

**ITEM 1 Acknowledgement of Country**

The Chairperson, Sui-Linn White, offered an acknowledgment of country: MRAGM acknowledges the Wonnarua People as the traditional owners and custodians of the land within the Maitland Local Government Area. MRAGM pays respect to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and future with a spiritual connection to these lands. MRAGM acknowledges the role of the Gallery as a central hub and significant meeting place for the community, particularly through the exhibition *Finding Country*.

**ITEM 2 Apologies and Present**

Apologies were offered from Councillor Sally Halliday and General Manager David Evans. MRAGM Committee members present: Sui-Linn White, Councillor Ben Whiting, Alasdair Smart, Leeroy Chapman, Andrea Pugh, Olivia Sophia, Sally Denmead and Holly Fisher-Bidwell. Also present: Gallery Director, Brigette Uren, Mayor Loretta Baker, Jan Noble, Dorothy Baker and Bernard Eddy.

Motion: The apologies are noted and accepted.

Moved: Brigette Uren | Seconded: Sui-Linn White | Carried

**ITEM 3 Minutes of the Previous AGM**

The Chairperson presented the minutes of the previous AGM, held on 19 October 2017.

Motion: The minutes of the 2017 AGM are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Sui-Linn White | Seconded: Brigette Uren | Carried

**ITEM 4 Business arising from the Minutes**

None

**ITEM 5 Annual Report and Chairperson's Address**

Sui-Linn White thanked the MRAGM community for their attendance, support and advocacy over the past year. She thanked past MRAGM Committee members for their efforts and legacy, and the Maitland Councillors for their support of MRAG and the Committee.

Membership of the Gallery offers a sense of belonging to people in the community that is highly valued. The Committee thanks all members for their support of the Gallery through the Committee's fundraising efforts in 2018, including the magnificent Matinee event, which was a great success due to Event Coordinator Andrea Pugh's efforts.

This year the Committee has promoted Family Memberships, and supported Free Art January and Free Art Sunday, which are MRAG's flagship programs that offer unique access to the arts through professional tutors and diverse activities for families.

In 2017-18 the Committee ran a number of coach trips for members to attend art exhibitions and events around NSW. While the coach trips often break even, we need the community's continued help, through event participation, to reach our fundraising goals.

In 2017-18 the Committee attended Olive Tree Markets, setting up a stall to promote MRAG membership. There was an unprecedented number of guests at the Christmas Party in December 2017, which was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

The MRAGM Committee also undertook significant strategising and planning in 2017-18, including a survey that allowed members to provide feedback on the Committee's activities. The Chairperson thanked Gallery staff, and acknowledged the tremendous amount of work and goodwill they give to the Committee.

Motion: That the Chairperson's Annual Report is accepted  
Moved: Sui-Linn White | Seconded: Brigette Uren | Carried

#### **ITEM 6 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements**

Presented by Alasdair Smart.

The Treasurer's report summarised income and expenditure for the financial period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. The Treasurer noted that it was a very good year financially for the Committee, considering that the Print Sale was not held this year. The carry-over balance at year-end was \$66,412.

The report also included an adjusted statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report is accepted.  
Moved: Alasdair Smart | Seconded: Jan Noble | Carried

#### **ITEM 7 Election of New Executive**

MRAG Director, Brigette Uren, took the Chair and thanked the Committee for their efforts and the high standard of commitment over the last 12 months. The Gallery is indebted to Committee members for their fundraising efforts. Brigette Uren offered a warm vote of thanks for the ongoing support of Free Art Sunday and Free Art January, which set amazing

records in 2018. There were more visitors to the Gallery during the four weeks of Free Art January than there were during the six weeks of the Archibald Prize Exhibition. This would not have been possible without the support of the Members. Brigette acknowledged the contribution of Councillor Ben Whiting, as well as the long support of Mayor Loretta Baker.

The Gallery Director declared all positions vacant and proceeded to announce nominations. No positions were contested with the following nominees elected:

Chairperson:.....Sui-Linn White  
Vice Chairperson:.....Leeroy Chapman  
Secretary.....Olivia Sophia  
Treasurer.....Alasdair Smart  
Magazine Secretary .....Sally Denmead  
Events Coordinator ..... Andrea Pugh  
Ordinary Committee Member.....Holly Fisher-Bidwell

**ITEM 8      General Business**

i) Changes to Artel Magazine.

The Magazine Secretary, Sally Denmead, explained that a review of Artel Magazine was conducted in 2017. The review found that producing a more substantial and higher quality publication less often would result in a better outcome for Members, MRAG, volunteers and Gallery staff, as well as financial savings through reduced print and postage costs. Accordingly, the Committee would like to produce a new-look biannual Artel magazine, to be launched in March 2019.

Motion: That a new-look, biannual Artel Magazine will be produced in 2019.

Moved: Loretta Baker | Seconded: Jan Noble | Carried

ii) Change of day Committee meetings are held. Due to the availability of current Committee Members the Secretary, Olivia Sophia, requested that the ordinary meeting day be changed from the second Thursday of the month to the second Wednesday.

Motion: That the ordinary meeting day for the MRAGM Committee be changed to the second Wednesday of the month:.

Moved: Olivia Sophia | Seconded: Sally Denmead | Carried

**ITEM 7      Meeting closed at 5:30pm**