

## MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN ARTS BOARD

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, 21 June 2018

**Location:** Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

**Time:** 1.00pm

The following members were present:

Clr John Wells - Chairperson  
Clr Kaye Gartner  
Clr John Levett  
Ms Alison Chiam  
Ms Karen Akehurst  
Ms Barbara Dawson  
Dr Peter Lavelle  
Mr Robert Crow

Others present:

Mr Syd Green  
Ms Anna Thompson  
Ms Robyn Russell  
Ms Bronwyn Coulston – Unit Manager, Arts & Culture  
Ms Sarah Taylor – Unit Manager, Library Services  
Mr Shane Spencer – Operations Supervisor, Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre  
Ms Kerry Thompson – Natural Areas Operations Officer

### Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Karen Patterson and Jane Lewis.

### Confirmation of the Minutes

**RESOLVED** (Karen Akehurst / Clr Levett)

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Arts Board held on Wednesday 23 May 2018 be confirmed.

CARRIED

### Declarations of Interest

Nil.

## PRESENTATIONS

**AB18.13 Ulladulla - One Track for All - Maintenance of Carved Timber Plaques and Sculptures****HPERM Ref:  
D18/72837**

Robyn Russell, resident and bush care volunteer, gave a presentation to the Board.

Bronwyn Coulston advised that there is no public art register. Although Council has the software to create a public art register, it hasn't had the resources to pool all information about public art into a single register.

Bronwyn note that there is recognition within the public art policy that a number of artworks are temporary/"ephemeral" would require greater investment than initial cost and allowed to naturally weather or degrade and be removed at the end of its life. It is acknowledged by leaders in public art field that some works that break down be regarded as temporary and allowed to break down.

Clr Gartner noted the uniqueness and contribution to culture of the works. Clr Gartner advised that the Shoalhaven is represented in the national Welcome to Country guide by Booderee National Park and the Bomaderry Children's Home. Clr Gartner suggested funds from the Public Reserve Management Fund (PRMF) to restore art and the cultural tourism opportunity.

Bronwyn Coulston suggested that the Board consider the artists' installation recommendations and material used when thinking about future public art proposals.

Kerry Thompson advised that preservation of public art has been considered by Council and one option is to laser cut the artworks and re-create with metal for preservation. Kerry noted that 20 artworks have had to be removed.

**RECOMMENDATION** (Clr Gartner / Alison Chiam)

That Council:

1. Establish a public art register including a preservation policy.
2. Undertake a condition assessment of the One Track for All artwork and advise of cost of repairs.
3. Apply for funds from the Public Reserve Management Fund (PRMF) for restoration of the One Track for All artwork and investigate alternative medium to potentially replace damaged items.

CARRIED

**AB18.14 Anna Thompson - Arts Grant recipient 2017/18****HPERM Ref:  
D18/188277**

Anna Thompson, Arts Grant recipient 2017/18, gave a presentation to the Board.

Anna showed parts of her 15 minute film about Anna Glynn and thanked the Board for the funding. The film is accompanying the national tour of Anna's works, entitled "Promiscuous Provenance".

Anna noted that Anna Glynn was very easy to work with, very hardworking and a great subject for the theme of place as she identifies strongly with the Shoalhaven area.

**AB18.15 Syd Green - Arts Grant recipient 2017/18****HPERM Ref:  
D18/188288**

Syd Green, Arts Grant recipient 2017/18, gave a presentation to the Board.

Syd spoke about the album he has created, Bird and Tree Men: the Flight Begins, in collaboration

with acclaimed musicians Stu Hunter, Jonathon Zwartz and Matt Tonks.

Syd noted that the album was recorded in the Shoalhaven Arts Centre and at Bundanon Homestead on a Steinway piano. He also noted that the album was mostly improvised in response to the environment.

The title of the work "Bird and Tree Men" comes from a small essay about the names the local indigenous people gave to the new arrivals via the coast and the escarpment.

Syd played a song off the album "Illaroo (Boyd's loop)".

The CD will soon be finished and will be made available through live performances, iTunes, Shoalhaven Regional Gallery shop and possibly through the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre shop.

Bronwyn Coulston requested a copy of the clips to promote via Council's Facebook page and Council's YouTube.

Syd agreed and advised that there is an additional clip available. Syd invited members of the Board to the show on Friday 20 July 6pm.

Note: an additional grant recipient will be presenting to the September Arts Board meeting.

## REPORTS

### **AB18.16 Buskers Festival Investigation - reallocating Arts Awards Funding**

**HPERM Ref:  
D18/83566**

Robert Crow noted that the River Festival is now a one day programme on Saturday only.

Bronwyn Coulston advised that the Arts Awards haven't run for the last few years and that funds have been accumulating and need to be redirected.

Alternatives to a buskers festival were discussed by the Board, including extending the grants program/redirecting to the Writers Festival to be held in August. A suggestion was raised to collaborate with the Nowra CBD to fund a buskers festival.

### **Recommendation**

1. That the Shoalhaven Arts Board allocates \$7,500 from the Arts Board Awards budget to be donated to support a busking programme and competition, to be presented as part of the 2018 Shoalhaven River Festival.
2. The funds are to be utilised by The River Festival Committee to engage the support of a professional company to assist with the engagement and management of the busking acts.
3. Should the donation not be finalised by June 30, 2018, these funds should be revoted by Shoalhaven City Council.
4. The Shoalhaven Arts Board receive prominent recognition of its support and be promoted as a major supporter of The River Festival by the Committee.
5. The Shoalhaven River Festival Committee be made aware that this financial support would not be available on an annual or ongoing basis.

Note: Karen Akehurst left the meeting, the time being 2.13pm.

### **RECOMMENDATION (Clr Wells / Clr Gartner)**

That:

1. The Shoalhaven Arts Board defer consideration of the item.
2. Council apply \$2,500 from the Arts Board Awards budget for 2017/2018 to the Shoalhaven Writer's Festival.
3. The balance of funds (\$5,000) from the Arts Board Awards budget for 2017/2018 be subject to consideration of audience development projects.

CARRIED

Note: Karen Akehurst returned to the meeting, the time being 2.19pm.

**AB18.17 NSW Public Libraries Association - Elected Representative - Request for Nominations**

**HPERM Ref:  
D18/171271**

**Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That an elected representative (*insert Councillor name*) is nominated for the New South Wales Public Libraries Association.

**RESOLVED** (Clr Wells / Barbara Dawson)

That Councillor Wells be nominated for the New South Wales Public Libraries Association.

CARRIED

**AB18.18 Shoalhaven Arts Board Art Acquisition Sub-Committee report**

**HPERM Ref:  
D18/177446**

**Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Accept the offer from Gary Shead of 18 works through the Cultural Gifts program and undertake the necessary steps to finalise this gift.
2. Accept the offer from Tom Carment for the work 'Postcards of Currarong' as part of the Cultural Gifts program and undertake the necessary steps to finalise this gift.
3. Accept the donation by Max Dingle of the photographic portrait by Gary Grealy
4. Decline the offer to purchase works from the Bob Baker collection
5. Revisit the offer to purchase works by Andrew Antoniou when he has his solo exhibition at Shoalhaven Regional Gallery in 2021
6. Decline the suggestion of purchasing the work 'Samuel Elyard' by Randall Sinnamon at this time, but continue to consider works by Randall Sinnamon for future acquisitions
7. Request the Manager – Arts and Culture to gather additional information about the works by Fern Martins from her Jimmy Little Totem commission and the Elyard works offered by a community member prior to making a final decision.

**RESOLVED** (Clr Wells / Alison Chiam)

That Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Accept the offer from Gary Shead of 18 works through the Cultural Gifts program and undertake the necessary steps to finalise this gift.
2. Accept the offer from Tom Carment for the work 'Postcards of Currarong' as part of the Cultural Gifts program and undertake the necessary steps to finalise this gift.
3. Accept the donation by Max Dingle of the photographic portrait by Gary Grealy

4. Decline the offer to purchase works from the Bob Baker collection
5. Revisit the offer to purchase works by Andrew Antoniou when he has his solo exhibition at Shoalhaven Regional Gallery in 2021
6. Decline the suggestion of purchasing the work 'Samuel Elyard' by Randall Sinnamon at this time, but continue to consider works by Randall Sinnamon for future acquisitions
7. Request the Manager – Arts and Culture to gather additional information about the works by Fern Martins from her Jimmy Little Totem commission and the Elyard works offered by a community member prior to making a final decision.

CARRIED

**AB18.19 Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants 2018/19****HPERM Ref:  
D18/179869**

Karen Akehurst requested clarification in the guidelines about whether the \$5,000 grants are for collaborative work or available for individual artists. Karen expressed concerns that the wording of the Guidelines might dissuade potential applicants. Karen suggested rewording the guidelines to clarify "applicants are encouraged to consider 'Council's Developing Public Art – Themes and Sense of Place Strategy'".

Alison Chiam noted that the two artists that presented to this meeting were collaborations, and the intention is to support collaborative work.

Bronwyn Coulston advised that "Sense of Place" is still the theme and the end result is a work for public consumption.

It was noted that Council offers workshops for artists and organisations applying for a grant and invites enquiries.

It was suggested to specify in the guidelines that all art forms will be considered, including performance art, and that successful recipients' works will be required to be displayed in the public domain.

Clr Wells suggested the following wording: "Successful recipients' work will be required to be exhibited publicly in the Shoalhaven".

It was also suggested to include examples of the genres of previous successful recipients, for example: filmmaking and music.

**Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That:

1. The \$20,000 Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants program be structured as follows:
  - a. Program 1 – Two (2) Grants of up to \$5,000 be offered for 'Developing the Arts – Sense of Place'
  - b. Program 2 – One (1) grant of up to \$10,000 be offered for 'Developing Public Art – Themes and Sense of Place'
2. Shoalhaven Arts Board form a working party to assess the applications and provide a recommendation to the Board on suitable projects to fund after the application period has closed.

**RESOLVED** (Barbara Dawson / Clr Gartner)

That :

1. The \$20,000 Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants program be structured as follows:

- a. Program 1 – Two (2) Grants of up to \$5,000 be offered for ‘Developing the Arts – Sense of Place’
  - b. Program 2 – One (1) grant of up to \$10,000 be offered for ‘Developing Public Art – Themes and Sense of Place’
2. Shoalhaven Arts Board form a working party to assess the applications and provide a recommendation to the Board on suitable projects to fund after the application period has closed.

CARRIED

**AB18.20 Shoalhaven Arts Board Action Plan 2018/19****HPERM Ref:  
D18/181555****Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That following a workshop held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, the Shoalhaven Arts Board members will undertake the following actions over the next twelve (12) months with outcomes to be reported on through the Chairman’s annual report.

1. List of actions to be filled in at meeting following the workshop.

**RESOLVED** (Clr Wells / Clr Gartner)

That following a workshop held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, the Shoalhaven Arts Board (SAB) members will undertake the following actions over the next twelve (12) months with outcomes to be reported on through the Chairman’s annual report.

1. Under Strategy 1.1. of the Arts Board Strategic Plan the Shoalhaven Arts Board will
  - a. Write to the GM asking consideration be given to including Art as an element in all activities of Council.
  - b. Consider making submissions on all appropriate public documentation released by Council, calling for art considerations in planning, development and community activities.
  - c. Work with other advisory groups and council boards to make regular presentations on arts activities and opportunities across the Shoalhaven.
2. Under strategy 2.1, SAB will
  - a. Seek to have a nominee from SAB included in the CBD Revitalisation committee.
  - b. Continue to allocate funding through the Arts Grants program.
  - c. Continue to invite a member from STAG to sit on the SAB and further consultation and collaboration between groups.
3. Under strategy 3.1, SAB will
  - a. Look for opportunities to fund specific audience development opportunities within the arts.
4. Under strategy 4.1 the Acquisitions Committee will continue to pursue acquisitions of note.
5. Under strategy 4.5 SAB will
  - a. Utilise existing events, where SAB sponsor / support or provide a donation to a community group, to cross promote other arts activities within the Shoalhaven.
  - b. Request that the Shoalhaven Readers and Writers Festival include within their program information on Arts and Cultural Activities occurring across the Shoalhaven.
6. Under strategy 4.4, SAB will continue to support existing programs such as the TAFE awards, Shoalhaven Eistedfodd etc.
7. Under strategy 5.1, SAB will support and resources the established working party to progress

development of the arts foundation and advocate to Council when the strategy and costings are prepared.

CARRIED

**AB18.21 Shoalhaven City Art Collection Valuation Highlights**

**HPERM Ref:  
D18/186964**

Bronwyn Coulston spoke to the Report and advised that every three years the collection is valued. Jane Raffan's valuation has increased Council's knowledge and understanding of the collection.

**Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive this report for information only and continue to champion the integral role of the Shoalhaven Regional Gallery in providing access and opportunity for community members to high engage with high quality visual arts.

**RESOLVED** (Alison Chiam / Clr Gartner)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive this report for information only and continue to champion the integral role of the Shoalhaven Regional Gallery in providing access and opportunity for community members to engage with high quality visual arts.

CARRIED

Note: Clr Wells advised that the General Manager has directed that there will be no verbal update reports from staff.

## **ADDENDUM REPORTS**

**AB18.22 Nomination of Australia Day Panel Member**

**HPERM Ref:  
D18/161287**

Clr Wells advised that he had spoken to the Mayor and she was willing to accept two nominations for a representative on the Australia Day Panel.

**Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board resolve to nominate either Karen Akehurst or Alison Chiam as the Arts Board Representative on the Australia Day Panel.

**RESOLVED** (By consent)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board resolve to nominate both Karen Akehurst and Alison Chiam as the Arts Board Representatives on the Australia Day Panel.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 3.08pm.

Clr John Wells  
CHAIRPERSON