

MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN ARTS BOARD

Meeting Date: Thursday, 22 April 2021

Location: Council Chambers, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

Time: 1.00pm

The following members were present:

Clr John Wells - Chairperson
Clr Mark Kitchener – (remotely)
Ms Alison Chiam
Dr Peter Lavelle
Mr Robert Crow – (remotely)
Ms Jenny Thompson
Mr Frank Howarth
Dr Lynda Kelly – (remotely)
Mr Stephen Buzacott
Ms Christine Dunstan

Others present:

Ms Sarah Taylor – Manager, Library Services
Ms Karen Patterson – Manager, Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre
Ms Bronwyn Coulston – Manager, Arts & Culture

Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was received from Clr White.

Confirmation of the Minutes

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Arts Board held on Thursday 18 February 2021 be confirmed.

RESOLVED (Peter Lavelle / Stephen Buzacott)

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Arts Board held on Thursday 18 February 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Nowra CBD Revitalisation Strategy Committee will resolve the draft Revitalising Nowra Action Plan (Place Score) at its meeting on 12 May, after which the Plan can be brought to the next Arts Board meeting.

Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO): The Hon Don Harwin, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts has met with Council's CEO and Director City Lifestyles regarding the potential establishment of a Shoalhaven RADO. There will be a report to the May Strategy & Assets Committee meeting on these developments.

Declarations of Interest

Nil

REPORTS

AB21.8 Shoalhaven Libraries - Update

HPERM Ref:
D21/120224

Sarah Taylor – Manager, Library Services addressed the meeting to provide an update on the Shoalhaven Libraries.

Main key points arising from the report are as follows:

1. Usage of libraries are returning to almost pre-Covid conditions across the Shoalhaven. The third quarter of the 2020 - 2021 financial year saw 68,383 people come through our doors at Shoalhaven Libraries and borrow over 80,000 items. We welcomed 732 new members and answered nearly 15,680 queries.

With the lifting of restrictions from 1 February, our libraries were able to open longer hours, with Nowra Library once again open until 7pm, as well as the removal of bookings and time limits for study spaces. We were also excited to announce the resumption of our Children's Program and Adult Events.

2. Shoalhaven Libraries is now a nationally accredited esmart library. Shoalhaven Libraries has integrated cyber-safety into Shoalhaven Libraries' policies, agreements, staff development, organisational culture, training and day-to-day operations, demonstrating its commitment to cyber safety, digital literacy and well-being of Shoalhaven Libraries customers.
3. New Sanctuary Point Library update - concept plans for the new Sanctuary Point District Library are currently out on public exhibition for community feedback for the month of April. The architects have identified various opportunities for public art within the library design and currently liaising with the Arts & Culture Manager in regard to this. There will be a report to next Arts Board meeting on the public art process.

Clr Wells noted that the new library will not only provide a functional bearing on the lives of Sanctuary Point residents but also generally elevate the standard of the CBD precinct. The anticipated plan of action will be to report on the outcomes of the community consultation, then seek approval to go to DA, with the expectation of construction to commence in early 2022, with a 12–18-month construction timeframe. Clr Wells also confirmed there is budget in 2021/22 for the commencement of the construction.

4. Arts Program budget – Sarah Taylor to clarify.
5. Frank Howarth suggested an Action Table for Shoalhaven Arts Board be provided with future agendas. It was agreed to implement this.
6. Sarah advised that she had met with representatives from the Jervis Bay Territory and had some preliminary discussions regarding the provision of additional library services to the area.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

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

RESOLVED (By consent)

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

CARRIED

AB21.9 Shoalhaven City Art Collection - Significance Assessment

**HPERM Ref:
D21/122523**

Bronwyn Coulston, Arts & Culture Manager, provided a report to the meeting and advised that she is in the process of developing a strategic plan for collection over the next 12 months.

The initial report will present opportunities for grant funding and to consider the conservation and future of the collection of artworks.

The acquisition subcommittee is formed – the strategic plan for the collection will be developed with that subcommittee.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report and Significance Assessment be received for information and that the Significance Assessment be taken into consideration for collection acquisitions, collection deaccessions and future planning of the collection.

RESOLVED (Jenny Thompson / Stephen Buzacott)

That the report and Significance Assessment be received for information and that the Significance Assessment be taken into consideration for collection acquisitions, collection deaccessions and future planning of the collection.

CARRIED

AB21.10 Shoalhaven City Art Collection - Acquisitions

**HPERM Ref:
D21/122525**

The new offers of acquisition were discussed.

Bronwyn Coulston described Tim Georgesen's *Requiem for a Forest 1* as providing beautiful imagery of the aftermath of the Black Summer fires focussing on the affected forest around Sassafras and areas to the south. Original music score by Finnish composer accompanies the film.

Bronwyn reported that the initial offer from Tamara Dean had been too comprehensive. An alternate offer has now been made for the purchase of *Endangered 11A & 11B* with a further 5 works from 3 different series being donated.

The Arts Board agreed to proceed with the purchase of *Requiem for a Forest 1* and *Endangered 11A & 11B (Diptych)*. This will result in a reduction to the total cost to approximately \$23,000.

A question was raised in relation to limitations of the display of item 1 above being a digital artwork. It was explained that holdings can be shown on the online gallery as digital files and stills from the film – with permission to show the film in its entirety.

The *Requiem for a Forest 1* is a guaranteed limited edition of one of four.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the request of the advice of the Shoalhaven Arts Board to acquire the following works for inclusion in the Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection:

1. Purchase *Requiem for a Forest 1* – channel film by Tim Georgeson offered at \$8,000 utilising funding from the Arts Reserve and acquire one (1) further photographic work one (1) which is being offered under Cultural Gift Program:
 - a. Renaissance
2. Purchase *Endangered 11A & 11B (Diptych)* by Tamara Dean offered at \$23,000 utilising funding from the Arts Reserve and acquire five (5) further works which are being offered under the Cultural Gift Program:
 - a. Dusty Miller
 - b. Sacred Lotus
 - c. Juniper
 - d. Endangered 4
 - e. Endangered 6
3. Approve the allocation of \$31,000 from The Arts Reserve to fund the purchase of these two (2) works:
 - a. *Requiem for a Forest 1* - \$8,000
 - b. *Endangered 11A & 11B (Diptych)* - \$23,000
4. Pursue the acquisition of the other offered works in accordance with the Cultural Gift Program

RECOMMENDATION (Stephen Buzacott / Frank Howarth)

That Council endorse the request of the advice of the Shoalhaven Arts Board to acquire the following works for inclusion in the Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection:

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CARRIED

AB21.11 Shoalhaven City Art Collection - recommendations for Deaccessioning select items from Collection

**HPERM Ref:
D21/122527**

The works were reviewed and identified for deaccession due to damage or unsuitability for the collection.

Bronwyn Coulston explained the process of offering the works recommended for deaccessioning back to original donor or artist and then to cultural or community institutions. As a final step they can be made available for sale, but this may not be applicable to these works.

Alison Chiam commended staff on the big task undertaken in regard to the deaccessioning.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the below items from the City Art Collection are deaccessioned in line with the City Art Collection – Acquisitions and Collection Management Policy (POL18/23)

1. Phil Campbell – Depression Session – 1980 – pencil, charcoal, crayon on sawboard
2. S Bailey – Four Painted Plates of Houses – 1981 – hand painted ceramic plates
3. Maurie Caswell – Pampas Grass and Urn – 1986 – Watercolour on paper
4. Jelders Michael Davey – Solitude – undated – Type C Photograph ed 1/20
5. Gretel Doering – Dead Trees Dreaming – 1968 – watercolour on paper
6. Alna Nicmanis – Under the Dark Cloud – 1975 – mixed media
7. Leslie Kienan – Fruit basket with flowers – 1991 – watercolour on paper
8. Mollie McCloskey – Abstract 8 – 1974 – mixed media
9. Joy Morrison – Enchanted Garden – 1970 – mixed media on masonite
10. Terrance Murphy – MinMin Shore – 2008 – oil on canvas
11. Terrance Murphy – Apline Spring – 2001 – acrylic on craftboard
12. Terrance Murphy – Outer Hedrides – 1991 – acrylic on craftboard
13. Terrance Murphy – Cosmic Poem – 1997 – acrylic on linen
14. Helen Kaminski – Autumn Gums – 1981 – pencil and pastel on paper
15. J Stewart – Crookhaven Heads Lighthouse – undated – oil on masonite
16. Thora Wilson – Tabby Tom at Molong – 1988 – watercolour on paper
17. Alison Duncan – Golden Goddesses – undated - watercolour on paper
18. Lee Elvy – Untitled – Undated - acrylic on board
19. Gray Dunreath-Cooper – Softly Softly – 1975 – watercolour on paper
20. Grace Paleg – Portrait of Dorothy – 2001 – pastel on paper
21. Greg Hughes – Abstract, Symbolic Economic Code – undated - acrylic and pastel on canvas
22. Lyn Ryall – Bird – undated – ceramic
23. Irene Kitchen – Plate – undated – earthenware

RESOLVED (Alison Chiam / Christine Dunstan)

That the below items from the City Art Collection are deaccessioned in line with the City Art Collection – Acquisitions and Collection Management Policy (POL18/23)

1. Phil Campbell – Depression Session – 1980 – pencil, charcoal, crayon on sawboard

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22. Lyn Ryll – Bird – undated – ceramic
23. Irene Kitchen – Plate – undated – earthenware

CARRIED

AB21.12 Streets as Shared Spaces - Public Art Project - Creativity Connections

**HPERM Ref:
D21/122529**

Bronwyn Coulston provided an update to the meeting. Projects have received grant funding under the “Streets as Shared Spaces” Fund in 2020 from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to test responses to art installations and to see how art could be used to activate spaces.

The four projects that have received funding are:

1. Public Art Trail which is being installed over the next month or so. The route follows existing pathways and walkways – from Bolong Rd Bomaderry across the old Nowra Bridge, along Graham Street to Jellybean Park. Clr Wells raised the possibility of the Art Trail walkway becoming an issue with Heritage NSW and Shoalhaven Historic Society due to the Bridge’s historical significance.
2. SEC Forecourt– landscaping and public art elements, at present being underutilised.
3. Wall mural in Ulladulla – Expressions of Interest to be sent to artists shortly.
4. Ulladulla Gateway Mosaic Artwork located opposite Civic Centre in foreshore park area.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report regarding streets as shared spaces be received by the Shoalhaven Arts Board for information.

RESOLVED (Jenny Thompson / Clr Kitchener)

That the report regarding streets as shared spaces be received by the Shoalhaven Arts Board for information.

CARRIED

AB21.13 Shoalhaven Regional Gallery - Update

**HPERM Ref:
D21/135523**

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

Bronwyn Coulston summarised the activities as outlined in the report.

January saw the conclusion of the two summer exhibitions.

In February, the Gallery had the New Horizon HSC artworks on display along with Lizzie Buckmaster's digital exhibition. Lizzie Buckmaster's installation used a fabric box at either end of the exhibition to conjure the idea of swimming laps in a swimming pool. The installation is accompanied by music. The exhibition had a strong response especially running alongside the HSC New Horizon artworks. Overall a very different and effective use of the gallery.

During March there were 4 exhibitions including John Downton's *Sensational Shoalhaven* and smaller works by local artists which are mostly focussed on the landscape and place in different ways.

Public programs – Art After School which runs through the school terms is proving popular and continuing well. Artist-led workshops including the Sydney Living Museums partnership are very popular. Anna Glynn's *Promiscuous Provenance* has been a huge program for the gallery, touring since 2016 and has just finished at Jervis Bay Maritime Museum and is now going on to Hawkesbury Regional Gallery.

The Shoalhaven City Art Collection now been launched online.

The next period will see exhibitions including *Spaces Between* - Virginia Coventry and Jan King curated by Max Dingle, *Shoalhaven Mental Health Fellowship* – Open Art Competition, *1000 Colours for Lalita* by artist Anna Nangle, Art Quilt Australia 2021, and Creative Moments followed by a suite of 4 community exhibitions.

In partnership with Sydney Living Museums the Gallery will host a Twilight Teacher Event in May to launch the new In Gallery Learning Program. The primary school project *Regenerate: Shoalhaven* has secured 3 full primary schools to participate in the making for the exhibition in 2022.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

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

RESOLVED (Alison Chiam / Christine Dunstan)

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

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

AB21.14 Updates - SEC Upgrade

Karen Patterson – Manager, Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre provided an update to the meeting.

The upgrade to the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre (SEC) addresses the compliance issues for the building. There has also been significant investment in lighting & audio visual as well as addressing issues identified regarding the operation of the Encore café (too far from kitchen).

The upgrade also includes a new counter height and width to be more access friendly. New foyer furniture has been purchased so that it is now commercial grade furniture. Charging points are also being installed for mobility scooters, wheelchairs and devices.

A cover is being built over the loading dock which means the area can also be converted to an outdoor stage with minimal cost and minor adjustments.

Streets of Shared Spaces - By activating the forecourt the intent is to encourage people who otherwise do not come to the SEC to come and use the space. There is a trial extension of the liquor licence for outside use.

The total cost of the upgrade is approximately \$5.2 million, Council funded. \$1.8 million of the total budget is set aside for investment in internal infrastructure.

Clr Wells described the need to house storage and rehearsal space for community performance groups.

AB21.15 Shoalhaven Arts Foundation

Frank Howarth congratulated Clr Wells & White on the strong representation made to Council's CEO and getting the paper passed for the establishment of Foundation.

Council had resolved funding but not the full cost of establishment. Suggestion was made to lobby Council for funds of \$20,000 - \$30,000 for legal establishment.

Alison Chiam put forward a proposal for steering committee to be set up with the purpose to take the Foundation through to a legal entity that can receive funding and have legal oversight of constitution, and processes in place to recruit staff.

Action: Alison to write report on proposal of steering committee to be developed. Frank and Stephen both offered support to Alison in this regard.

Action: Steering Committee to receive copy of existing Constitution and Paper on Values.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 2.22pm.

Clr John Wells
CHAIRPERSON