



SHIRE OF NORTHAM

**MINUTES OF THE
ART COLLECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD
THURSDAY
14 MARCH 2013**

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SHIRE OF NORTHAM

Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee held in the Committee Room on THURSDAY, 14 March 2013 at 4.00 pm

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1. **DECLARATION OF OPENING AND WELCOME**

The meeting was declared open at 4.00pm.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Parts of Division 6 Subdivision 1 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires Council members and employees to disclose any direct or indirect financial interest or general interest in any matter listed in this agenda.

The Act also requires the nature of the interest to be disclosed in writing before the meeting or immediately before the matter being discussed.

NB A Council member who makes a disclosure must not preside or participate in, or be present during, any discussion or decision making procedure relating to the disclosed matter unless the procedures set out in Sections 5.68 or 5.69 of the Act have been complied with.

3. ATTENDANCE

Chairman
Councillor or

AVAS
Northam Chamber of Commerce
Community Representative
Shire of Northam

Mr TM (Michael) Letch
Cr Ulo Rumjantsev
Cr Denis Beresford
Ms Carol-Anne Wescombe
Ms Michelle Blackhurst (Guest)
Ms Ann Ashman
Ms Denise Gobbart
Ms Alysha Maxwell

4. APOLOGIES

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minute: AR.025

**Moved: Mr TM (Michael) Letch
Seconded: Cr Ulo Rumjantsev**

That the Minutes of the Art Collection Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 27 September 2012 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED 5/0

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 PLACEMENT OF HUGO THROSSELL VC AND SIR JAMES MITCHELL PORTRAIT

The Art Committee put forward a recommendation to Council that the Hugo Throssell VC be returned to its original position in the Northam Town Hall, along with the portrait of Sir James Mitchell. At the ordinary Council Meeting it was amended that the issue regarding the portraits of Hugo Throssell VC and Sir James Mitchell be referred back to the Committee for its consideration of an alternative display.

Cr Beresford stated that the portrait needs to be kept in town and placed in an area that is accessible and made available to the public. Mr Letch suggested that the portrait be displayed in either the Library or Railway Museum.

Cr Beresford suggested the Visitor Centre as an appropriate location and mentioned that this was easily accessible to the public. Cr Beresford showed the Committee a number of pictures relating to where the portrait would be hung in the Visitor Centre. Ms Wescombe raised concerns with how high the portrait would be hung; she believed this was where the sense of place was going to be situated.

Other concerns were raised regarding the air conditioner and sunlight on the portrait, Cr Beresford responded to these and stated that the air conditioner was being removed as part of the renovations and that the portrait would not receive direct sunlight. Cr Beresford suggested that the selling of books and other items in relation to Hugo Throssell would be able to be sold at this location.

Questions were raised in relation to the location of the Sir James Mitchell Portrait. Cr Beresford said that this, like the Hugo Throssell portrait needs to be displayed to the public as much as possible. Mr Letch suggested that the portrait remain in its current location of the Council Chambers and be discussed at a later date.

RECOMMENDATION

Minute: AR.026

Moved: Cr Denis Beresford

Seconded: Ms Carol-Anne Wescombe

- 1. That the portrait of Hugo Throssell VC be displayed in the Shire of Northam Visitor Centre once renovations have been completed.**
- 2. That the portrait of Sir James Mitchell remain in its current location in the Shire of Northam Council Chambers.**

Carried 5/0

6.2 LETTER FROM NORTHAM RSL

A letter was received from Northam Sub Branch Returned Services League regarding a number of issues regarding the Hugo Throssell VC portrait and its location. Northam RSL suggested until a prominent but safe location can be decided the Northam Shire could commission a professional photographer to take a good quality image of the actual painting and to present copies of that image to local groups such as the Northam RSL, A.V.A.S., The Historical Society and the Museum at the Old Railway Station, to Display at their locations.

Mr Letch showed a copy which had been made which he had borrowed from Max Trenorden's office. Michael suggested that copies be made and not framed, with the cost of frames being funded by the group requesting the copy. Michael said that a high quality copy can be made and framed for a cost of approximately \$450.00 and approximately \$50.00 for the image to be printed on canvas

It was suggested that copies could be made for Northam RSL, Historical Society and Northam Heritage Forum. It was also brought up that a fourth copy should be made and framed for the Shire office. Ms Gobbart believed that this was superfluous as she didn't believe we needed a copy for the Administration building as we owned the original, also a suitable location would need to be decided and there was no location available so that the public can view it when coming to the Shire office. Cr Beresford agreed with this statement.

Another item was the idea to have made a life sized brass statue of Throssell to be displayed in Northam. Reg Stevens from Northam RSL will be contacting Hon Max Trenorden to see if a committee should be formed to initiate this project. Reg has asked if the Shire would be interested in having membership to this committee if it was formed, and if the Shire would support by committing funds to the project.

Cr Rumjantsev stated that he believed that the project was 80% funded. Ms Gobbart suggested that we'll provide a member if this Committee was formed but no commitment from Council at this point.

RECOMMENDATION

Minute: AR.027

Moved: Mr TM (Michael) Letch

Seconded: Cr Denis Beresford

1. That copies be made for the Northam Returned Services League, Historical Society and Northam Heritage Forum which would be framed by the group at their cost. The approximate cost to print a good quality copy onto canvas would be \$50.00
2. If a Committee was formed for the creation of life sized brass statue of Throssell, an Art Committee member is willing to attend the meetings. It is acknowledged that there is no commitment from Council at this point.

Carried 5/0

RECOMMENDATION

Minute: AR.028

Moved: Ms Ann Ashman

Seconded: Mr TM (Michael) Letch

That a forth copy be made and framed for the Shire of Northam Administration building at approximate cost of \$450.00

Carried 3/2

6.3 LETTER FROM NORTHAM MEMORIAL HALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members from the Northam Memorial Hall Advisory Committee have requested that arrangements be made for the pictures that were removed from the hall are returned. They believe there were 7 pictures in total, however from memory they can only recall;

- Air Force Association
- A Couple of Landscapes
- Katrine Church – Dulcie Armstrong

In the “Artworks Catalogue 2006” it demonstrates that the following artwork was kept at the Memorial Hall;

- ST. SAVIOURS A.D. 1862 - Peter Rohan
- LIGHT AND SHADOW - James Goatcher
- GREEN VALLEY - George Benson
- KARRI FOREST - Peter Rohan

- AUTUMN MORNING - Gordon Esling
- GOLDEN VALLEY - Robert Johnson
- BELLKRACANA FLINDERS RANGE - Travis Webber
- INDUSTRIAL EXTRACTS - Peter Rohan
- WITTENOOM GORGE - Peter Rohan

Ann stated that the “Katrine Church by Dulcie Armstrong” was artwork catalogue number 2 which is Avon Valley Country by Dulcie Armstrong. It demonstrates in the ‘Valuation Database – October 2010’ that this piece of artwork was presented to Northam Memorial Hall by Northam’s Women Air Force Auxiliary 1945 – 81.

Ms Wescombe believed that this piece of artwork was at the memorial hall and stated it was not at AVAS. The Committee decided that we would search for the one gifted to the Memorial Hall and we will advise them with the revolving exhibit starting we will negotiate, and the Committee would hang what they believed suitable. Along with this the outwards loan transfer form must be completed.

6.4 NEW ART PRIZE ARTWORK

The following pieces of artwork have been received following the 2012 art prize;

- Into the Unknown – Elizabeth Rihul
- Hidden Secrets – Vicki Sangster

The artworks were catalogued and recorded in the Artworks Register by Michael.

Mr Letch proposed number 106 for ‘Into the Unknown – Elizabeth Rihul’

Mr Letch proposed number 107 for ‘Hidden Secrets – Vicki Sangster’

6.5 COPIES MADE AND FRAMED OF HUGO THROSSELL VC PORTRAIT

This point was discussed in 6.2 see this point for discussion and recommendation.

6.6 PROVENANCE PLAQUES FOR HUGO THROSSELL PORTRAIT

Cr Beresford suggested that a brochure could be made available to the public which would contain information regarding Hugo Throssell, this brochure could then be handed out when people are viewing or querying about the portrait.

Cr Beresford suggested that the style that is used at Purslowe Tinetti Funerals may be suitable, he said it is the size of half an A4 page and is a pale grey colour. Michael said he will see Cr Tinetti about this.

Mr Letch stated that approximately 50 would need to be made for the revolving exhibit. Ms Gobbart advised that we need to get a sample and cost of the plaques before the decision can be made. Mr Letch suggested that the provenance plaques be put off until the location of the portrait is confirmed.

6.7 SUITABLE PROCEDURE TO COMMENCE THE REVOLVING DISPLAY

It was suggested that AVAS may be a suitable location to commence the display and to get the ball rolling. Ms Wescombe stated that AVAS's use is more for selling rather than exhibiting artwork.

Another suggestion was the possibility of having a special exhibition to display Councils artwork at a Council building or location such as the Lesser Hall. Cr Beresford stated that there may be a possibility of having the fees waived.

It was decided that the Provenance plaques are the priority.

RECOMMENDATION

Minute: AU.029

**Moved: Cr Ulo Rumjantsev
Seconded: Ms Ann Ashman**

That a partial exhibition of artwork be displayed at the Lesser Hall by June for the Eisteddfod. The Avon Valley Arts Society are to be contacted in relation to the proposed exhibition.

Carried 5/0

6.8 CONDITION OF HUGO THROSSELL PAINTING

Cr Rumjantsev felt that this matter needed to be brought to the attention of the Committee. In the Valuation Database 2010 it demonstrates that when the portrait was valued it was in excellent condition. Of what the Committee is aware of the portrait of Hugo Throssell is in excellent condition.

7 OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

7.1 WATER COLOURS AT NORTHAM PICTURE FRAMERS

We have been advised by the Northam Picture Framers that the pictures that have been sent for inspection, photography and repairs are in extremely poor condition. They have said that if we are serious about them then we should send them to Perth to be repaired.

One of the artworks taken to Northam Picture Framers is number 39 'Deserted Beach painted by Arthur Boyd' this watercolour is one of the most valuable and oldest paintings which is glued to a piece of cardboard and in poor condition.

The issue with the paintings is the acid in the glue that was used to glue them down is eating away the colour and causing it to fade. He advised that it was a very costly procedure and Michael believed we should endeavour to get a specialist in to decide what artworks are worth undertaking work.

Northam Picture Framers has recommended Douglas Firth to undertake repairs if we wish to go through with this process. Denise advised that she will investigate a cost to bring Douglas to Northam and provide a quote.

Mr Letch advised that the watercolour paintings in the Claude Hotchkin Bequest are the priority as they are the oldest. Mr Letch also offered his services to move all of the artworks to one location if decided to seek a quote for repairs.

Northam Picture Framers has advised us that they dont want any more artwork until this matter is resolved.

7.2 PAINTING BY NORMAN LINSDAY "DON JUAN'S GARDEN" NO. 25

Ms Ashman raised the issue regarding this painting as she believes it is missing or stolen. She believes that we should try and locate this artwork as its whereabouts is unknown. Ms Ashman suggested that we should let the Art Gallery know about this issue.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee is to be held on Tuesday, 9 April 2013, at 4:00pm in the Committee Meeting Room, Shire of Northam Administration Office.

9. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Officer declared the meeting closed at 5.10pm.

<p>"I certify that the Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 14 March 2013, have been confirmed as a true and correct record."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ President</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Date</p>
