

# Shoalhaven Arts Board

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, 08 March, 2023  
**Location:** Jervis Bay Meeting Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra  
**Time:** 4.00pm

**Please note:** Council's Code of Meeting Practice permits the electronic recording and broadcast of the proceedings of meetings of the Council which are open to the public. Your attendance at this meeting is taken as consent to the possibility that your image and/or voice may be recorded and broadcast to the public.

## Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **Confirmation of Minutes**
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3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Reports**
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  - AB23.3 Shoalhaven Regional Gallery - Update - November, December 2022,  
January 2023 ..... 21
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5. **General Business**

**Membership**

Ms Christine Dunstan - Chairperson  
Clr Tonia Gray  
Clr John Kotlash  
Clr Moo D'Ath  
Clr Patricia White (Alternate)  
Clr Paul Ell (Alternate)  
Mr Stephen Buzacott  
Mr Frank Howarth  
Dr Lynda Kelly  
Mr Drew Longbottom  
Ms Bonnie Porter-Greene  
Ms Kate Dezarnaulds

Quorum – Majority of the members – At least half plus one (1) member.

Note: Any non-voting Councillor in attendance at any of the above Committees may act as an alternate voting member in circumstances where achievement of a quorum is required.

**Purpose**

- a) To contribute to and develop strategy and policy both for the Shoalhaven City Council as well as in alignment with the Region.
- b) To develop and implement policy, planning and vision for the broad arts within existing resources and use a co-opted panel of peers for professional advice. They include:
  - Visual Arts
  - Heritage and Museum Sector
  - Literature
  - Performing Arts
- c) Advocate and maintain specific arts related portfolios.
- d) Advocate and promote Board recommendations.

**Delegated Authority**

- Act within adopted budgets aligning with Council's strategic plans and document, and make recommendations on the arts to Council.
- Appoint suitable representatives to fill casual vacancies on a set term basis.
- Inform and recommend policy for arts related funding programs, and where required by Council, vote on related matters.
- Establish a peer panel of professionals, experts and practitioners across art forms, heritage and cultural platforms to be co-opted as needed for input and advice to the Shoalhaven Arts Board.
- Establish a Shoalhaven Arts Foundation:
  - To support the development and enrichment of broad arts across the Shoalhaven including visual, heritage, literature & performing arts
  - To ensure that the Foundation in its governance, membership and charter are independent/ and at arms-length from Council yet works in concert with the Shoalhaven Arts Board, Council and the community needs
  - To fundraise and develop a sustainable principal investment to generate ongoing grant funds.

Relevant staff will work collaboratively with the Shoalhaven Arts Board to:

- Develop and implement activities to achieve objectives in line with the Shoalhaven Arts Board recommendations, the Council's policies and corporate plan.

## MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN ARTS BOARD

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, 9 November 2022  
**Location:** Jervis Bay Meeting Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra  
**Time:** 4:00pm

The following members were present:

Mrs Christine Dunstan - Chairperson  
Clr Patricia White – Left meeting at 5:38pm  
Clr John Kotlash (Remotely)  
Clr Tonia Gray (Remotely)  
Mr Frank Howarth  
Dr Lynda Kelly (Remotely) - Left meeting at 5:47pm  
Ms Bonnie Porter Greene  
Mr Drew Longbottom – Left meeting at 4:59pm  
Ms Kate Dezarnaulds

Others Present:

Ms Jane Lewis – Director – City Lifestyles  
Ms Bronwyn Coulston - Manager – Arts & Culture  
Ms Karen Patterson - Manager - Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre  
Ms Nicole Lonesborough – Acting Manager Shoalhaven Libraries

### Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Clr D'Ath, Stephen Buzacott and Sarah Taylor.

### Confirmation of the Minutes

**RESOLVED** (Frank Howarth / Clr Gray)

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Arts Board held on Wednesday 17 August 2022 be confirmed.

CARRIED

### Declarations of Interest

Nil

## PRESENTATIONS

### **AB22.43 Update - Establishment of the Regional Arts Development Organisation**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/446660**

Mrs Christine Dunstan noted that the Shoalhaven Arts Board is looking for strategic opportunities to increase arts engagement within the community, and that working closely together with the South Coast Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO) will have a positive impact for both parties.

Strategic planning will continue to be discussed between the the Shoalhaven Arts Board and the South Coast Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO).

Mr Frank Howarth noted that areas such as the South Coast and the Southern Highlands do particularly well with Cultural Tourism (e.g. Bundanon). Mr Howarth suggested that it would be beneficial for the Shoalhaven Arts Board and other organisations such as the RADO, to further consider how to facilitate more Cultural Tourism.

Ms Marla Guppy – Chair – South Coast Arts Inc provided an update to the Shoalhaven Arts Board on the establishment of the Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO), as summarised in the following points:

1. Mission Statement: RADO South Coast Arts aims to contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of south coast culture by providing advocacy, services and resources that sustain the network of artists and cultural groups living and working in our region.
2. Current Projects: Seed funding 6 x projects through the Country Arts Support Program (CASP), and also taking part in the Regional Futures project 2022/2023.
3. RADO Directions: First Nations Culture – Supporting a regional understanding of Country, working with creative communities to build capacity. Regional Strategic Planning - Enabling a regional response to cultural capacity building, creative partnerships across the region. Regional Change – Urban population growth, changing demographics, uneven cultural resourcing, new audiences Sustainability & Climate Change – Managing the impact on arts & creative industries, supporting communities & creatives.

### **AB22.44 Strategic Opportunities for Shoalhaven Arts Board Members Involvement - 2022/23**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/459989**

Ms Bronwyn Coulston – Manager Arts and Culture – and Ms Karen Patterson – Manager Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre – provided information to the Shoalhaven Arts Board on strategic opportunities to engage with Board members in line with the adopted Community Strategic Plan and the Delivery Program and Operational Plan for 2022/23.

The information that was presented to the Board is attached to these minutes.

## REPORTS

### **AB22.45 Notification of Council Resolution - Shoalhaven Arts Board Re-establishment**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/437138**

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

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

#### **RESOLVED** (Kate Dezarnaulds / Clr Kotlash)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive the Notification of Council Resolution – Shoalhaven Arts

Board Re-establishment report for information.

CARRIED

**AB22.46 Nomination of Australia Day Panel Member****HPERM Ref:  
D22/435803**

Note: Mr Drew Longbottom left the meeting, the time being 4:59pm

Mrs Christine Dunstan asked if there were any nominations from the Arts board to be a representative on the Australia Day Awards Panel. Mr Frank Howarth was nominated.

Ms Bonnie Porter Greene was nominated as the alternate member on the Australia Day Awards Panel in the case of Mr Frank Howarth's absence. There were no further nominations received and this was consented to by the Board.

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

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board resolve to nominate (insert name) as the Arts Board Representative on the Australia Day Awards Panel.

**RESOLVED** (Bonnie Porter-Green / Kate Dezarnaulds)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board resolve to nominate Mr Frank Howarth as the Arts Board Representative on the Australia Day Awards Panel, and Ms Bonnie Porter Greene as the alternate Panel member.

CARRIED

**AB22.47 Condolences - Jenny Thompson****HPERM Ref:  
D22/432458**

Mrs Christine Dunstan noted that Ms Jenny Thompson was an extraordinary member of the Shoalhaven Arts Board, and suggested that the Arts Board consider opportunities to carry on her legacy by advocating for Artists in Residence in schools.

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

That the:

1. Report be received for information.
2. Shoalhaven Arts Board acknowledge the passing of Arts Board member Jenny Thompson and offer condolences to her family.

**RESOLVED** (Clr Gray / Frank Howarth)

That the:

1. Report be received for information.
2. Shoalhaven Arts Board acknowledge the passing of Arts Board member Jenny Thompson and offer condolences to her family.

CARRIED

**AB22.48 Casual Vacancy****HPERM Ref:  
D22/435122**

Ms Bronwyn Coulston noted that no CV's have been received for membership, however strong interest was received from Mr Clive Freeman from Wreck Bay to join the Shoalhaven Arts Board. The Board expressed that it would be very advantageous to have a second Indigenous representative on the Board.

Mrs Christine Dunstan asked for any other nominations from the Board. Upon receiving no other nominations, Ms Bronwyn Coulston was asked to extend a formal invitation to Mr Clive Freeman to join the Shoalhaven Arts Board.

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

That [name to be filled in at meeting] is invited to join the Shoalhaven Arts Board to fill the casual vacancy with their term to end 30 September 2023.

**RESOLVED** (Christine Dunstan / Clr Gray)

That Mr Clive Freeman be invited to join the Shoalhaven Arts Board to fill the casual vacancy with their term to end 30 September 2023.

CARRIED

**AB22.49 Policy Update - Shoalhaven Arts Board Terms of Reference & Shoalhaven City Art Collection - Acquisition and Management**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/447487**

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

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive the report on the recent re-adoption by Council of the :

1. Shoalhaven Art Board Terms of Reference Policy (POL22/199);
2. Shoalhaven City Art Collection – Acquisitions and Management Policy (POL22/49); for information.

**RESOLVED** (Clr White / Clr Kotlash)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive the report on the recent re-adoption by Council of the :

1. Shoalhaven Art Board Terms of Reference Policy (POL22/199);
2. Shoalhaven City Art Collection – Acquisitions and Management Policy (POL22/49); for information.

CARRIED

**AB22.50 Policy - Public Art Policy**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/447489**

It was discussed how the Shoalhaven Arts Board might facilitate a public discussion regarding the revision of the Public Arts Policy. Ms Bonnie Porter Greene suggested the Board could engage with the committee for the OpenField Arts Festival which will be held in Berry next year.

Ms Jane Lewis – Director City Lifestyles - noted that any suggestions arising from community consultation can be incorporated in the revised policy.

Mr Frank Howarth noted that a definition of 'Public Art' in the Public Arts Policy would be helpful to the public.

**Recommendation**

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board endorse the revisions to the Public Art Policy POL18/69.

**RECOMMENDATION** (Kate Dezarnaulds / Frank Howarth)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board endorse the revisions to the Public Art Policy POL18/69.

CARRIED

**AB22.51 Update on Actions - November 2022****HPERM Ref:  
D22/456231****Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Receive the Update on Actions report for information.
2. Acknowledge the following actions as completed and be removed from the action table:
  - a. AB22.7- Public Art - Opportunities Requirements - Consider Allocating Funds - 2022/2023 Budget - Specialist Contract - Review Policy - Document existing art
  - b. AB22.11- Lake Tabourie Museum - Collection Care Management - Consider Operational Budget 2022 / 2023 & Recurrent Funding
  - c. AB22.15 - Change of Start Time for Shoalhaven Arts Board Meetings
  - d. AB22.18 - Christine Dunstan - Appointed as Chairperson- Update ewok, InfoCouncil and Committee Folder Notes
  - e. AB22.27 - Variation Request Approved - Arts Grants - Alaska Turner / Joanna Thomas
  - f. AB22.20 - Council Policy - Adoption - Shoalhaven Libraries - Operations Policy
  - g. AB22.21 - Council Policy - Adoption - Shoalhaven Libraries - Children's Policy
  - h. AB22.22 - Council Policy - Adoption - Internet Usage Policy
  - i. AB22.24 - Shoalhaven Arts Board - Appointment - Community Member - Kate Dezarnaulds - Bonnie Porter Greene - Drew Longbottom
  - j. AB22.32 - Anti-Nuclear Family Play - Creative Development - Funds voted
  - k. AB22.36 - South Coast Cooperative Libraries Collection Development Policy - Adoption
  - l. AB22.39 - Subcommittees / Working Groups / Portfolios / Panel of Peers – Membership

**RESOLVED** (Clr Kotlash / Clr Gray)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Receive the Update on Actions report for information.
2. Acknowledge the following actions as completed and be removed from the action table:
  - a. AB22.7- Public Art - Opportunities Requirements - Consider Allocating Funds - 2022/2023 Budget - Specialist Contract - Review Policy - Document existing art
  - b. AB22.11- Lake Tabourie Museum - Collection Care Management - Consider Operational Budget 2022 / 2023 & Recurrent Funding
  - c. AB22.15 - Change of Start Time for Shoalhaven Arts Board Meetings
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  - e. AB22.27 - Variation Request Approved - Arts Grants - Alaska Turner / Joanna Thomas
  - f. AB22.20 - Council Policy - Adoption - Shoalhaven Libraries - Operations Policy
  - g. AB22.21 - Council Policy - Adoption - Shoalhaven Libraries - Children's Policy
  - h. AB22.22 - Council Policy - Adoption - Internet Usage Policy
  - i. AB22.24 - Shoalhaven Arts Board - Appointment - Community Member - Kate Dezarnaulds - Bonnie Porter Greene - Drew Longbottom
  - j. AB22.32 - Anti-Nuclear Family Play - Creative Development - Funds voted
  - k. AB22.36 - South Coast Cooperative Libraries Collection Development Policy - Adoption

I. AB22.39 - Subcommittees / Working Groups / Portfolios / Panel of Peers – Membership  
CARRIED

**AB22.52 Shoalhaven Libraries - Update**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/429230**

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

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

**RESOLVED** (Christine Dunstan / Frank Howarth)

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

CARRIED

**AB22.54 Shoalhaven Regional Gallery- Update- August, September, October 2022**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/447389**

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

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

**RESOLVED** (Clr Gray / Clr Kotlash)

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

CARRIED

**AB22.53 Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre Update**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/440229**

Ms Jane Lewis – Director City Lifestyles - noted that Council is able to facilitate site visits of the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre and the Shoalhaven Regional Art Gallery for Board members.

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

The Shoalhaven Arts Board receives the report for information.

**RESOLVED** (Kate Dezarnaulds / Bonnie Porter-Green)

The Shoalhaven Arts Board receives the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre Update report for information.

CARRIED

**AB22.55 Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants - Status Update - Acquittals and Variations - 2020/21 and 2021/22 Grants**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/435108**

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

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Accept the Acquittals from
  - a. Brooke Boland
  - b. Headspace Nowra
  - c. Damien Lane and Jonnie Leahy
  - d. Natalie McDonagh



- e. Jill Talbot
2. Accept the variation requests from
  - a. Albatross Musical Theatre Company – to June 2023
3. Receive the update on the three grant projects that are continuing for information.

**RESOLVED** (Bonnie Porter-Green / Clr Gray)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Accept the Acquittals from
  - a. Brooke Boland
  - b. Headspace Nowra
  - c. Damien Lane and Jonnie Leahy
  - d. Natalie McDonagh
  - e. Jill Talbot
2. Accept the variation requests from
  - a. Albatross Musical Theatre Company – to June 2023
3. Receive the update on the three grant projects that are continuing for information.

CARRIED

**AB22.56 Nomination for Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants Working Group**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/449272**

Mrs Christine Dunstan called for nominations for the Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants Working Group. Ms Bonnie Porter Greene was nominated. No other nominations were received.

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

That (*insert name at meeting*) is appointed as a member of the Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants Working Group.

**RESOLVED** (Christine Dunstan / Clr Gray)

That Ms Bonnie Porter Greene is appointed as a member of the Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants Working Group.

CARRIED

**AB22.57 Arts Board Strategic Engagement Opportunities - Update and Advice on Projects 2022/23**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/447499**

Note: Clr Patricia White left the meeting, the time being 5:38pm

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

That the Arts Board:

1. Receive the report for information.
2. Continue to champion the need for a Creative Economy Strategy and provide advice to the Manager – Arts and Culture on potential funding opportunities for this work.

**RESOLVED** (Christine Dunstan / Clr Kotlash)

That the Arts Board:

1. Receive the report for information.
2. Continue to champion the need for a Creative Economy Strategy and provide advice to the Manager – Arts and Culture on potential funding opportunities for this work.

CARRIED

**AB22.58 Information Update - City Art Collection Strategic Planning Working Group**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/447492**

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

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive the update report on City Art Collection Strategic Planning Working Group for information.

**RESOLVED** (Frank Howarth / Christine Dunstan)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive the update report on City Art Collection Strategic Planning Working Group for information.

CARRIED

**AB22.59 Shoalhaven City Art Collection - Acquisition of Works**

**HPERM Ref:  
D22/447501**

Note: Dr Lynda Kelly left meeting, the time being 5:47pm

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

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Accept the work offered for donation by Alison Mackay into the Collection
2. Decline the offer to purchase a work by Danie Mellor at this time.

**RESOLVED** (Clr Gray / Bonnie Porter-Green)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Accept the work offered for donation by Alison Mackay into the Collection
2. Decline the offer to purchase a work by Danie Mellor at this time.

CARRIED

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**AB22.60 Additional Item - Informal Arts Board Meeting - Future Direction**

Mrs Christine Dunstan suggested that the Shoalhaven Arts Board have an informal meeting for discussion around the future direction of the Board and how to make the Board a significant presence in the community through strategic projects. The Board was in agreeance.

The Board determined to hold this informal meeting Wednesday 8 February 2023, 4pm – 6pm, noting the venue will be advised (within the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre).

**Invitation - Dharawal Cultural Tour:**

- It was noted that Mr Drew Longbottom has extended an invitation to the Arts Board Members for a Cultural Tour on 27 November 2022, starting at Black Head, Gerroa NSW, 9:30am – 2:00pm. An email was sent to the Arts Board members with the relevant information.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5:59pm.

Mrs Christine Dunstan  
CHAIRPERSON

## AB23.1 Shoalhaven Libraries - Update

HPERM Ref: D23/46660

Department: Library Services

Approver: Jane Lewis, Director - City Lifestyles

### Reason for Report

To update the Shoalhaven Arts Board on activities and services at Shoalhaven Libraries.

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

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

### Options

1. Receive the report for information.

Implications: The Shoalhaven Arts Board will be informed and updated on activities at Shoalhaven Libraries.

2. Request more information.

Implications: Unknown

### Background

The second quarter of the 2022-2023 fiscal year (October, November, December), Shoalhaven Libraries had over 63,000 people visit and nearly 72,000 items were borrowed. During this time the library also welcomed 584 new members.

Library staff answered more than 5,200 requests for general, reference and local studies information and additionally answered over 4,350 requests for help with technology. Our digital library loaned almost 28,000 items including eBooks, eAudio books and eMagazines. Library visitation, loan rates and memberships continue to steadily increase towards pre-COVID levels.

### Focus Weeks/Months:

During this quarter we celebrated:

- Get Online Week
- Grandparents Day
- Children's Week
- Scam Awareness Week
- Recycling Week

We had a great time on Grandparents Day when grandparents, parents and guardians were encouraged to come along with their grandchildren and children to attend special activities across all our library branches, such as Origami Fun, Teddy Bear's Picnic Storytime and Special Grandparent's Day Rhyme time.

Scams Awareness Week was held from 7 to 11 November and we partnered with Legal Aid NSW to deliver an online presentation about how to spot scams and what to do if you do get scammed.

**Author Talks:**

During this quarter, the library continued to promote local authors and foster a love of books and literacy in the community by hosting talks and book launches from a wide range of authors.

Gillian Wells visited Ulladulla Library to talk about her latest novel, *Lost*, which is another great novel of dark menace and intrigue, mixed with her usual gripping drama. We also welcomed Ryan Butta to Nowra and Ulladulla Libraries to talk about his new book, *The Ballad of Abdul Wade*, which is the true story of Australia's Afghan Cameleers.

As well as our physical events we also offer online author talks and this quarter we listened to author Maya Linnell in conversation with cookbook author & tv personality Alice Zaslavsky, publisher Ali Watts and City of Marion Libraries' Paula McFarlane.

**Online Assistance:**

This quarter contained Get Online Week so we had lots of fantastic activities on offer which included a free morning tea with online games to try. We invited our communities to join us for an online game morning and try a variety of fun, popular online games, to learn how to engage in the online game environment and find out how to play these games at home.

Digital assistance and digital training are focuses for Shoalhaven Libraries as these are areas where we receive most requests for help and support. As accessible and trusted community institutions libraries play a vital role in helping people become digital citizens, providing free access to lifelong learning.

**Local Heritage:**

The Local Heritage Collection is a unique part of our library service, and we love promoting the resources and services that we provide. Our weekly Facebook Flashback Friday posts highlight our local heritage and recent topics have highlighted Ulladulla Harbour, The Lady Denman, SS Dandenong and the Navy's Fleet Air Arm.

We were also lucky enough to be loaned a collection of books from the 1600s for public display recently. Published between 1599 and 1654, this collection included some notable works including Institutes of the Lawes of England by Sir Edward Coke, and the Cabala. Many books written at this time explore royal and religious topics, and their authors have become renowned figures in history. Other works consider more practical subjects, yet still remained influential contributions for centuries after their release.



AB23.1

### **Other Public Programmes:**

As always there were a broad range of programs available for all age ranges at our different branches.

Sanctuary Point Library Coding Club was excited to be getting back into coding for Term 4 by participating in Moonhack, which is a whole week of coding that brings together kids from all over the world. This year the theme was satellites, and the Club coded a 'What will I wear?' animation to help show how satellites help us with our everyday lives, including providing information for weather apps so we can decide what to wear.

Nowra Library invited artist Glenn Kilby for a portrait sketching workshop. Glenn began his painting career as a young man in Papua New Guinea. He moved to Canberra and then Sydney to further his studies, and his style is influenced by the colour of the Australian landscape.

Continuing with art workshops we held a 'Plant Your Feet' session in Ulladulla where the community could sgraffito (scratch), add to, stamp, draw, paint or write on a terracotta tile, reflecting on their connection to the Shoalhaven. Glenn Barkley and Shoalhaven Regional Gallery Artist Educators, Penny Craig and Nicole Ison were there to introduce the participants to making with clay and all decorated tiles were exhibited in Plant Your Feet, curated by Glenn Barkley at the Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, Nowra.

A special Speechie Library Talk Storytime was held with guest storyteller, local speech pathologist Christopher Bogg, who read some stories and discussed how caregivers can support their child's language and literacy development.

We also continued with our ALIA Online Storytimes across two sessions. In the first session *Wonderful Shoes*, written by Emma Bowd and illustrated by Tania McCartney, was read by our wonderful librarian Alison, with Auslan interpretation by Mikey from Deaf Connect. In our second session *Mama Ocean*, written by Jane Jolly and illustrated by Sally Heinrich, was

read by our wonderful librarian Tracey, with Auslan interpretation again by Mikey from Deaf Connect.

The Adult Craft session at Ulladulla before Christmas was very popular with attendees making beautiful 3D snowflakes. And at Nowra Library we had Trish Jeffs share all her tips and tricks on getting your kitchen sorted and making it the hub of your home.

We held our first Queer Q & A evening at Nowra Library in October. It was a great evening where we were able to listen to a panel of queer local community members answer questions and were also able to enjoy a drag performance.



Shoalhaven Libraries is doing its bit for the environment and in October Adam Corrigan, from Your Energy Friend, joined us at Nowra Library to let us know about the fundamentals of solar and battery systems and how to assess if solar is right for your home.

Our collections have also had some new items added to them. We have new energy kits available to borrow, with each kit containing a 10 Amp Powermate to help measure power consumption and running costs, a non-contact thermometer to help assess surfaces and appliances, a water flow measuring cup to assess water usage, and a guide to assist in calculating your energy and water use. There were lots of new board games and puzzles added to the Sanctuary Point Library collection ready to be borrowed and to keep the kids, and adults, entertained over the summer break.

In November we were lucky enough to receive a National Backyard Cricket grant and the funds were spent on 5 envoy players, which are devices for the vision impaired allowing them to download eAudiobooks; 5 CD players to loan out to House Bound borrowers so they can play Audiobooks on CD; and a television to promote our upcoming programs and events. National Backyard Cricket is an NGO that aims to level the global playing field of education in cricket playing countries, because everyone deserves an education.

We also asked our community for feedback about the types of events they would like to see at their local library branch in 2023. Community members could pick up a survey at their local branch download a hardcopy from our website or complete the survey online. One survey respondent won a fantastic book pack and the information collated will help inform our events program for this year.

We held our annual ‘*Design a Bookmark*’ competition with the theme “Shoalhaven Libraries - it's your library” and asked for designs answering the question ‘What is your favourite thing about visiting the library?’ The winning bookmarks were printed as a collectible set and the winning creators also received an awesome book prize pack.

Our Membership Campaign is continuing and in this quarter we shared videos on our social media channels from local surfer Pam Burrige, author Jock Serong, Wendy Harmer, local author and Murramarang Yuin woman Leanne Brook and Mayor Amanda Findley telling us why libraries are the place to be.



AB23.1

***New Sanctuary Point Library Public Art Project:***

The three successful artists have been selected for the three public art opportunities at the new Sanctuary Point Library.

All these artists presented their submissions to the Art Selection Panel late last year and have already begun developing their designs with the architects and industrial design company.

The three successful artists are:

- **Michael Robinson - SEA – freestanding sculpture**
  - Michael is a Wandra Wandian/Murramarang man of the Yuin nation based in Nowra. The work of Michael Robinson provides us with important insights into the most compelling cultural practices and embeds contemporary technology to create both traditional and modern artefacts and sculptures. Michael’s carving emphasises traditional utilitarian purpose as well as aesthetic value in each piece of artwork.
- **Jaz Corr – SKY – lighting**
  - Jaz is an Aboriginal visual artist who resides on the South Coast of NSW. A proud Dharawal woman, this piece uses embedded LED light on the underside of the rooftop to assist Aboriginal communities in preserving their sovereignty, languages, stories, and history through “animation” and maintain this knowledge across generations. The “SKY” design provides a tool to reengage and revitalize interest in cultural knowledge and exchange as a method of intergenerational knowledge sharing.
- **Tracey Van Oploo – LAND – sundshades**
  - Tracey is a proud Wandi Wandandian woman and primary school teacher, who lives on the South Coast of NSW on Yuin country. The sunshades artwork is completed in three main parts: water, escarpment and connections,



with flora and fauna throughout. The understanding of land and water is the living cultural knowledge that is passed on. These knowledge systems inform hunting, collecting, and fishing. This is depicted in the artwork as we travel through Country connecting with all facets.

***Shoalhaven Libraries Strategic Plan:***

Staff have reviewed the first draft of the new Shoalhaven Libraries Strategic Plan document and it is currently being formatted ready to be presented to Councillors for their feedback.

The Strategic Plan has selected 5 key priorities: People, Collection, Spaces, Technology and Programs and developed actions to achieve desired outcomes for the community in these focus areas.

## **AB23.2 Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre Update**

**HPERM Ref:** D23/50093

**Department:** Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre

**Approver:** Jane Lewis, Director - City Lifestyles

### **Reason for Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Shoalhaven Arts Board of recent and future programming, events and community engagement activities at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre.

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

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

### **Options**

1. Receive the report for information

Implications: The Shoalhaven Arts Board members are kept updated and apprised of programming, events and community engagement activities at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre.

2. Request for more information.

Implications: Unknown.

### **Background**

In the final quarter of 2022, the Entertainment Centre experienced a record number of sell-out performances, strong ticket sales, and a positive response to the launches of its 2023 Season, and 2023 Morning Matinee Season.

Between October and December, the Entertainment Centre sold more than 22,500 tickets. There were sell-outs for the following shows presented by the Entertainment Centre:

- South Coast Country – Saturday program
- Casey Donovan in Concert
- Edward the Emu

During the period Guy Sebastian experienced a double sell-out, Cosentino sold-out, and the NSW Seniors Festival attracted two full houses.

## 2023 Programming update



Pictured: Actor Andrew McFarlane from cast of TIM, singer Danielle O'Malley from Cilla, Mayor Amanda Findley, plus launch MC and actor Jeremy Lindsay Taylor.

AB23.2



## 2023 Season brochure

The 2023 Season was launched on 7 December and was well attended by an appreciative audience. The Centre unveiled its Season of 17 productions including family theatre, dance, comedy, classical music, drama, First Nations works, contemporary music and physical theatre.

The community and Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre Members and other guests were invited to “Be the First in Line” to experience an exciting collection of quintessentially Australian stories focusing on the identities and the dynamic cultures that made and make us.



AB23.2

**Entertainment Centre staff provided branded tote bags to Season Launch guests.**

Among those celebrated and loved Aussie stories are an adaptation of children’s literary classic Possum Magic, Marcia Hines’ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert Tour, a new adaptation of Colleen McCullough’s gripping novel TIM, and hilarious physical comedy duo the Umbilical Brothers.

Some of the nation’s most highly respected theatre companies are part of the 2023 Season including Circa, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Bell Shakespeare, and the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

First Nations works in the 2023 Season include Bangarra Dance Theatre’s first production for children, the Aboriginal Comedy Allstars, and Reckōning – a celebration of storytelling through culture, original songs and dance.

Advance sales at the box office are encouraging and annual Memberships are now at more than 320 – a record high. A new offer as part of this year’s Membership was to ‘bring a friend for free’ to one Auditorium 2023 Season show, which has proven a popular drawcard.

#### **Feedback on the 2023 Season and Launch**

- *“Thank-you for a lovely evening. It looks like we are going to have great shows”* Aline
- *“Tonight was great and got all my tickets for 2023”* Christine
- *“Fabulous intro night, going to be a great year”* Lesley

## 2023 Morning Matinee Season



AB23.2

The 2023 Morning Matinee Series begins on March 14 with Young Talent Time star and former lead singer of The Seekers - Karen Knowles in Concert.

A nostalgic and entertaining salute to the ANZACs and Vietnam Veterans will be staged on April 4.

Cilla – You're My World, celebrating the extraordinary voice and career of Cilla Black will be performed by musical theatre performer Danielle O'Malley on June 7.

The Beggars – California Dreaming will showcase the melodies of Fleetwood Mac, Carole King, James Taylor and more on August 2.

Monique Montez, a favourite with the Centre's Morning Matinee audience, will return with Forever Yong on October 18.

Festive Frankie Valli vocals and a Merry Motown Christmas will be celebrated by The Vallies on December 5.

The Morning Matinee shows, programmed for seniors, includes a free morning tea prior to each performance. This year single tickets are \$30, or for those who purchase all the Season shows they receive six shows for the price of five.

## Final Morning Matinee performance for 2022

Tenor and musical theatre performer Dale Burridge's performance of Back on the Boards, on December 1, was well received.

Audience comments, captured via Culture Counts (social impact survey) included:

- *"Dale Burridge's voice was an absolute pleasure to listen to".*
- *"Your Morning Matinees are always excellent. We travel from outside Nowra to attend these."*
- *"A great show"*

Culture Counts results aggregated from 14 respondents:

- **Show average:** 87.7%

Below are a sample of results from the nine standardised metrics.

- **Captivation:** 90%
- **Enthusiasm:** 96%
- **Cultural Contribution:** 81%
- **Wellbeing:** 87%
- **Belonging:** 83%

## Compliments:

Published Letters to the Editor, South Coast Register, Wednesday, December 7:

*"Along with five other members of our group I attended the Guy Sebastian Concert on Friday night. As part of the event we booked dinner at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre restaurant. We have eaten at the restaurant before and always remarked on just how good it was. I must say that I was so impressed that I spoke to two the staff and complimented them on our meal and the quality of their professional attention."*

Dennis Johnson, JP

*"Dear Staff, Just a quick note to let you know how much we enjoyed Consentino Deception last night. Looking forward to seeing another event in the near future. Happy Entertaining."*

Cheers Elizabeth

*"I would like to thank the entire team at the SEC, both front of house and back of house for their incredible professionalism. As a hirer, there wasn't one thing I could fault with any of the staff that were rostered on during our show season. The SEC made our experience so seamless and homely, and when the venue is running optimally smooth, as it always does, my experience as a director could not have been made [less] stress free knowing the background staff have everything amazingly under control. Please pass on my congratulations to all involved, management, box office, admin, Cafe, ushers and back of house techs. A job well done."*

Graham Dyer, Director AMTC's Mama Mia

## AB23.3 Shoalhaven Regional Gallery - Update - November, December 2022, January 2023

HPERM Ref: D23/58220

Department: Arts & Culture

Approver: Jane Lewis, Director - City Lifestyles

### Reason for Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Shoalhaven Arts Board of the activities and events that have occurred at Shoalhaven Regional Gallery for the period of November, December 2022 and January 2023.

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

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

### Options

1. Receive the report for information.

Implications: The Shoalhaven Arts Board will be informed of the activities and achievements of Shoalhaven Regional Gallery.

2. Request more information.

Implications: Unknown.

### Background

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery has delivered a wide range of exhibition and activities in the period from November 2022 – January 2023.

### Exhibitions

Exhibitions that closed on 26 November 2023 included *Memento - Pictures of You*, an exhibition of large scale works on paper and paintings by renowned Melbourne based artist Gina Kalabishis. Kalabishis held a sold out workshop exploring the use of Ikebana in still life nature-inspired painting.

Local ceramicist Cita Daidone's works in *Frivolity and Fire* explored concepts around loss, remembrance and rebirth drawn from her experience of the Currowan fires, resonating strongly with residents of and visitors to the area alike. Workshop participants were able to work with the artist to create bud vases with relief motifs in Daidone's unique style.

Nettie Sumner's *Kinship* exhibition closed with twenty items from the exhibition sold during the show and further sales through the Gallery Shop of Sumner's uniquely crafted hand woven copper wire and ceramic creations.

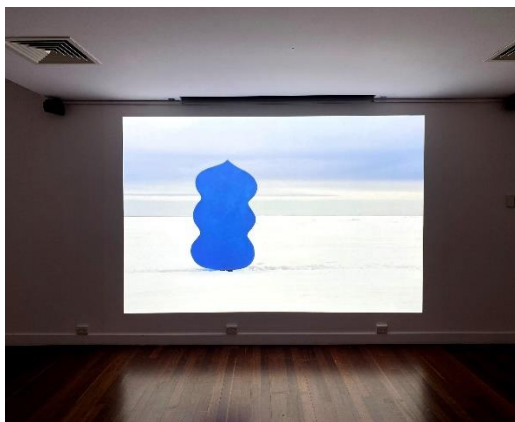
*Speaking Water* is an audio-visual project curated by Anna Glynn, has closed and travelled on to The Bas (Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre) in Moruya where it opens in February 2023.



*'Recipe For My Happiness' by Nettie Sumner in 'Kinship'*



*Large scale painting 'Bundanon Floor to Sky' by Gina Kalabishis*



*Installation / still from 'Speaking Water'*



*'Nowra Monarch' – porcelain, wax thread, paint and wood tile by Cita Daidone in 'Frivolity in Fire'*

AB23.3

The Spring season saw our four beautiful and diverse exhibitions wrap up (literally!) and make their respective journeys across the country – and even across the globe, making way for our Summer spectacular *Plant Your Feet* - 10 December 2022 – 28 January 2023.

*Plant Your Feet* has been an ambitious and fantastic exhibition, curated by Glenn Barkley, renowned artist and curator, who grew up in the Shoalhaven and continues his practice from his studio in Broughton. Many months in the making and supported through a Create NSW grant, the pay-off was an awe-inspiring, immersive, beautiful, interesting, considered and eclectic exhibition across the four main gallery spaces.

*Plant Your Feet* featured contributions from local museums and galleries including, but not limited to, Wollongong Art Gallery, University of Wollongong Art Collection, Nowra Museum, Nowra TAFE, Meroogal, Berry Museum, Jervis Bay Maritime Museum, Ulladulla Fossil House, Lake Tabourie Museum and many other lenders of private collections. Artefacts, paintings, prints and other works of local historical significance were on display exploring stories of the Shoalhaven.

Barkley created new artefacts and motifs of these stories, myths, legends – reflecting on them through sometimes cheeky or playful approaches but also with careful and critical understanding.

A large room, nicknamed 'The Wonder Room' was built in-situ in the East Gallery, adorned with hundreds of terracotta tiles made by local community members through public programs held throughout the Shoalhaven. Each tile told a story of personal experiences of the



Shoalhaven. Writer and local resident Allison Tait wrote an inspired piece of prose 'The Wonder Room' published in the room sheet corresponding with the exhibition.

Amongst the research of artefacts, artworks and art objects, Barkley explored local history through local newspaper archives, some of which were selected and published in the room sheet - itself presented in the style of a broadsheet newspaper.

Gunai woman and award winning artist and writer Kirli Saunders' poem *Bloom* inspired the title of the exhibition and was presented as wall text at the entry of the exhibition and also in the roomsheet.

Two films were commissioned and funded with thanks to the NSW Government, which complement the exhibition. *Shelled Shoes* and *Land Measuring Chain* were produced by Kangaroo Valley filmmaker Harry Kielly (Drummerboy Pictures) to present the histories behind some of the motifs, themes and artefacts of the exhibition.

*Shelled Shoes* featured Amanda Reynolds, First Nations artist and possum cloak maker, speaking on the importance of shells as story tellers and Phyllis Stewart's shelled shoes that feature in *Plant Your Feet*, are "asking us to walk lightly on Country". Glenn is filmed in his studio describing how shells drive his practice.

*Land Measuring Chain* featured Clive Freeman, First Nations spokesperson and Matt Philpott, Civil Engineer. The film referenced the land measuring chain displayed in the exhibition – used to portion off Country, driven by the Western ideology of owning and selling land for financial gain and security and ignoring the sacred Indigenous ideologies of symbiotic relationships – already in existence for tens of thousands of years.

AB23.3



*Exhibition photography by Jules Boag. On display: cultural artefacts and artworks as well as original ceramics by Glenn Barkley.*



*'I Was Born Into A Coloured Country' roundel of individual ceramics with wallpaper by Glenn Barkley.*



*'The Wonder Room' – hundreds of tiles made by local communities reflecting on the Shoalhaven for the exhibition.*



*Still image from Harry Kielly's (Drummerboy Pictures) film 'Shelled Shoes' produced alongside the exhibition.*



*Glenn Barkley curating/installing his original ceramic works in the Main Gallery.*

AB23.3

### Visitor Comments from Plant Your Feet:

- *"Wonderful journey into Shoalhaven & Barkley's world!"*
- *"One of the BEST exhibitions you've had in years!"*
- *"Fantastic exhibition – mix of fabulous works of First Nations art."*
- *"Absolutely loved the 'Plant Your Feet' exhibition. Beautifully curated. Gallery's looking great."*
- *"Immersive, absorbing, vibrant, ingeniously installed. Love the continuing histories and Indigenous artists' work."*

### **Public Programs & Events**

The 4 week program *Handbuilding with Clay* with Nicole Ison finished up in November 2022, with watercolour artist Peter Wale commencing his sold out 4 week *Watercolour Painting* program from Wednesday 16 November 2022.

*Plant Your Feet* provided the impetus for a lot of public programming at the Gallery and beyond. The tile making workshops continued on from the last quarter into November 2022,

through off-site visits to schools, campuses, shopping centres and festivals. There were also art making mini-workshops during the Opening Party on 10 December 2022.

*Clay Playground* was an art making festival which saw the Gallery's Courtyard transformed into a huge workshop space under an atmospheric festoon-lit marquee. Running from 11 – 28 January 2023 every Wednesday – Saturday, a series of sessions were held throughout the day for all ages which included a tour of *Plant Your Feet* and hand building with clay, facilitated by the Gallery's casual educators and local artists. Pre-purchased tickets and drop-ins were offered, with almost all sessions being sold out.

On Saturday morning 21 January 2023, in anticipation of the upcoming *Man About The House* group exhibition, renowned contemporary artist Liam Benson presented a fantastic workshop involving creative expression through free form drawing and teaching participants to sew using sequins and beads – a staple of Benson's own practice. The participants then gave their works to Benson to build on and incorporate into his contribution for the exhibition.

A panel discussion was held in the North Gallery in the afternoon of 21 January 2023 examining the history of collecting in museums, uncovering hidden voices through objects, and modernising 'the institution'. The panel provided a poignant and very interesting talk especially relevant to the curation of *Plant Your Feet*. The panel was facilitated by Richard Morecroft and included Craig Middleton, Curator - National Museum of Australia, Diana Lorentz, Director - Jervis Bay Maritime Museum & Gallery, Lisa Havilah, Chief Executive - Powerhouse Museum and Dr Penelope Stannard, Head of Curatorial & Research - Museums of History NSW.

Glenn Barkley hosted a two day sold out workshop at his studio in Broughton on 28 and 29 January 2023. Participants were able to have hands-on experience with the artist in his art-making environment, learn the history of his practice and explore conceptual and practical art-making techniques.



*Collaboration of students' works from Art After School classes, inspired by previous exhibitor Nettie Sumner, on display in the Art Boxes in the gallery forecourt.*



*Under the marquee: Clay Playground work, hand built under the creative guidance of art educators.*



*Participants of Liam Benson's workshop 'Domesticity Deserves to be Sequined' with the collaborative work of the artist in background.*



*Public programming beyond the Gallery: Nicole Ison delivering workshops at Ulladulla Civic Centre for 'Plant Your Feet' community engagement.*

### Grant Funded Projects

Arts and Culture department continue to apply for and receive funding for a range of activities.

#### Successful Grants:

- 'National Library of Australia – Preservation Needs Assessment' to the value of \$5,500 (excluding GST) for the Shoalhaven City Art Collection.

#### Current Grant submissions awaiting determination include:

- 'Create NSW Annual Organisation Round 2' – following on from an unsuccessful submission in Round 1. If successful, this would be an opportunity to receive funding for *Our Place: Your Story*, supporting two major arts projects: an art/research project by Chinese Australian artist Tianli Zu and *Age of the Anthropocene* curated by First Nations curators exploring knowledge and connection to Country.
- 'Create NSW Multi-Year Arts and Cultural Organisational Support' – due early March 2023.

#### Current Grants have been cancelled or postponed:

- 'Create Stay Play – Developing a Creative Economy Strategy for the Shoalhaven' – funding sought from the Building Better Regions Fund Community Investment Stream – submitted February 2022 which has subsequently been cancelled.

### Current / Coming Up

Currently exhibiting from 4 – 25 February 2023 is the *New Horizons* exhibition, showcasing the HSC Visual Arts body of works produced by Year 12 students from local high schools from Kiama to Ulladulla.

Running concurrently is *Man About The House* in the Main Gallery. '*Man About The House: A Series of Mundane Postcards*' were created by now deceased Melbourne artist Robert Pearce during the early 1980s. The works present frivolous collaged images of hyper-masculine, scantily clad men and tongue-in-cheek text into domiciliary, "traditionally feminine" domains, upending and re-defining heteronormative gender roles and honouring Queer identity. LGBTQIA+ artists were invited to respond to these postcards informed by their own practice, touching on the themes and aesthetic of Pearce's work.

## AB23.4 Management of the Birkett Weatherhead Gift

**HPERM Ref:** D22/418261

**Department:** Arts & Culture

**Approver:** Jane Lewis, Director - City Lifestyles

**Attachments:**

1. Attachment - Table A - Birkett Weatherhead Collection - Other Artists - Recommendation to Keep (under separate cover)
2. Attachment - Table B - Birkett Weatherhead Collection - Recommendation to Sell (under separate cover)
3. Attachment - Table C - Birkett Weatherhead Collection - Jim Birkett Works - Recommendation to Keep (under separate cover)
4. Attachment - Table D - Birkett Weatherhead Collection - Jim Birkett Works - Recommendation to Sell (under separate cover)

### Reason for Report

The reason for this report is to inform the Shoalhaven Arts Board of the recommendations made by the Art Acquisition and Collection Subcommittee as to which items in the Birkett Weatherhead Collection should remain in the Shoalhaven City Art Collection and which should be sold to fund the care, storage, and exhibition of said collection, as per of the terms of the Gift.

### Recommendation

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Endorse the advice of the Art Acquisition and Collection Subcommittee and submit to Council for adoption.
2. Retain the works by artists other than Jim Birkett listed in Table A (Attachment 1) in accordance with the Deed of Gift.
3. Retain the works by Jim Birkett listed in Table C (Attachment 3) in accordance with the Deed of Gift.
4. Sell the works by artists other than Jim Birkett listed in Table B (Attachment 2) in accordance with the Deed of Gift.
5. Sell the works by Jim Birkett listed in Table D (Attachment 4) in accordance with the Deed of Gift.
6. Any funds raised from the sale of works in parts 3 & 4 to be put into a dedicated Council Reserve and used explicitly for the purpose of the care, storage, and exhibition of works retained in the Birkett Weatherhead Collection as noted in parts 1 & 2 as per the terms of the Birkett Weatherhead Gift
7. Inform Roy Weatherhead of the outcome of any decisions made.

### Options

8. Accept the Recommendation.

Implications: Council will be able to sell works that do not meet the requirements of the Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection – Acquisition and Collection Management Policy POL18/23 and use these funds to look after remaining works.

9. Amend the Recommendation.

Implications: Unknown at this time.

10. Reject the Recommendation.

Implications: The works that do not meet the requirements of the Shoalhaven City Art Collection will remain in the Shoalhaven City Art Collection and will require ongoing investment in storage and conservation.

## **Background**

In 2020, local philanthropists and collectors, Jim Birkett and Roy Weatherhead, gifted more than 200 works to the Shoalhaven City Art Collection, with a Deed of Gift signed by Council and Jim Birkett on 11 May 2020.

Jim Birkett and Roy Weatherhead are well known in the region for their commitment to the arts and their tireless enthusiasm for art education and support of artists. Their personal collection includes paintings, sculpture and textile works with a focus on contemporary Australian artists and works from South East Asia.

As owners of a private gallery in Sydney, Birkett and Weatherhead supported emerging artists, with early works from artist Grace Burzese making up an important part of the collection. Other artists featured include Warwick Keen, Margaret Woodward, Isabel Davies and Graham Blondel.

The Birkett Weatherhead Gift also includes the remaining holdings of works by Jim Birkett after his death.

## **Deed of Gift – Birkett Weatherhead Collection**

The Gift comprises three parts:

### Part 1: The designated private collection of Roy Weatherhead and Jim Birkett.

This collection will comprise of a small number of works nominated by Roy Weatherhead and Jim Birkett.

This collection will remain the property of Roy Weatherhead until his death, when it will be gifted to the Shoalhaven City Council.

### Part 2: The collection for permanent acquisition.

This collection will comprise the following selection of works:

- All works by Warwick Keen and Margaret Woodward.
- A representative sample of works by Jim Birkett showing the development of his artistic style over time.
- A significant number of the remainder of works as satisfies the Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection – Acquisition and Collection Management Policy and reflects the growing multiculturalism within the Shoalhaven.

### Part 3: The collection for funding requirements.

This collection includes all other works accepted by Council that are not included in Part 1 or Part 2.

The works in the Part 3 Collection may be sold as appropriate to fund the care, storage and exhibition of the Part 2 Collection. For example:

- a. The sale of works can be used to fund the conservation of pieces in Part 2 of the Gift,
- b. The sale of works can be used to fund the stabilization and creation of suitable crates to travel works within a touring exhibition, or
- c. The sale of works can be used to contribute to funds for the building of a separate storage area and / or gallery space to exhibit and store works of the Birkett and Weatherhead Collection.

### **Ongoing Management of the Birkett Weatherhead Collection**

The Collection consists of 206 works, not including Part 1, which remains with Roy Weatherhead. Under the Deed of Gift, Council has agreed to accept all works by Warwick Keen and Margaret Woodward, a representative sample of works by Jim Birkett showing the development of his artistic style over time, and a significant number of the remainder of works as satisfies the Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection – Acquisition and Collection Management Policy and reflects the growing multiculturalism within the Shoalhaven. As per Tables A and C (Attachments 1 and 3). The Arts Acquisition Sub-Committee have proposed and selected 80 works to keep that meet the requirements of the policy.

Under the Deed of Gift, Council can sell items within the Birkett Weatherhead Collection. The Arts Acquisition Subcommittee have identified and propose the sale of works in Tables B and D (Attachments 2 and 4).

Under the Deed of Gift, works may be sold as appropriate to fund the care, storage and exhibition of the works that are kept. It is proposed to set up a Birkett Weatherhead Art Collection Reserve so that any funds raised through the sale of works are held in trust by Council in the Reserve and are used explicitly for the purposes of care, storage and exhibition of retained Birkett Weatherhead works, commensurate with the Deed of Gift.

The Birkett Waterhead Collection has been stored at Shoalhaven Regional Gallery since 2020. The Shoalhaven City Art Collection continues to grow with significant recent bequests, donations and purchases enhancing the Collection's value and significance.

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery have been seeking to improve and maximise storage for the growing collection over the past few years, with two capital projects supporting this effort through the installation of additional hanging racks and the creation of an overflow storage space.

This overflow storage and increased racking is now close to full. Selling artworks in the Birkett Weatherhead Collection that do not meet the requirements of the Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection – Acquisition and Collection Management Policy will allow the remaining Birkett Weatherhead works to be safely stored and conserved. The space that becomes available in the arts store will support the continued growth of the Collection into the future through donations and purchases.

### **Recommendations of the Art Acquisition and Collection Subcommittee**

Three members of the Art Acquisition and Collection Subcommittee: Christine Dunstan, Bonnie Porter Greene and Boe-lin Bastian, met with Gallery staff; Bridget Macleod, Acting Manager - Arts and Culture and Eva Hampel, Acting Curator and Collections Manager, on Tuesday 24 January to discuss the Birkett Weatherhead Gift.

Based on research conducted by Eva Hampel and with reference to the Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection – Acquisition and Collection Management Policy, the Subcommittee decided which works would add value to the Shoalhaven City Art Collection and should be considered and retained, as outlined in Tables A and C (Attachments 1 and 3) and those which should be sold, Tables B and D (Attachments 2 and 4).

### **Community Engagement**

This process will be undertaken with public knowledge of the process and reasons behind it - this report and attachments form part of that awareness. The Birkett Weatherhead Collection will form part of the Shoalhaven City Art Collection and be accessible through the online collection database, exhibitions and programs.

While the Deed of Gift has no explicit requirement for Council to continue to engage with the donor, as a matter of courtesy Council staff will continue to keep Roy Weatherhead informed on the process being undertaken and any decisions made.

While the Deed of Gift has no explicit requirement for Council to engage with living artists whose works are included in the Collection, as a matter of courtesy Council staff will (as far as is reasonably practical) inform those whose works will be sold and the reasons for this once a determination is made.

### **Policy Implications**

The works in Tables A and C (Attachments 1 and 3) have been assessed against Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection – Acquisition and Collection Management Policy. The Policy notes that there are 6 primary collecting areas.

Of these, the Birkett Weatherhead Collection adds significantly to the areas of 'Australian Contemporary' and 'Australian Landscape'.

### **Financial Implications**

In accordance with the Deed of Gift, all sales from Part 3 of the Collection must take place through reputable auction houses with the best possible price achieved and will be for the sole purpose of maintaining the remainder of the Gift. Funds go into a separate reserve to ensure they can only be used for the explicit purpose of managing the Birkett Weatherhead Collection.

The sale of the proposed works listed in Tables B and D (Attachments 2 and 4) will:

- Allow for the ongoing preservation and care of the Collection.
- Ensure that works retained and insured as part of the overall Collection are commensurate with Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection – Acquisition and Collection Management Policy.
- Ensure that Collection storage needs are prioritised and focuses on items which are commensurate with Shoalhaven City Council Art Collection – Acquisition and Collection Management Policy.



Any ongoing costs associated with care, preservation and management of the Birkett Weatherhead Collection will be funded from the Birkett Weatherhead Art Collection Reserve when established.

**Risk Implications**

There is reputational risk if works in Tables B and D (Attachments 2 and 4) are sold without previously consulting with both living artists of these works and the living donor, Roy Weatherhead. Correct consultation will be followed to mitigate this risk.

The sale of any works shall take place through reputable auction houses with the best possible price achieved, ensuring the reputation of the Gift and the Collection is maintained.

## **AB23.5 Update on Actions - March 2023**

**HPERM Ref:** D23/59881

**Department:** Arts & Culture

**Approver:** Jane Lewis, Director - City Lifestyles

**Attachments:** 1. Shoalhaven Arts Board - Action Sheets Report Update - 8 March 2023  
[↓](#)

### **Reason for Report**

To provide the Shoalhaven Arts Board with a progress report on outstanding actions.

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

1. That the Shoalhaven Arts Board receive the Update on Actions report for information.
2. The following actions are considered complete and can be removed from the action table:
  - a. Item AB22.30- To be Scheduled - Workshop - Induction of New Members / Strategic Plan Review.
  - b. Item AB22.31- Shoalhaven Arts Board - Additional Item - Cultural Development - Review - Strategic Plan – Resourcing.
  - c. Item AB22.41- Shoalhaven City Art Collection - Acquisitions - Mike Gilmore artworks - Not to be acquired.
  - d. Item AB21.20- Shoalhaven Regional Gallery - Strategic Plan 2020 - Summary of Achievements - 2021 / 25 Plan - New Gallery development
  - e. Item AB22.29- Shoalhaven Arts Board - Cultural Creative Industries Strategy Planning - Strategic Plan Review - Public Exhibition

**AB23.5**

### **Options**

1. Adopt the recommendation as written.

Implications: The Shoalhaven Arts Board is updated on progress of actions and recommendations made at previous meetings.

2. Request more information.

Implications: Members of the Shoalhaven Arts Board request further information.

### **Background**

This report is to update the Shoalhaven Arts Board on outstanding actions from previous meetings. Attachment 1 provides information regarding the status of actions and resolutions made at previous meetings, including items which are still in progress, and identifies actions that have been completed.

Should Shoalhaven Arts Board members require further information on the status of the actions in the table attached Council staff will provide as requested.

### **Community Engagement**

It is important that the members of the Arts Board are kept informed on progress towards the completion of actions and projects. This report provides a structured approach to facilitate this information exchange.

<b>Shoalhaven Arts Board</b> Uncompleted as at 16 February 2023 Completed: "Date From" to "Date to"	<b>Action Sheets Report</b>
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<b>Meeting Date:</b> 17/08/2022	<b>Item No:</b> AB22.37	<b>Officer:</b> Patterson, Karen	<b>Completed:</b>
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**Title:** Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants Program 2022/23 - Sense of Place / Professional Development - Streams

<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (Jenny Thompson / Clr Kotlash)</p> <p>That the Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants Program in 2022/23 be offered with two separate streams for applications.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Applicants under the 'Sense of Place' stream will be able to apply for amounts up to \$10,000. Successful applicants must commit to a public outcome as part of their project plan.</li> <li>2. Applications under the 'Professional Development' stream will be able to apply for amounts up to \$3,000.</li> <li>3. One 'Sense of Place' grant must be awarded with the funding; any remaining funding can be allocated to Professional Development grants or Sense of Place grants based on the applicants' capacity to meet the criteria.</li> <li>4. The cost for developing and delivering a marketing and communications strategy to promote and announce the grant program will be taken from the Arts Board Grants budget. The associated expense will be up to \$1,000.</li> </ol> <p>CARRIED</p>	<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p><b>21 Feb 2023 12pm Patterson, Karen</b></p> <p>A total of 34 applications were received for the Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants, which closed on February 5.</p> <p>The applications and supporting documents have been forwarded to the assessment panel members.</p> <p>The assessors will meet in March to finalise their recommendations.</p> <p>An extraordinary meeting of the Shoalhaven Arts Board has been set for April 5 for Board members to consider the panel's recommendations.</p>
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<b>Meeting Date:</b> 09/11/2022	<b>Item No:</b> AB22.48	<b>Officer:</b> Coulston, Bronwyn	<b>Completed:</b>
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**Title:** Casual Vacancy - Filled - Clive Freeman

<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (Christine Dunstan / Clr Gray)</p> <p>That Mr Clive Freeman be invited to join the Shoalhaven Arts Board to fill the casual vacancy with their term to end 30 September 2023.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p><b>16 Feb 2023 4:22pm Macleod, Bridget</b></p> <p>Clive Freeman verbally accepted the Shoalhaven Arts Board casual vacancy on 2 February 2022. A letter of confirmation was sent 3 February 2022.</p> <p>This item can be completed.</p>
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<b>Shoalhaven Arts Board</b> Uncompleted as at 16 February 2023 Completed: "Date From" to "Date to"	<b>Action Sheets Report</b>
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<b>Meeting Date:</b> 09/11/2022	<b>Item No:</b> AB22.59	<b>Officer:</b> Coulston, Bronwyn	<b>Completed:</b>
<b>Title:</b> Shoalhaven City Art Collection - Acquisition of Works			
<b>RESOLVED</b> (Clr Gray / Bonnie Porter-Green) That the Shoalhaven Arts Board: 1. Accept the work offered for donation by Alison Mackay into the Collection 2. Decline the offer to purchase a work by Danie Mellor at this time. CARRIED		<b>Notes:</b> <b>16 Feb 2023 4:23pm Macleod, Bridget</b> The work offered for donation by Alison Mackay has been accepted into the Collection and a letter of thanks sent. The offer to purchase a work by Danie Mellor has been declined. This item can be completed.	

<b>Meeting Date:</b> 12/09/2022	<b>Item No:</b> AB22.40	<b>Officer:</b> Coulston, Bronwyn	<b>Completed:</b>
<b>Title:</b> Management of the Dingle Hughes Bequest - Acquisitions and Archives			
<b>RESOLVED*</b> (Clr Eil / Clr White) <span style="float: right;">MIN22.595</span> That Council: 1. Advises Max Dingle OAM of the intention to accept the works listed in Table A (Attachment 2) into the City Art Collection on enactment of the Deed of Gift 2. Advises Max Dingle OAM that Council is not intending to acquire the works listed in Table B (Attachment 2) 3. Advises Max Dingle OAM of the intention to accept the entirety of the archival collection, including the artworks listed in Table C (Attachment 2) as part of the Deed of Gift. 4. Acknowledge and thank the Council staff involved in this process. FOR: Clr Findley, Clr Kotlash, Clr Norris, Clr Butler, Clr D'Ath, Clr Copley, Clr Eil, Clr Christen, Clr White, Clr Wells, Clr Watson, Clr Kitchener and Clr Gray		<b>Notes:</b> <b>16 Feb 2023 4:25pm Macleod, Bridget</b> Max Dingle has met with Bronwyn Coulston. Any further additions or changes to the collection in the future will be reported to the Board through the Arts Acquisition Subcommittee as per the Terms of Reference. <b>29 Oct 2022 11:53am Coulston, Bronwyn</b> Max Dingle has reviewed the Council Minute and sought additional clarification on some items. A meeting with Max is scheduled for the 15th November.	

<b>Shoalhaven Arts Board</b> Uncompleted as at 16 February 2023 Completed: "Date From" to "Date to"	<b>Action Sheets Report</b>
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AGAINST: Nil CARRIED	
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<b>Meeting Date:</b> 09/11/2022	<b>Item No:</b> AB22.57	<b>Officer:</b> Coulston, Bronwyn	<b>Completed:</b> 22/12/2022
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**Title:** Arts Board Strategic Engagement Opportunities - Update and Advice on Projects 2022/23

<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (Christine Dunstan / Clr Kotlash) That the Arts Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receive the report for information.</li> <li>2. Continue to champion the need for a Creative Economy Strategy and provide advice to the Manager – Arts and Culture on potential funding opportunities for this work.</li> </ol> <p>CARRIED</p>	<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p><b>17 Feb 2022 3:38pm Macleod, Bridget – Update</b> In early 2022, Council applied to the Building Better Regions Fund – Community Investment stream for the work required to develop a Creative Economies Strategy for the Shoalhaven.</p> <p>This program was withdrawn. The Growing Regions Program has recently been announced as a replacement funding stream, but details are not yet available. We will monitor this program and report back if it is a potential source of funding for the development of the Creative Economies Strategy.</p> <p><b>22 Dec 2022 5:16pm Coulston, Bronwyn - Completion</b> Completed by Coulston, Bronwyn (action officer) on 22 December 2022 at 5:16:06 PM - Part 1 - for information only. Part 2 - continue as business as usual. The Creative Economy Strategy continues to be a priority as a project to support action 1.2.01.01 within the DPOP (Undertake planning and investigations for strategic plans and projects that support the development of Arts and Culture).</p>
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**COMPLETED ACTIONS**

These actions have been completed but not removed

<b>Meeting Date:</b> 18/05/2022	<b>Item No:</b> AB22.30	<b>Officer:</b> Coulston, Bronwyn & Taylor, Sarah	<b>Completed:</b>
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**Title:** To be Scheduled - Workshop - Induction of New Members / Strategic Plan Review

<b>Shoalhaven Arts Board</b> <b>Uncompleted as at 16 February 2023</b> <b>Completed: "Date From" to "Date to"</b>	<b>Action Sheets Report</b>
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<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (By consent)</p> <p>That the Shoalhaven Arts Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schedule an informal meeting / workshop to be held in June or July to discuss the review of Strategic Plan.</li> <li>Following Council's final endorsement, extend an invitation to the newly appointed members to attend the abovementioned informal meeting / workshop.</li> <li>Invite Council's Governance Coordinator to induct the newly appointed members to the Shoalhaven Arts Board as part of the meeting / workshop</li> </ol> <p>CARRIED</p>	<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p><b>02 Jun 2022 3:36pm Hollier, Leah</b> Parts 1 &amp; 2 Bronwyn Coulston, Part 3 - Sarah Taylor</p> <p><b>07 Aug 2022 11:05am Taylor, Sarah</b> Part 3 completed - Arts Board Induction completed on 21 June 2022.</p> <p><b>08 Aug 2022 10:56am Coulston, Bronwyn</b> Part 1 - Board members met via online meeting to discuss Strategic Plan. Following that meeting, the Chair of the Arts Board met with the Director, City Lifestyles and an alternate approach was advised. August arts board report will outline that approach and how it provides strategic direction for the Arts Board, Part 2 - as per above - the strategic planning sessions will no longer be going ahead.</p> <p><b>29 Oct 2022 11:50am Coulston, Bronwyn</b> A report to the November Arts Board meeting outlines the alternate approach for the Board.</p> <p><b>22 Dec 2022 4:51pm Coulston, Bronwyn - Completion</b> Completed by Coulston, Bronwyn (action officer) on 22 December 2022 at 4:51:27 PM - Part 1 - an alternate approach to the Arts Board strategic plan has been adopted. An informal meeting of the arts board will be held in February for members. Part 2 - all members will be invited to informal meeting.</p> <p><b>01 Feb 2023 10:22am Taylor, Sarah - Completion</b> Completed by Taylor, Sarah (action officer) on 01 February 2023 at 10:22:11 AM - Induction completed 21 June 2022</p>
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<b>Meeting Date:</b> 06/06/2022	<b>Item No:</b>	<b>Officer:</b> Coulston, Bronwyn	<b>Completed:</b> 22/12/2022
<b>Title:</b> AB22.31 - Shoalhaven Arts Board - Additional Item - Cultural Development - Review - Strategic Plan - Resourcing			
<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (Clr Gray / Clr Eil) <span style="float: right;">MIN22.380</span></p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Shoalhaven Arts Board in their upcoming review of the Arts Board Strategic Plan, give consideration to a function providing</li> </ol>	<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p><b>08 Aug 2022 11:21am Coulston, Bronwyn</b></p>		

<b>Shoalhaven Arts Board</b> <b>Uncompleted as at 16 February 2023</b> <b>Completed: "Date From" to "Date to"</b>	<b>Action Sheets Report</b>
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<p>support in the Arts to schools and educators, small arts organisations and to the Council.</p> <p>2. Once adopted by the Council, the Arts Board Strategic Plan initiatives be incorporated for consideration and resourcing in the Council's future Delivery Programs and Budget.</p> <p>FOR:           Clr Kotlash, Clr Norris, Clr Butler, Clr D'Ath, Clr Copley, Clr Ell, Clr Christen, Clr White, Clr Wells, Clr Watson, Clr Kitchener and Clr Gray</p> <p>AGAINST:   Nil</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	<p>Part 1 - The Arts Board Strategic Plan will not go ahead in the planned form. Alternate approaches to supporting arts across schools and community will need to be considered for the proposed Creative Economy Strategy. , Part 2 - The Creative Economy Strategy is proposed to take the place of the Arts Board Strategic Plan. This will be an adopted Council strategy and will inform the DPO and annual resourcing strategy.</p> <p><b>29 Oct 2022 11:52am Coulston, Bronwyn</b></p> <p>A report to the November Arts Board meeting outlines the alternate approach for the Board</p> <p><b>22 Dec 2022 5:07pm Coulston, Bronwyn - Completion</b></p> <p>Completed by Coulston, Bronwyn (action officer) on 22 December 2022 at 5:07:35 PM - Arts Board adopted alternate approach at November meeting. AB22.57</p>
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<b>Meeting Date:</b> 17/08/2022	<b>Item No:</b> AB22.41	<b>Officer:</b> Coulston, Bronwyn	<b>Completed:</b> 22/12/2022
<b>Title:</b> Shoalhaven City Art Collection - Acquisitions - Mike Gilmore artworks - Not to be acquired			
<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (Stephen Buzacott / Bonnie Porter-Green)</p> <p>That the three works offered to the City Art Collection by local artist Mike Gilmore are not acquired.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p><b>29 Oct 2022 11:52am Coulston, Bronwyn</b></p> <p>The donor of the Mike Gilmore works was advised via phone call of the Board's recommendation.</p> <p><b>22 Dec 2022 5:04pm Coulston, Bronwyn - Completion</b></p> <p>Completed by Coulston, Bronwyn (action officer) on 22 December 2022 at 5:04:32 PM - Donor advised by phone conversation. Alternate options for donation or disposal of works offered to donor.</p>		

<b>Meeting Date:</b> 31/08/2021	<b>Item No:</b> AB21.20	<b>Officer:</b> Coulston, Bronwyn	<b>Completed:</b> 22/12/2022
<b>Title:</b> Shoalhaven Regional Gallery - Strategic Plan 2020 - Summary of Achievements - 2021 / 25 Plan - New Gallery development			
<p><b>RESOLVED*</b> (Clr Gartner / Clr Findley)</p> <p>That:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MIN21.609</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p><b>04 Oct 2021 4:19pm Coulston, Bronwyn</b></p>		



<b>Shoalhaven Arts Board</b> <b>Uncompleted as at 16 February 2023</b> <b>Completed: "Date From" to "Date to"</b>	<b>Action Sheets Report</b>
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The report on the Shoalhaven Regional Gallery – Strategic Plan 2020 – Summary of Achievements be received by the Shoalhaven Arts Board for information.</li> <li>2. Arts Board members are consulted and given opportunity to provide feedback as part of the planning and development of the new 2021-2025 Gallery Strategic Plan</li> <li>3. The Shoalhaven Arts Board continue to champion the work of the Shoalhaven Regional Gallery and the need for ongoing financial support.</li> <li>4. Council include in the Strategic Plan 2021-2025 the development of a plan for a new regional gallery.</li> </ol> <p>CARRIED</p>	<p>Staff planning for the new strategic plan will occur in November 2021. Following this a survey will be distributed to members of the Shoalhaven Arts Board, representatives of various arts organisations and the broader community for feedback and input. , The Draft Strategic Plan will be presented to the Shoalhaven Arts Board in early 2022.</p> <p><b>24 Feb 2022 11:26am Coulston, Bronwyn</b></p> <p>Development of a new strategic plan for Shoalhaven Regional Gallery continues. Members will be invited to participate and provide information and feedback at appropriate points in the development process.</p> <p><b>14 Jul 2022 1:11pm Coulston, Bronwyn - Completion</b></p> <p>Completed by Coulston, Bronwyn (action officer) on 14 July 2022 at 1:11:15 PM - Part 1 - For information only</p> <p><b>15 Jul 2022 11:20am Bowley, Kay - Completion</b></p> <p>Uncompleted by Bowley, Kay - target date changed to 30 September 2021</p> <p><b>29 Oct 2022 11:46am Coulston, Bronwyn</b></p> <p>Part 1 - For Information only - Complete / Part 2 - Gallery Strategic Plan being developed, Board Members will be consulted as part of the process / Part 3 - ongoing by Board Members - Complete / Part 4 - Development of a new Regional Gallery in included in the 2021/22 DPOP.</p> <p><b>22 Dec 2022 4:47pm Coulston, Bronwyn</b></p> <p>Part 2 - A presentation will be given to the Arts Board in March 2023 which will provide information on the draft strategic plan and opportunity to provide feedback.</p> <p><b>22 Dec 2022 4:49pm Coulston, Bronwyn - Completion</b></p> <p>Completed by Coulston, Bronwyn (action officer) on 22 December 2022 at 4:49:03 PM - Part 1 - For information only</p>
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<b>Meeting Date:</b> 06/06/2022	<b>Item No:</b> AB22.29	<b>Officer:</b> Coulston, Bronwyn	<b>Completed:</b> 22/12/2022
<b>Title:</b> Shoalhaven Arts Board - Cultural Creative Industries Strategy Planning - Strategic Plan Review - Public Exhibition			
<b>RESOLVED*</b> (Clr Wells / Clr White)	MIN22.379	<b>Notes:</b> <b>08 Aug 2022 11:28am Coulston, Bronwyn</b>	

<p><b>Shoalhaven Arts Board</b>  <b>Uncompleted as at 16 February 2023</b>  <b>Completed: "Date From" to "Date to"</b></p>	<p><b>Action Sheets Report</b></p>
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<p>That the Shoalhaven Arts Board undertake a review of the existing Strategic Plan and present a Revised Strategic Plan to Council for consideration and adoption following the public exhibition process.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	<p>The development of an Arts Board Strategic plan is placed on hold while we await the outcome of our application to the Building Better Regions Fund Community Investment Stream for the development of a Creative Economy Strategy.</p> <p><b>29 Oct 2022 11:51am Coulston, Bronwyn</b></p> <p>A report to the November Arts Board meeting outlines the alternate approach for the Board</p> <p><b>22 Dec 2022 5:20pm Coulston, Bronwyn - Completion</b></p> <p>Completed by Coulston, Bronwyn (action officer) on 22 December 2022 at 5:20:49 PM - An alternate approach was adopted at the November 2022 Arts Board meeting with the Creative Economy strategy to be pursued as a city wide strategic approach to supporting the sustainable growth of arts and culture and associated industries.</p>
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## **AB23.6 Shoalhaven Arts Board - The Way Forward**

**HPERM Ref:** D23/76479

**Submitted by:** Christine Dunstan

### **Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Cover the cost of a professional facilitator to work with the Arts Board to develop and deliver a 5 year strategic plan 2023-2027.
2. Cover the cost of a professional facilitator to lead a series of public meetings with the arts community of the Shoalhaven.
3. Provide appropriate venues for public meetings with the arts community of the Shoalhaven.
4. Cover the cost of up to 8 members of the SAB to undertake the Dharawal Cultural Tour of the South Coast, to a maximum expenditure of \$1200.
5. Consult the Arts Board with regard to the design of the new City entry at Nowra Bridge.

**AB23.6**

### **Details**

Members of the Arts Board convened informally on 30 January 2023 to discuss how the Board might better engage with the broad arts community throughout the city.

It was agreed that:

- The highest priority, of urgency, is the development of a strategic plan to replace that which expired in 2021.
- The SAB could well be considered 'Nowra-Centric' and that the Board should meet in different areas of the city, with members of the local arts community invited to attend the meeting as observers, with pre-determined representative/s delegated to ask questions of the Board.
- A series of public meetings be held in different areas of the city, designed to inform the SAB about local arts activities and organisations.
- The SAB needs to enhance its engagement with First Nations artists across the LGA.
- The SAB work closely with South Coast RADO to develop an 'Arts in the City Calendar of Events'.

### **Delivery Plan / Operational Plan – Reference Heading**

In alignment with DP/OP 1.2.01 the Strategic Plan process will take place under the guidance of a professional facilitator and in consultation with RADO to ensure that the strategic plans of the SAB and RADO align to ensure premium connection with the broad arts community.

In order to broaden connection between the Arts Board and the arts community throughout the Shoalhaven, each quarterly meeting will be held in a different area – e.g. Huskisson, Ulladulla, Nowra, Berry/Kangaroo Valley and members of the public be invited to attend as

observers. A spokesperson connected with arts organisations be invited to address each meeting.

A public meeting be held in Huskisson, Ulladulla, Nowra and Berry/Kangaroo Valley over the next 9 months to inform the audience of the purpose and activities of the Arts Board and to invite comment about what the Board may be able to do to increase engagement with the broad arts community.

In alignment with DP 1.23.03.03 up to 8 members of the Board will seek to undertake the Dharawal Cultural Tour of the South Coast.

Board Members are aware that new signage will be designed for the entry to the city over the new Nowra Bridge, and request that the Board be consulted in such design.

### **Budget Implications and Resourcing Strategy Implications**

The Arts Board is seeking financial input from Council to a maximum of \$15,000 to cover the cost of the Dharawal Cultural Tour (\$1,200), a professional facilitator to work with the Board in the development of the five year Strategic Plan and a professional facilitator to lead the four proposed public meetings.

The Proposed public meetings will be held in Council owned venues, as no or minimal cost to Council

A small expenditure might be required towards the publication of the proposed Arts in the City Calendar

The only implication on Resourcing Strategy is the requirement of input by relevant Council staff towards the proposed Calendar

### **Terms of Reference / Delegation**

Under Delegated Authority, the Board will

- Invite Rachel Kent, CEO of Bundanon, to attend Arts Board meetings.
- Co-opt a peer panel of professionals, experts and practitioners across art forms to provide input and advice to the Board.

### **Policy Context**

The recommendations within this report are aligned with Policy Number POL 19/45.

### **CEO Comments:**

1. **Cover the cost of a professional facilitator to work with the Arts Board to develop and deliver a 5 year strategic plan 2023-2027.**

*The Shoalhaven Arts Board have been previously advised through reports that Council's advisory committees will no longer have their own Strategic Plans. This decision has been taken as these plans sit outside Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting framework (IP&R), which ensures that the community's vision, priorities and aspirations for the Shoalhaven's future are captured in the Community Strategic Plan.*

*At the Shoalhaven Arts Board meeting on 8 August 2022 advice provided was:*

*“Part 1: The Arts Board Strategic Plan will not go ahead in the planned form. Alternate approaches to supporting arts across schools and community will need to be considered for the proposed Creative Economy Strategy.*

*Part 2: The Creative Economy Strategy is proposed to take the place of the Arts Board Strategic Plan. This will be an adopted Council strategy and will inform the DPOP and annual resourcing strategy.”*

*A report to the November Arts Board meeting outlined the alternate approach for the Board and the decision to pursue a Creative Economy Strategy, in place of a Strategic Plan, was adopted (AB22.57).*

*The Creative Economy Strategy is Council’s primary focus for future pathways for arts and culture in the Shoalhaven. There is partial funding in the current budget and staff are actively seeking grant funding in order to be able to develop this strategy. The Board, as well as the broader arts community, will have every opportunity to engage with the development of this plan.*

*There are currently 3 Strategic Plans that Council staff are working on for the Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre and Shoalhaven Libraries. When these are completed later this year they will be presented to SAB, which will further inform decision making for future projects.*

*In addition to these, Council, through strong advocacy from the SAB, has recently committed \$400,000 over three years for the creation of a Shoalhaven Arts Foundation, new and recurring funding for the South Coast Regional Arts Development Organisation (RADO), a new Sanctuary Point Library and major works at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre.*

*Council’s focus on arts and investment over the last decade has been unprecedented. Council strategic direction for the Arts is outlined in [Shoalhaven City Council’s Advocacy 2023 document](#) Council is seeking to continue building the Shoalhaven as an Arts and Cultural Destination which includes a focus on:*

- *Development of a Shoalhaven Creative Economy Strategy*
- *The development of a new Public Arts Policy and Strategy*
- *Investigations and planning for the new Shoalhaven Regional Gallery*
- *Master planning for the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre*
- *Three to five year investment in two destination arts festivals produced by Council:*
  - *The Art Farty Party – a family focussed festival bringing world class art experiences to children and families across the South Coast*
  - *South Coast Country – an all ages festival celebrating local and national country music artist. This highly successful 2 day event, which attracted people from Victoria, ACT and across NSW was made possible in 2022 with Reconnecting Regional NSW funding in 2022.*

*All Council’s committees and their Terms of Reference are being reviewed, and this will be undertaken with SAB later this year. These committees, rather than having a separate Strategic Plan that sits outside of Council’s IP&R framework, are becoming ‘custodians’ of Council strategic documents. For example, the Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee will become custodian of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan, which is a Council adopted strategic document that integrates with the Delivery Program and*

*Operational Plan, budget and resourcing strategy to delivery identified actions which are formally reported on.*

2. **Cover the cost of a professional facilitator to lead a series of public meetings with the arts community of the Shoalhaven.**
3. **Provide appropriate venues for public meetings with the arts community of the Shoalhaven.**

*Further information should be sought from the SAB to clarify the purpose of a series of public meetings with the arts community of the Shoalhaven and understand how this information will be used. Council, as part of the preparation of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), undertakes community consultation and engagement to assist in the development of the Plan, which is also publicly exhibited. This lead document frames the aspirations of the community and includes arts and cultural activities, services and offerings which are integrated into the Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DPOP) annually. The request for provision of a professional facilitator is not identified in the current DPOP, and is not funded in the budget. Clarifying the proposal, the funding sought and how the funding will be used may enable Council to consider this request as part of its 2023/24 budget considerations.*

*Please note that Shoalhaven Arts Board meetings are able to be held at different locations in the Shoalhaven, and all meetings are open to the public to attend. A change of location and venue can be sought through a resolution of the SAB and coordinated through the Governance Team. This ensures that a suitable venue is available, information can be provided on the meeting and that Governance Support is available for the meeting.*

*SAB Board members are also welcome to invite experts, professionals and peers to attend the SAB quarterly meetings to contribute to identified matters under discussion on the business paper and within the Terms of Reference and delegation of the Board.*

4. **Cover the cost of up to 8 members of the SAB to undertake the Dharawal Cultural Tour of the South Coast, to a maximum expenditure of \$1200.**

*The request for this training to take place is not identified as a requirement for SAB members, nor is it identified in the current DPOP, and is not funded in the budget. Board members may request that Council considers the allocation of funding to facilitate undertaking Dharawal Cultural Tour of the South Coast, to a maximum expenditure of \$1200 as part of its 2023/24 budget considerations.*

5. **Consult the Arts Board with regard to the design of the new City entry at Nowra Bridge.**

*Council staff will investigate how consultation is being undertaken by the NSW State Government and provide advice on how the Arts Board can provide feedback.*

*Council welcomes the boards commitment and dedication to the SAB, and looks forward to the continuing support of the Board in relation to grants, acquisitions and all other work that is undertaken.*