

MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN ARTS BOARD

Meeting Date: Thursday, 5 September 2019

Location: Jervis Bay Rooms 1 & 3, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

Time: 1.17pm

The following members were present:

Clr John Wells - Chairperson

Ms Alison Chiam

Ms Karen Akehurst

Dr Peter Lavelle

Mr Robert Crow

Also present:

Clr Patricia White

Coralie Bell – Acting Manager, Recreation Community & Culture

Bronwyn Coulston – Manager, Arts & Culture

Karen Patterson – Manager, Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre

Sarah Taylor – Manager, Library Services

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Clr Kitchener and Jane Lewis, Acting Director, Finance Corporate & Community Services.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (Robert Crow / Peter Lavelle)

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Arts Board held on Thursday 23 May 2019 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil

REPORTS

AB19.14 NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan - Advice and Information

**HPERM Ref:
D19/253091**

Bronwyn Coulston (Manager, Arts & Culture) explained this report is intended to ensure that the Arts Board are aware of the Cultural Infrastructure Plan, as it sets out the directions for Create NSW for the next six years. This State Plan was developed following a series of consultations, one of which had been held in Wollongong with participants from the Shoalhaven. The resultant Plan makes no specific mention of this region, but there are significant opportunities for the Arts Board and Council to progress ideas.

The Plan's geographical priorities include support for regional economic and social development, a coordinated approach to local and regional cultural infrastructure planning, and a strategic, coordinated approach to cultural infrastructure investment.

It has become important to link grant applications to these plans and strategies to access State funding. 'Hard' and 'soft' (e.g. programming) projects now compete for the same funding. Cllr Wells noted the deterioration of the State's financial position, which puts funding at risk.

Coralie Bell (Acting Manager, Recreation Community & Culture) noted there appears to be no Shoalhaven regional arts/cultural strategy, although there is an agreed arts strategic plan. Alison Chiam clarified that this had been previously recommended by the Arts Board; perhaps it could be re-tabled. Coralie advised it would require considerable resources, and assistance could be sought to seek grant funding. Peter Lavelle suggested the incoming community members of the Arts Board have experience in this area and they could be invited to join a project group. This will be addressed after the next meeting.

Cllr Wells advised that a Shoalhaven-specific plan needs to be prepared as part of the NSW Plan.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board

1. Receive the report for information, and
2. Continue to champion the need for Cultural Infrastructure that is fit for purpose within the Shoalhaven.

RESOLVED (Alison Chiam / Karen Akehurst)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board

1. Receive the report for information.
2. Continue to champion the need for Cultural Infrastructure that is fit for purpose within the Shoalhaven.
3. Pursue grant opportunities to fund the development of a Strategic Cultural Plan for the region, which would sit under the overarching NSW Strategic Cultural Plan.

CARRIED

AB19.15 Shoalhaven Arts Board - Terms of Reference - Update and Amend.

**HPERM Ref:
D19/267826**

Bronwyn Coulston explained that the proposed amendments are aimed expanding and enhancing the Arts Board, formalising some of the relationships with other Committees, and formalising changes that have occurred over the last 12-18 months.

- The current total Arts Board membership is 9; it is proposed to increase this to 12.

- The current number of community representatives is 5; it is proposed to increase this to 7.
- The designated Aboriginal Local Member role is to have a formalised relationship with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC). They would be nominated by the AAC rather than through an EOI process. The nominee would not be required to be an AAC member.
- There is also an amendment to formalise the relationship with the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group (STAG), whose representative must be a member of STAG.

The Board discussed the role of all Councillors, and proposed that they be invited to attend meetings, and that the three member Councillors should be able to nominate alternates.

Recommendation

The Shoalhaven Art Board recommend that Council adopt the following changes to the Shoalhaven Arts Board Terms of Reference 3.3 - Membership:

1. Amend the total membership of the Shoalhaven Arts Board to be twelve (12) members
2. Amend the number of community representatives to be seven (7) members
3. Formalise the relationship of the Shoalhaven Arts Board and the Aboriginal Advisory Committee by updating in relation to the Aboriginal community member position as follows:
 - a. "One (1) designated Aboriginal Local Member. A nomination for this position will be made by the Aboriginal Advisory Committee when the position comes vacant or the member term expires. The nominee need not be a member of that committee"
4. Formalise the relationship between the Shoalhaven Arts Board and the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group (STAG) by allowing the representative from STAG voting rights, thus updating the wording as follows:
 - a. "One (1) representative from the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group (STAG). A nomination for this position will be made by STAG when the position comes vacant or the member term expires."

RECOMMENDATION (Peter Lavelle / Robert Crow)

The Shoalhaven Art Board recommend that Council adopt the following changes to the Shoalhaven Arts Board Terms of Reference 3.3 - Membership:

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4. Formalise the relationship between the Shoalhaven Arts Board and the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group (STAG) by allowing the representative from STAG voting rights, thus updating the wording as follows:
 - a. "One (1) representative from the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group (STAG). A nomination for this position will be made by STAG when the position comes vacant or the member term expires."
5. Attendance at meeting be extended to all Councillors, with the three member Councillors able to nominate alternates.

CARRIED

AB19.16 Shoalhaven Arts Board - Vacancies**HPERM Ref:
D19/253447**

Bronwyn Coulson provided a verbal report on the recommendations of the selection panel for the Arts Board Community Member EOI. Under the Arts Board Terms of Reference it is recommended that community members be representative of a number of areas including Health & Well-being, Education, Arts Institutions, Artists and Corporate / Business, as well as having a range of strategic capabilities, expertise and advice from within the Arts.

As a result of the applications and interviews of six (6) prospective members, the panel had recommended that four (4) new community members be appointed to the Shoalhaven Arts Board. These are:

1. Frank Howarth
2. Dr Lynda Kelly
3. Stephen Buzacott
4. Jennifer Thompson

Bringing these four new members on will provide a diversity of industry representation and enhance the range of strategic capabilities and expertise.

RECOMMENDATION (Alison Chiam / Peter Lavelle)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board, as recommended by the selection panel, appoint the following community members to a two (2) year term:

1. Frank Howarth
2. Dr Lynda Kelly
3. Stephen Buzacott
4. Jennifer Thompson

CARRIED

AB19.17 Shoalhaven Arts Board budget allocation**HPERM Ref:
D19/260367**

This report gives the current status of the Arts Board Budget for 2019/20. Council has not yet authorised the revotes from last financial year. Coralie Bell clarified this is to be reported at the next Arts Board meeting. It was confirmed that this budget is quarantined, in accordance with its status as a deductible gift recipient (DGR).

RESOLVED (Karen Akehurst / Robert Crow)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive the Budget Allocation report for information.

CARRIED

AB19.18 Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants Program**HPERM Ref:
D19/258175**

Karen Patterson (Manager, Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre) was commended for her work on bringing together this report.

The Communications Team will be asked to amend some references to Sport Groups and the Sports Board in the Arts Board Grant Funding Campaign 2019-2020 document.

RESOLVED (Alison Chiam / Peter Lavelle)

That:

1. Shoalhaven Arts Board 2019/20 budgets for the Arts Awards of \$10,900, and the Shoalhaven Arts Grant (Sense of Place), be combined to provide a total pool of \$31,200.
2. Both the Sense of Place Grant and the Arts Practitioners' Professional Development Grants be advertised and promoted together, and in effect, jointly evaluated.
 - a. The Sense of Place Grants will fund applications for works of up to \$10,000.
 - i. The Sense of Place Grants will no longer be broken into two categories – Developing the Arts & Public Art.
 - b. Sense of Place Grant applicants may still apply for a grant to support public art.
 - c. Sense of Place applications should be evaluated first, and should the \$10,000 prize pool not be fully granted; remaining funds will boost the Professional Development Grants fund.
 - d. Individual Sense of Place grants remain to the value of up to \$3,000.
 - e. \$920 be excised from the grant funds to create graphic designs and a communications plan to support a four-week campaign to promote the grants.

CARRIED

AB19.19 Shoalhaven City Art Collection - Art Acquisition

**HPERM Ref:
D19/261589**

Bronwyn Coulston advised that the work referred to in recommendation 2, *Dahlias and Striped Cushion*, has been sold in the interim. Clr Wells suggested the work *Cornflowers and Yellow Scarf*, or another by the artist, might be purchased instead. A report on available works is to be brought to the next meeting.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Acquire the works *Suspended Light III & Suspended Light IV* by Martine Emdur through the Cultural Gifts Program as an addition to the Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection.
2. Purchase the work *Dahlias and Striped Cushion* by Kim Grivas for \$690

RESOLVED (Clr Wells / Alison Chiam)

That Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Acquire the works *Suspended Light III & Suspended Light IV* by Martine Emdur through the Cultural Gifts Program as an addition to the Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection.
2. Consider a report on the back catalogue of works by Kim Grivas for a potential alternative acquisition.

CARRIED

AB19.20 Quarterly Update - Shoalhaven Regional Gallery - Highlights and Achievements

**HPERM Ref:
D19/253390**

Clr Wells noted the Gallery has hosted some tremendous exhibitions over the last three months.

Bronwyn Coulston advised that, since the report was written, the Promiscuous Provenance travelling exhibition has been installed at Moruya, with feedback received that this had the best visitation in that new space. The exhibition will be going to Canberra in January.

RESOLVED (Robert Crow / Alison Chiam)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive the Shoalhaven Regional Gallery Quarterly Update report for information.

CARRIED

AB19.21 Shoalhaven Libraries - Update**HPERM Ref:**
D19/251034

Sarah Taylor (Manager, Library Services) advised the Libraries have been running many programs – some in conjunction with the community, which has been beneficial. All four libraries are doing well.

- The Mobile Library has been launched, albeit used in a limited capacity at present due to staffing. A new Ulladulla Library Manager and staff member have been appointed so the Mobile Library can now be used for more outreach in the southern region. By November it should be running at full capacity.
- Both library cafes are going well; the aim is to increase usage.
- A new app has been launched to offer improved access for mobile phone users – over half of site users access the website on mobiles.
- Board members expressed their appreciation of the lights on the fig tree at Nowra Library, erected by the Revitalisation Committee.
- Sarah will report on the Children's Book Festival and Book Week in the next quarterly update report.
- Cllr Wells noted he has received very good feedback on the art walking trail. It was suggested it be linked to a coffee trail, as the Shoalhaven is known for its excellent coffee outlets.

RESOLVED (Peter Lavelle / Karen Akehurst)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive the Shoalhaven Libraries Update report for information.

CARRIED

AB19.22 Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre - Information**HPERM Ref:**
D19/258646

Karen Patterson reported the Entertainment Centre had hosted many large scale events. She described the complex logistical arrangements involved in reconfiguring the auditorium set-up for the variety of event types hosted over a sample seven-day cycle.

- The NAIDOC Awards had been “a joy to work”.
- The Centre is shortly to start its Strategic Plan focus groups, to which Arts Board members and Councillors will be invited.
- The new website is going live with the next season launch.
- Community feedback has been extraordinary. Of the 17,888 responses received in a survey conducted on behalf of 39 arts centres, 900 related to the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre, demonstrating it has a very loyal audience.
- Cllr Wells noted that more than 550 had attended the Sydney Symphony Orchestra performance of Mozart's 29th Symphony on a Saturday afternoon.

- The Shoalhaven Business Awards were also very well hosted. Alison Chiam commended the presentation and consideration of the staff in providing an efficient dinner service for so many. Cllr Wells congratulated Alison on receiving an Award.
- Overall, the Board commended the professional nature of the Entertainment Centre staff.

RESOLVED (Cllr Wells / Karen Akehurst)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre report for information.

CARRIED

AB19.23 Gift of personal collection to Shoalhaven City Council**HPERM Ref:**
D19/295724

Bronwyn Coulston described the contents of Jim Birkett's and Roy Weatherhead's diverse and personal collection, many highlights of which are noted in the report. It was also noted that some works in the collection do not meet the collecting themes currently outlined in the Collection Policy, including works from SE Asia, and that in the future it would be worth considering whether the Policy should be updated to reflect the changing demographics of the Shoalhaven allowing more multicultural art to be collected. The generosity of the gift is exemplified by its provision that Council may put aside works to sell to fund the collection's maintenance. The gift comprises an unknown number of pieces, perhaps 100-200, and is currently being catalogued.

The Shoalhaven Regional Gallery currently has restricted space for storing large works, and the Board discussed the need for additional capacity.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That:

1. Shoalhaven Arts Board give In Principle support to accept the offer from Jim Birkett and Roy Weatherhead to gift their personal art collection to Shoalhaven City Council,
2. Shoalhaven Arts Board give In Principle support for Council staff to enter into a Deed of Gift agreement with Jim Birkett and Roy Weatherhead,
3. Upon finalisation of the Deed of Gift an appropriate mark of appreciation be made to Jim Birkett and Roy Weatherhead.

RECOMMENDATION (Alison Chiam / Peter Lavelle)

That:

1. Shoalhaven Arts Board give In Principle support to accept the offer from Jim Birkett and Roy Weatherhead to gift their personal art collection to Shoalhaven City Council,
2. Shoalhaven Arts Board give In Principle support for Council staff to enter into a Deed of Gift agreement with Jim Birkett and Roy Weatherhead,
3. Upon finalisation of the Deed of Gift an appropriate mark of appreciation be made to Jim Birkett and Roy Weatherhead.
4. The CEO (Director, Finance Corporate & Community Services) prepare a report on the identification and/or provision of appropriate storage facilities to accommodate the Shoalhaven City's expanding collection.
5. The Shoalhaven Arts Board extend its gratitude to Mr Birkett and Mr Weatherhead for their generous contribution to the City of Shoalhaven.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Australia Day Awards

Alison Chiam noted that organisation of the Australia Day Awards for 2020 has commenced. Arts Board members should consider potential nominees, specifically for the categories of Outstanding Artist and Outstanding Contribution to the Arts.

Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group

Rob Crow advised that STAG has welcomed its new members. Recent statistics show virtually no dip in visitation records, showing a sustainable rather than peak/trough pattern. Employment figures in the region have improved.

Coralie Bell noted the expanding interest in Arts and Culture becoming evident in the city.

NOW Contemporary

Bronwyn Coulston reported that entries for NOW Contemporary have closed, with 199 entries from 186 artists. The selection of the 39 finalists will be released on Monday 9 September; the exhibition opens on 5 October. Sponsorship has almost covered the prize money.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 2.24pm.

Clr John Wells
CHAIRPERSON