

MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN ARTS BOARD

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 8 March 2023
Location: Jervis Bay Meeting Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4.15pm

The following members were present:

Mr Stephen Buzacott - Chairperson
Clr Tonia Gray (Remotely)
Clr John Kotlash (Remotely)
Clr John Wells (Remotely)
Mr Clive Freeman (Remotely)
Ms Kate Dezarnaulds

Others present:

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

Ms Bronwyn Coulston – Manager Arts & Culture - noting Ms Christine Dunstan was an apology and therefore absent, assumed the Chair and opened the meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land and paid respect to Elders past, present and future.

Nominations for the role of Chairperson were sought. Mr Stephen Buzacott was nominated for the position of Chairperson. Mr Buzacott accepted the nomination, and noting that no further nominations were received Mr Buzacott was declared the Chairperson.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Clr Patricia White, Ms Christine Dunstan, Mr Frank Howarth, Ms Bonnie Porter-Green and Dr Lynda Kelly.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Arts Board held on Wednesday 09 November 2022 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil

REPORTS

AB23.1 Shoalhaven Libraries - Update

HPERM Ref:
D23/46660

Ms Sarah Taylor – Manager Library Services – advised the Board that Council was successful in receiving a NSW Public Library Infrastructure grant for \$450,000 to be used for the new Sanctuary Point Library fit out.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

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

RESOLVED (By consent)

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

CARRIED

AB23.2 Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre Update

HPERM Ref:
D23/50093

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

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

RESOLVED (By consent)

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

CARRIED

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

HPERM Ref:
D23/58220

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

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

RESOLVED (By consent)

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

CARRIED

AB23.4 Management of the Birkett Weatherhead Gift

HPERM Ref:
D22/418261

Ms Bronwyn Coulston – Manager Arts & Culture – provided some background to the Committee regarding how the works had been gifted to Council, and expressed concerns that the recommendation below doesn't give Council the opportunity to fully realise the potential of the gift. An amended recommendation has been drafted below.

Mr Stephen Buzacott requested that the Arts Board be able to view the works in person to allow for the Board to make a more informed decision about the retention and selling of the works.

Council staff advised that an in person viewing can be facilitated for the Arts Board.

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.

RECOMMENDATION (By consent)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board:

1. Endorse the advice of the Art Acquisition and Collection Subcommittee and submit to Council for adoption.
 - a. To retain the works by Jim Birkett as listed in Table C (Attachment 3) in accordance with the Deed of Gift.
 - b. To sell the works by Jim Birkett as listed in Table D (Attachment 4) in accordance with the Deed of Gift.
2. Defer making a decision on the works by artists other than Jim Birkett and submit to Council for further consideration.
 - a. Requesting Staff and the Art Acquisition Subcommittee to reconvene to give further consideration to the works by other artists (Table A and B).
 - b. Provision of advice to the Arts Board on which works to retain and which works to sell in accordance with the Deed of Gift and report back to a future meeting of the Shoalhaven Arts Board.
3. Note that the funds received from the sale of works in part 1.b will 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 per the terms of the Birkett Weatherhead Gift.
4. Inform Roy Weatherhead of the outcome of decision made in part 1.

CARRIED

AB23.5 Update on Actions - March 2023

**HPERM Ref:
D23/59881**

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.

RESOLVED (By consent)

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.

CARRIED

AB23.6 Shoalhaven Arts Board - The Way Forward**HPERM Ref:
D23/76479**

Council staff advised that Advisory Boards and Committees of Council are becoming custodians of adopted Council Plans rather than having their own standalone strategic plan. This ensures it aligns with Council's Community Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework. It was suggested that the Shoalhaven Arts Board consider and develop strategic priorities and goals that aim to align more with those set out in Council's Advocacy Projects 2023.

Council staff further advised that Council's Delivery Program Operational Plan (DPOP) will soon be going on public exhibition, and as a part of the community consultation process, the Board can collectively mail a submission and provide their feedback and input to the DPOP process.

Regarding point four (4) of the recommendation, Council staff noted that there is a significant conflict of interest due to Mr Drew Longbottom being a facilitator of the Dharawal Cultural Tour and a member of the Arts Board.

Mr Clive Freeman noted that having two (2) traditional owner family representatives on the Arts Board brings an inherent level of indigenous cultural competency, without the necessity of the Board having to attend indigenous cultural activities.

Clr Tonia Gray further noted that in future an invitation to the cultural immersion training which Councillors undergo could be considered by the Board members.

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.

RECOMMENDATION (By consent)

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, for incorporation into Councils Community Strategic Plan.
2. Cover the cost of a professional facilitator to lead a series of public meetings with the arts community of the Shoalhaven, in accordance with the values underpinning the Community Strategic Plan.
3. Provide appropriate venues for public meetings with the arts community of the Shoalhaven.
4. Consider covering the cost of up to 8 members of the SAB to undertake appropriate first nations Cultural activities. The administration of any costs associated with undertaking cultural awareness first nations activities be administered by the CEO under delegation
5. Request staff to investigate how consultation is being undertaken by the NSW State Government and provide advice on how the Arts Board can provide feedback with regard to the design of the new City entry at Nowra Bridge.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

AB23.7 Additional Item - Copies of Advocacy Project Booklet

It was requested under Item AB23.6 to have hard copies of Council's Advocacy Project Booklets distributed to all members of the Art's Board.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5:41pm.

Mr Stephen Buzacott
CHAIRPERSON