

## MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN ARTS BOARD

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, 14 November 2019  
**Location:** Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra  
**Time:** 1.00pm

The following members were present:

Clr John Wells - Chairperson  
Clr Mark Kitchener  
Alison Chiam  
Robert Crow  
Jenny Thompson  
Frank Howarth  
Dr Lynda Kelly  
Stephen Buzacott

Also present:

Sarah Taylor – Manager, Library Services  
Bronwyn Coulston – Manager, Arts & Culture  
Margot Jolly, Museum Advisor  
Gail Drummond - left at 1.45pm

### Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Peter Lavelle, Clr Gash, Coralie Bell, Jane Lewis, and Karen Patterson.

### Confirmation of the Minutes

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

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Arts Board held on Thursday 22 August 2019 Shoalhaven Arts Board held on Thursday 05 September 2019 be confirmed.

CARRIED

### Declarations of Interest

Nil

## PRESENTATIONS

**AB19.24 Sussex Inlet and Districts Forum - Mural Project****HPERM Ref:  
D19/328558**

Gail Drummond gave a presentation on Sussex Inlet and Districts Forum's the "Our History Our Heritage" Mural Project, which had received a Public Art – Sense of Place 2018-2019 grant from the Arts Board. She thanked the Arts Board for their support, as well as co-sponsors Sussex Inlet RSL, Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club.

The work on the mural had been a fruitful collaboration between arts and the community, and the impact of the project in the town has been very positive. The mural attracts considerable attention.

The Chairperson thanked Gail and her colleagues on behalf of the Arts Board.

**AB19.25 Update from Margot Jolly, Museum Advisor****HPERM Ref:  
D19/383761**

Margot Jolly (Museum Advisor for Shoalhaven City Council) provided a summary of the work over the past two years to improve and support the development and sustainability of the volunteer-run museums in the region. These are primarily Berry Museum (Berry and District Historical Society), Nowra Museum (Shoalhaven Historical Society), Kangaroo Valley Pioneer Museum (Kangaroo Valley Historical Society) and Tabourie Lake Museum (the Jack Nicholson Collection), but Margot has also been liaising with the Milton-Ulladulla Historical Society and Millhouse Art Society & Gallery.

Margot has liaised with the museums in the following areas:

Berry Museum: Policy Review and Governance; Collection Management; Letters of Support and advice on grant applications; Improving collection storage.

Nowra Museum: Review of Collections Policy; Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan; Label Writing and formatting; Display advice and assistance; Letters of Support for grant applications; Improving collection storage; Plans for extension.

Kangaroo Valley Pioneer Museum: New Collections Policy and Strategic Plan; Layout of displays and rebuilds; Governance; Plans for improved collection storage and workshop space; Conservation cleaning.

Tabourie Lake Museum: New Collections Policy and Strategic Plan; Working bees to conservation clean objects and re-display; Improved communication with Council; Identify pests and begin treatment; Plans for improved collection storage.

Frank Howarth raised the importance of digital strategies for disaster preparedness, Margot confirmed that some museums have extensively photographed their collections and are using appropriate management systems, but digital knowledge is variable and sometimes backups are not kept offsite. It was suggested museums could partner with a local school to create and host the backup, or with the libraries service (Trove).

Margot Jolly's contract as Council's Museums Advisor is due to end in February, but on the basis of the continuing relationship with Museums and Galleries NSW it may be possible to secure more days of Margot's time. The Arts Board endorsed this extension of Margot Jolly's engagement.

## REPORTS

**AB19.26 Shoalhaven Arts Board - Resignation - Karen Akehurst - Vacancy****HPERM Ref:  
D19/350692**

The verbal report of the selection panel recommended Christine Dunstan as the new Community Member of the Shoalhaven Arts Board.

Holly Pritchard was recommended to be added to list of panel of Peers and invited to participate in Working Groups and Sub Committees of the Arts Board.

### Recommendation

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board

1. Accept the resignation from Karen Akehurst.
2. As recommended by the selection panel, appoint the following community member for a two (2) year term:
  - a. (insert successful applicant's name as determined at the meeting)

### RECOMMENDATION (Jenny Thompson / Stephen Buzacott)

That:

1. Shoalhaven Arts Board accept the resignation from Karen Akehurst.
2. Council write to Ms Akehurst thanking her for her contribution to the Board
3. As recommended by the selection panel, Council appoint the following community member for a two (2) year term:
  - a. Christine Dunstan

CARRIED

**AB19.27 Notification - Council Resolution - Re-establishment of Shoalhaven Arts Board****HPERM Ref:  
D19/337016**

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

That the Arts Board receive the report on the Council Resolution – Re-establishment of Shoalhaven Arts Board for information.

### RESOLVED (Clr Kitchener / Robert Crow)

That the Arts Board receive the report on the Council Resolution – Re-establishment of Shoalhaven Arts Board for information, with Clr Wells retained as Chairperson.

CARRIED

**AB19.28 Subcommittee Membership, Working Groups, Portfolios and Panel of Peers****HPERM Ref:  
D19/362750**

Bronwyn Coulson (Manager Arts & Culture) explained the Arts Board has the authority under its Terms of Reference to re-establish its Sub Committees and Working Groups. Members were invited to nominate themselves and these nominations are listed in the Resolution. It was confirmed that for some groups face-to-face meetings are involved, but much is done by email, and the workloads are not onerous.

The meeting discussed the need to acquire for the collection works representing significant artists

who have lived here, such as Sidney Nolan and Guy Warren (the recent acquisition of *Big River* excepted).

The Shoalhaven Arts Foundation is to be independent of Council, other than the initial seed funding. Cllr Wells suggested a Councillor Briefing be held, to put forward the proposal that the Arts Foundation be given \$200-250k for three years from 2020-21. He acknowledged the work of Alison Chiam and Allan Baptist in bringing the Foundation to fruition.

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

That the following subcommittees, working groups and portfolios be established with the membership as detailed [names to be filled in at meeting]:

1. Art Acquisition and Collection Subcommittee
  - a. Chair of the SAB
  - b. Unit Manager Arts and Culture or nominated representative
  - c. Shoalhaven Arts Board member [name to be filled in at meeting]
  - d. Shoalhaven Arts Board member [name to be filled in at meeting]
  - e. Invited Arts Professional
2. Arts Board Grants Working Group
  - a. Shoalhaven Arts Board member [name to be filled in at meeting]
  - b. Shoalhaven Arts Board member [name to be filled in at meeting]
  - c. Appropriate Council officer from the Cultural sector
3. Shoalhaven Arts Foundation working group
  - a. Unit Manager Arts and Culture or nominated representative
  - b. Shoalhaven Arts Board member [name to be filled in at meeting]
  - c. Shoalhaven Arts Board member [name to be filled in at meeting]
  - d. Invited Community Member
  - e. Invited Shoalhaven City Councillor
4. Shoalhaven Cultural Strategy working group
  - a. Shoalhaven Arts Board member [name to be filled in at meeting]
  - b. Shoalhaven Arts Board member [name to be filled in at meeting]
  - c. Appropriate Council officers from the Cultural sector
  - d. Invited Community Member
  - e. Invited Shoalhaven City Councillor

**RESOLVED** (Cllr Wells / Cllr Kitchener)

That the following subcommittees, working groups and portfolios be established with the membership as detailed:

1. Art Acquisition and Collection Subcommittee
  - a. Chair of the SAB
  - b. Unit Manager Arts and Culture or nominated representative
  - c. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Alison Chiam
  - d. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Steve Buzacott

- e. Invited Arts Professional – Deborah Ely
2. Arts Board Grants Working Group
  - a. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Jenny Thompson
  - b. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Clr John Wells
  - d. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Lynda Kelly
  - c. Appropriate Council officer from the Cultural sector
3. Shoalhaven Arts Foundation working group
  - a. Unit Manager Arts and Culture or nominated representative
  - b. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Alison Chiam
  - c. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Clr John Wells
  - d. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Frank Howarth
  - d. Invited Community Member
  - e. Invited Shoalhaven City Councillor
4. Shoalhaven Cultural Strategy working group
  - a. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Alison Chiam
  - b. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Frank Howarth
  - c. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Jenny Thompson
  - d. Shoalhaven Arts Board member Steve Buzacott
  - e. Appropriate Council officers from the Cultural sector
  - f. Invited Community Member – Holly Pritchard / Andrew Barnum
  - g. Invited Shoalhaven City Councillor

CARRIED

**AB19.29 Shoalhaven City Art Collection - Art Acquisition**

**HPERM Ref:  
D19/361672**

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

That Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Acquire the work *The Pidgeon House over Conjola Forest* by Clem Millward through the Cultural Gifts Program as an addition to the Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection.
2. Accept the offer of donation for the work *Pink Vanitas* by Wayde Owen

**RESOLVED** (Alison Chiam / Stephen Buzacott)

That Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Acquire the work *The Pidgeon House over Conjola Forest* by Clem Millward through the Cultural Gifts Program as an addition to the Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection.
2. Accept the offer of donation for the work *Pink Vanitas* by Wayde Owen.

CARRIED

**AB19.30 Quarterly Update - Shoalhaven Regional Gallery -  
Highlights and Achievements**

**HPERM Ref:  
D19/361385**

Bronwyn Coulston reported that during August to October:

- The Gallery received 8500 visitors. The exhibitions, including NOW Contemporary, have generated many positive comments.
- Public programs have been busy, with Gallery attendance at BirdHaven and RiverFest.
- Anna Glyn's "Promiscuous Provenance" exhibition continues to tour.
- Altered States opens on 30 November, and an invitation is to follow. A gallery dinner is planned with the artists, Tamara Dean and Nicole Welch.

The Chairperson has been approached by two local residents with potential proposals for

(a) A weekend storytelling festival in Bomaderry, about "The End of the Line" – he may take this up with staff.

(b) A working hub (studio space) for visual artists. This would require infrastructure and expenditure. Some 20 local artists have expressed interest in participating.

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

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

**RESOLVED** (Jenny Thompson / Stephen Buzacott)

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

CARRIED

**AB19.31 Shoalhaven Libraries - Update**

**HPERM Ref:  
D19/363980**

Sarah Taylor (Manager Library Services) reported a busy first quarter:

- August was Book Week.
- There has been significant outreach into schools.
- Use of digital resources is increasing, as well as access to and education in digital literacy.
- The new App for the library service has had 1000 downloads to date.
- Ulladulla library printing and scanning services have been upgraded
- The Collection Policy is being updated; working on how to deaccession books.
- Events include children's activities, book club for adults, digital literacy classes, family history and heritage talks, Pathfinders Program (in which anyone may request to give a talk), book launches.

The Chairperson noted that Nowra Library is the busiest public building in the Shoalhaven, and holds more events than any other. Council is planning a new library facility at Sanctuary Point.

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

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

**RESOLVED** (Clr Wells / Robert Crow)

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

CARRIED

**AB19.32 Arts Reserve - Current Status**

**HPERM Ref:  
D19/371336**

Bronwyn Coulston reported the Arts Reserve currently stands at \$25,252, and it is anticipated that the \$7,031 crowdfunded towards the purchase of Guy Warren's "Big River" triptych will be added to the Reserve at the end of the financial year. Reserve funds must be ringfenced to maintain Council's Deductible Gift Recipient status.

It was clarified that the Arts Reserve may be used for grants to commissioning works that will come into Council's collection. Bronwyn will check for any legal requirements arising from such use.

Alison Chiam congratulated staff on the result of the "Big River" campaign.

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

That the Arts Reserve report be received for information.

**RESOLVED** (Clr Wells / Clr Kitchener)

That the Arts Reserve report be received for information.

CARRIED

**AB19.33 Additional Item - Shoalhaven Arts Foundation**

Clr Wells proposed that a Councillor Briefing be held prior to Christmas, to present a request from the Arts Board that it would like Council to consider funding of \$200–250k in the 2020-21 financial year, to be granted at that level for 3 years, to allow the Shoalhaven Arts Foundation to be established and to function as an independent foundation for arts in the City.

**RESOLVED** (By consent)

That a Councillor Briefing be held to present a request from the Arts Board that it would like Council to consider funding of \$200–250k in the 2020-21 financial year, to be granted at that level for 3 years, to allow the Shoalhaven Arts Foundation to be established and to function as an independent foundation for arts in the City.

CARRIED

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Kim Grivas Works**

Staff will check whether the works available for acquisition could be borrowed for the next meeting.

**Australia Day Awards**

Nominations are open until 22 November.

**Cultural "map"**

Frank Howarth asked whether Shoalhaven has a "map" of the cultural fabric of the area. Staff confirmed there is the Arts & Culture Brochure, and this can be expanded upon to make it more

spatial in presentation. This can be part of the Cultural Strategy Working Groups' remit – they will be best placed to develop the “map” and link to a broader strategy. Lynda Kelley noted that other councils have undertaken a similar cultural mapping exercise – Lake Macquarie and Bathurst are examples. Albury is also developing one.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 2.56pm.

Clr John Wells  
CHAIRPERSON