

MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN ARTS BOARD

Meeting Date: Thursday, 27 September 2018
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 1.33pm

The following members were present:

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

Others present:

Clr White
Mr Stephen Dunshea – Director, Finance, Corporate & Community Services
Ms Jane Lewis – Section Manager, Recreation, Community & Culture
Ms Bronwyn Coulston – Unit Manager, Arts & Culture
Ms Sarah Taylor – Unit Manager, Library Services

Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was received from Clr Kitchener.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (Robert Crow / Barbara Dawson)

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Arts Board held on Thursday 21 June 2018 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil.

REPORTS

AB18.23 Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants - Recipients and Submissions - Public Art - Developing the Arts - 2018

**HPERM Ref:
D18/296184**

Bronwyn Coulston provided an update on the promotion of the Grants and the Working Group deliberations. Bronwyn advised that the grants were promoted through local newspaper, posters,

social media, Council's website and that workshops were held at the Regional Gallery.

Three grant applications were received, one for each category.

An application for Public Arts – Sense of Place was received from Sussex Inlet District Chamber of Commerce to support a project to create a mural of the Sussex Inlet history to cover a Colorbond fence. Mural designed by local artists including Kylie Douglass, Robert Simpson, Steven Douglass and Tina Hill. The total value of the project is \$43,180. The grant application requests \$10,000. The applicant involved the local school, business chamber and community groups.

An application for Developing the Arts – Sense of Place was received from Elyssa Sykes-Smith for an interactive arts project. Elyssa has an exhibition at Shoalhaven Regional Gallery confirmed for early 2019.

An application for Developing the Arts - Sense of Place was also received from Reuben Broughtwood for a graffiti mural "Faces of Shoalhaven" to feature prominent local indigenous community members. The Working Group had some concerns with this application. For example the applicant did not identify a wall or potential subjects for the project and did not provide sufficient detail. The Working Party commented that it was a strong idea although not a strong application.

Barbara Dawson expressed some concerns about the lack of applications over the last three years and the possibility that the criteria "Sense of Place" might be too restrictive for potential applicants. Bronwyn advised that in previous years she fielded a greater number of enquiries. Jane Lewis suggested that next year the Arts Board could hold a workshop to discuss the criteria and link it with the Arts Board Strategic Plan.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the following Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants be awarded, as recommended by the Working Group:

1. Developing the Arts - Sense of Place \$5,000
 - a. Insert succesful applicant name to be determined at the meeting
2. Developing the Arts - Sense of Place \$5,000
 - a. Insert succesful applicant name to be determined at the meeting
3. Public Art – Sense of Place \$10,000
 - a. Insert succesful applicant name to be determined at the meeting

RESOLVED (Clr Wells / Barbara Dawson)

That the following Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants be awarded, as recommended by the Working Group:

1. Developing the Arts - Sense of Place \$5,000
 - a. Elyssa Sykes-Smith
2. Public Art – Sense of Place \$10,000
 - a. Sussex Inlet District Chamber of Commerce

CARRIED

Bronwyn Coulston spoke to the report.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That Shoalhaven Arts Board

1. Decline the offer to purchase 'Eurotipodes' chiffon panorama by Anna Glynn and instead request the Art Acquisition subcommittee to consider a smaller work from the exhibition and make a recommendation at a future meeting.
2. Decline the offer of a donation of several Elyard works by Pamela Reeves on the basis of the poor condition of the works and the similarity of them to existing works in the collection.

RESOLVED (Alison Chiam / Barbara Dawson)

That Shoalhaven Arts Board

1. Decline the offer to purchase 'Eurotipodes' chiffon panorama by Anna Glynn and instead request the Art Acquisition subcommittee to consider a smaller work from the exhibition and make a recommendation at a future meeting.
2. Decline the offer of a donation of several Elyard works by Pamela Reeves on the basis of the poor condition of the works and the similarity of them to existing works in the collection

CARRIED

AB18.25 Australia Day - Nominations

**HPERM Ref:
D18/323168**

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Receive the Australia Day Nominations report for information; and
2. Actively promote the Australia Day Nominations.

RESOLVED (Karen Akehurst / Alison Chiam)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Receive the Australia Day Nominations report for information; and
2. Actively promote the Australia Day Nominations.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

AB18.26 Additional Item - Shoalhaven Writer's Festival Report

Karen Akehurst provided the Arts Board with a report on the Inaugural Shoalhaven Writer's Festival held on 4 August 2018.

The Festival utilised the Library, School of Arts and Regional Gallery. Overall attendance 500 people. Community engagements included school visits by Allison Tait, children's author.

Authors included Jackie French and Catherine McKinnon, who was recently awarded a Miles

Franklin Award for her book *Storyland*. Interviewers included Allison Tait and Mark Whittaker, a Walkley Award winning journalist.

The Children's Festival was organised by Allison Tait in conjunction with library staff. Approximately 40-50 children attended. Jackie French's talk was extremely popular. The Little Big Read at Jellybean Park with Richard Morecroft and Paul Greene reading to children was also popular.

Ticket sales raised \$5,000. Officeworks contributed an additional \$1,100 by donating proceeds from customers voluntarily rounding up purchases. The Festival received in-kind sponsorship from So and So Events to the value of \$2,200. The Festival was also supported by a team of volunteers. The Festival was a success and raised a surplus of \$5,000 which will go towards future events.

Clr Wells congratulated Karen on the success of the event and advised that the Nowra CBD Revitalisation Committee were so impressed that they want to run the event again in future.

The Committee discussed having post Festival write-up, thanking volunteers and supporters.

Karen advised that the Committee will be considering whether to up scale or down scale the event for next year.

AB18.27 Additional Item - Membership

Ian Grant resigned from the Board on 8 February 2018. A casual vacancy on the Arts Board exists until 30 June 2019.

Peter Lavelle proposed Andrew Barnham, a recorded musician with a background in teaching and arts administration, and Jennifer Thompson, who has a background in theatre and arts administration. Peter noted that Jennifer is overseas until November but is still contactable by email.

Jane will contact the two proposed members to find out whether they are interested and invite them to apply. If both people are interested, the Arts Board can hold an e-meeting to decide, rather than waiting until the November meeting.

AB18.28 Additional Item - Regional Arts

Regional Arts NSW receives funding from State Minister for the Arts. It was proposed to partner with Kiama Municipal Council to establish Shoalhaven as a "Region" and establish a Regional Arts Development Officer.

Bronwyn advised that Council's population is almost too large to form a Regional Arts Organisation because Regional Arts NSW prefers collaboration between councils.

The Chair noted that some funding for the climate control for the Shoalhaven Regional Gallery has been provided to enable co-funding to be sought through a grant application. It was also noted that the three part-time staff are now working full time until the end of the year pending allocation through the Quarterly Budget Review process.

AB18.29 Additional Item - Workshop funding

Alison sought feedback on how the marketing and social media workshops for the arts community went. Clr Wells requested an update from staff by email on attendance and feedback.

AB18.30 Additional Item - Libraries update

Sarah Taylor provided the following update on Library activities:

- Shoalhaven Libraries core values/principles of libraries are accessibility and equity. We believe that public libraries can demonstrate their commitment to these principles by providing targeted services to people who are homeless and to this end we have created a new member category that allows those with no current fixed address to still access the library and its resources. The 'Unconfirmed Address' category has a maximum loan of five items, with one renewal and gives full access to all Shoalhaven Libraries eResources – eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, movies, databases and use of public access computers. Acceptable forms of identification for this category are Medicare, Centrelink or concession cards (even if out of date).
- Shoalhaven Libraries Strategic Plan has been adopted and currently we're working through actions that have come from this plan. To supplement this plan staff are also working on a Marketing Strategy, Collection Services Review and Local Heritage Strategy.
- Tech sessions – Shoalhaven Libraries is still experiencing high demand for technology assistance. In order to provide as much support as possible we provide:
 - Regular staff led technology classes
 - GenConnect – we partner with Nowra High School to provide an intergenerational tech help program
 - Tech Tuesday – customers are able to visit the library on a Tuesday and get help from staff and/or volunteers with any technology problems
 - Technology Classes – we partner with Shoalhaven Community College to provide classes for seniors.
- All branches continue to run their regular events and we're currently gearing up for a busy school holiday period.

AB18.31 Additional Item - Arts and Culture update

Bronwyn Coulston provided the following update on Arts and Culture activities:

- Shoalhaven Regional Gallery has three nominations in the IMAGinE Awards (industry awards for NSW Museums and Galleries). The nominations are
 - Promiscuous Provenance in the Exhibition and projects category
 - Moonmilk in the Exhibitions and Projects Category
 - Kids Cubby in the Engagement Category
- We have a number of grant applications in and being worked on. These include:
 - Regional Arts Touring through Create NSW
 - Dobell Exhibition Grant through M&G NSW
 - Audience Development Fund through M&G NSW
 - Regional Cultural Fund through Create NSW
 - Arts Projects through Create NSW
 - Arts Projects through Australia Council
 - Visions of Australia through Dept of Communications and Arts
- The Meroogal Women's Art Prize opened recently, Shoalhaven Regional Gallery have supported the Highly Commended Prize with the offer of a solo show in the communities galleries in 2020. The award winner was very excited and enthusiastic about this

opportunity.

- We have been finalising our 2019 exhibition schedule following the EOIs for community exhibitions. It's looking to be a very strong year.
- We opened Lucy Culliton and Creative Moments recently. There were 250 people in attendance at the opening, including over 100 people listening to an 'In Conversation' preview between Lucy Culliton and Richard Morecroft.
- Bronwyn flew to Adelaide to open the 'Still Point' touring exhibition at the Shimmer Photography Festival in the Onkaparinga Council area.

Bronwyn and Fiona have been working with the CBD Revitalisation committee on the Egans Lane panel project. EOIs have closed and an artist will be announced shortly.

AB18.32 Additional Item - New Literary Award for Shoalhaven Aboriginal People in Custody

Clr White noted her Notice of Motion to Ordinary meeting, moved by Clr White and seconded by Clr Wells, providing \$2,000 a year for literary awards for Shoalhaven Aboriginal people in custody for the next two years. It is proposed that \$1,000 will go towards prize money and \$1,000 to produce a book, with the proceeds going to the children's ward at the Shoalhaven Hospital. Clr Wells noted that the project has support from local Magistrate and corrective services.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 2.41pm.

Clr John Wells
CHAIRPERSON