Whiting, Keryl Collard (MRAG Interim Caretaker), Kattie Bugeja (Gallery Coordinator), Alasdair Smart, Sally Denmead (ARTEL Secretary), Holly Fisher-Bidwell (MRAG Member), Olivia Sophia (Secretary), Leah Riches (Events Coordinator)

**APOLOGIES** Leeroy Chapman (Vice Chair), Alasdair Smart (Treasurer)

**ITEM 1 Acknowledgement of Country**

The Chairperson acknowledged the Wonnarua People, the traditional custodians of the land on which the MRAG Committee meets, and acknowledged the role that MRAG plays in sustaining the Wonnarua language and culture through exhibitions and events.

**ITEM 2 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 12 June 2019 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: HFB | Seconded: KB | Carried

**ITEM 3 Business arising from the minutes**

No business arising that will not be addressed in subsequent items.

**ITEM 4 Correspondence**

**Out:** Letter from the Chair to MRAG Members providing an update on the recruitment process for a new Gallery Director.

**In:** MRAG Member Pennie Kearney wrote to thank the Chair for the above letter.

Moved: OS | Seconded: SLW | Carried

**ITEM 5 Update from MRAG Interim Caretaker Keryl Collard**

The interim management structure has been in place for one month. Keryl reported that Gallery Coordinator Kattie Bugeja has brought positive energy and great focus and lightened her workload. The rest of this interim period will be used to formulate a new strategic plan which will also align with the application for Create NSW multi-year funding.

Kattie reported that the Gallery is working towards the next exhibition opening on 24 August. There has been a wonderful donation of over 200 drawings by the late

Australian artist Judy Cassab. As part of Maitland Council's restructure, there will be a new Group Manager for Culture, Community and Recreation, and the Gallery falls under this portfolio. MRAG is hosting a Newcastle Music Festival event on 11 August, and has laid the groundwork for future partnerships with the NMF.

Moved: KC | Seconded: SLW | Carried

The Committee viewed a spectacular new neon installation by Maitland-born artist Nell on the exterior of the Gallery, which was partly acquired and partly donated. The permanent installation will be unveiled at the 10 Year Anniversary party in August.

**ITEM 6 ARTEL Magazine Secretary's Report**

Sally met with Kattie to discuss the content for the Spring/Summer issue, and briefs have now been sent to all contributors, including Jane Caro and Daniel O'Leary from Coquun. There will be a feature piece in honour of the 10th anniversary of MRAG and a story on the Penelope Siedler donation. Discussion noted that the AGM and the Tegal event could be included in the "News for Members" section. Sally has secured one ad for the issue from Levee Art Gallery.

Analysis of reader engagement from Issue #1 of the new format showed 400+ "reads" of the digital copies. However there have been no entries in the competitions.

Sally is looking at strategies to improve the visibility, marketing and distribution of *ARTEL*. Now that Council have approved the sale price, the magazine can be offered to local galleries and businesses to stock for sale. It was agreed to keep the "Free for Members" text on the cover for the next issue, but review for future issues.

Moved: SD | Seconded: HFB | Carried

**ITEM 7 Event Coordinator's report**

Leah tabled the Business Paper for the 10th Anniversary Fundraiser Party. The colour red was proposed as a theme, however discussion noted the similarity to the "Hunter Red" exhibition from last year. Ideas were raised for alternative themes and the Committee may reconsider the theme. The ticket price was set at \$50

per person. It was suggested that a donation box could be placed at the bar, to encourage giving. Raffle tickets will be for sale. It was decided to hire Jocelyn Rose, if she is available, to photograph the event at a cost of \$100 for one hour. Entertainment ideas were discussed including the Rehab brass band, a signer-songwriter, or a Hawaiian Lounge Band.

Unfortunately the usual bus company MRAGM uses is not available on the date the Tegal Bus trip is planned. Leah will look at alternative possibilities.

The Melamine Plates have arrived and will be available for sale on Saturday 20 July at the Olive Tree Markets. MRAGM will have a tent promoting memberships and other fundraising initiatives.

Moved: LR | Seconded: SLW | Carried

**ITEM 8      Financial Report**

Presented by Sui-Linn White. The Financial Report is still in draft state, but shows the members position is \$95,097.81. Maree and Kattie have gone through transactions and found that this figure is close to accurate. Sui-Linn and Alasdair will meeting next week to set up a bank account.

Moved: SW | Seconded: HFB | Carried

**ITEM 9      Membership Report**

Sally tabled a new poster designed by Jaime Pritchard (in Appendix A) and discussed the redesign of the Membership Application Form. The suggestion was made to add a statistic about what programs a single membership could support.

The June Membership report showed a total of 795 financial members, including one new business membership and 102 renewals. It is planned to look at more detailed statistics at the next meeting and review feedback from last Members Survey.

Moved: SD | Seconded: OS | Carried

**Secretary's Report**

Content for the Annual Report will be due at the end of August, and Olivia will circulate examples from last year's report to each Committee Member.

Olivia will not be re-standing for the position of Secretary at the AGM in October due to increasing work commitments. She would however like to be involved in project-based volunteering with MRAGM in the future, particularly organisation of the 2020 Art Sale. No other Committee Members noted their intentions regarding re-standing.

**Announcements**

Next Meeting: Wednesday 14 August 2019, 5PM



# Dive into MRAG

Become a member of  
Maitland Regional Art Gallery

MRAG members receive **great benefits** and **support free access arts education programs**, such as *Free Art Sunday*, for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

To become a member, or renew your membership, ask at the Gallery front desk or complete a membership form online and email it to [artgallery@maitland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:artgallery@maitland.nsw.gov.au) For a full list of membership benefits visit [mrag.org.au/support-us](http://mrag.org.au/support-us)

Membership	1 Year	3 Years
Individual	\$30	\$75
Concession*	\$25	\$60
Family	\$50	\$120
Business	\$80	\$195

\*child/student/pensioner

**mragm**  
MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY MEMBERS

**m**  
maitland  
city council

Maitland Regional Art Gallery is a proud service of Maitland City Council.