

# SHIRE OF NORTHAM

## Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee Meeting held Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 4:10 pm

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### **1. OPENING AND WELCOME**

The Meeting was declared open at 4:10pm.

### **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 Committee 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

Mr TM (Michael) Letch  
Cr Ulo Rumjantsev  
Cr Denis Beresford  
Ms Anne Ashman  
Ms Denise Gobbart

Community Representative  
Shire of Northam

**4. APOLOGIES**

AVAS

Ms Carol-Anne Wescombe

**5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

**That the Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19/07/2012, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that Meeting.**

**Carried 5/0**

**6 AGENDA ITEMS**

**6.1 RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL RE WATERCOLOUR QUOTES**

Quotes were sort from picture framers within the Shire of Northam for remedial works on a selected portion of watercolours within the Shire of Northam Art Collection. Sixteen pieces were identified for the first stage.

Mr Letch confirmed that a cost estimate for the work needed to be undertaken has now been obtained. Although there are 2 pieces that have yet to be sighted, the total price thus far is approximately \$1,800 worth of work as a minimum, which includes inspecting and photographing the collection.

It was noted that a few of the works have been glued to acidic backing paper. To rectify this, these pieces may need to be sent to Perth for removal of the backing and for the addition of ultraviolet glass to stop any further fading. The ultra violet glass has been estimated to cost around \$245 per piece.

Cr Rumjantsev noted also that there is one piece in the collection that may not be worth the cost of restoring. Its value combined with the extent of the damage caused to it so far may be outweighed by the cost in this instance.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved: Cr Denis Beresford**  
**Seconded: Ms Ann Ashman**

**That the quoted work for the watercolour paintings in the Claude Hotchin Bequest be undertaken.**

**It is to be noted that inspection may reveal further work that needs to be done in order to fully restore and protect the works. This is to be treated as a separate issue, and will be delivered to Council as such.**

**CARRIED 5 / 0**

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

**7.1 REQUEST BY THE ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR THE PORTRAIT OF HUGO THROSSELL VC**

Regarding the recent email received by the Committee from the Army Museum of Western Australia, the Committee feels that Paintings with such historical significance should stay within the Shire. However, the Committee also feels that this decision needs to be discussed by Council.

The issue was raised that a further request has been put to the Committee for smaller copies of the Hugo Throssell portrait to be made, due to both its popularity and historical significance.

Ms Ashman suggested that this could be done, and copies could be placed in significant buildings around the Shire. However, Cr Beresford indicated that the idea of making copies may have already been rejected by Council at one stage.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**That a letter is written to the Army Museum of Western Australia declining to donate the portrait, but agreeing to an ‘ongoing dialogue’ over the next few years regarding the celebration of significant anniversaries.**

**Carried 5/0**

**7.2 REQUEST BY NORTHAM & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO BORROW PORTRAIT OF HUGO THROSSELL VC**

The original request from the Northam and Districts Historical Society was that the portrait be hung in its original home of the Northam Town Hall, but upstairs in the Mayoral chamber, rather than its original place in the main hall, due to damage caused there previously.

As discussed previously, it still stands that the Committee feels that the portrait should be hung in its original place in the main hall, both for security and public access reasons.

Mr Letch put forward that the portrait should be in a spot where it can be seen by the public. Ms Ashman then suggested the idea of housing the portrait in a clear Perspex box, so as to protect the portrait from accidents and vandalism.

Mr Letch suggested that it may be prudent to recommend that the portrait is hung in its original place, with the possibility of that of James Mitchell also, as both were situated either side of the stage in the main hall.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved: Ms Ann Ashman**  
**Seconded: Cr Denis Beresford**

**That the portrait of Hugo Throssell VC be returned to its original position in Northam Town Hall, along with that of Sir James Mitchell.**

**Carried 5/0**

### **7.3 THE PRODUCTION OF COPIES OF LARGER WORKS**

It has been suggested that the Committee should cost putting onto canvas a small number of pieces from the collection that are unsuitable for revolving display, due to size, weight or value. Mr Letch stated that portraits such as that of Hugo Throssell VC are too large and valuable for revolving display, and also that knowledge of such works is often limited.

Cr Beresford questioned whether copying the works reduces the value of the original, and Ms Ashman also questioned issues regarding copyrights. Mr Letch suggested that the Committee obtain quotes for such work to be undertaken before it is recommended to Council.

### **7.4 NEXT STAGES OF COLLECTION MAINTENANCE**

The Committee thought it best to discuss the next steps regarding the remainder of the collection. It was stated that one piece needs a new frame, a small maintenance matter which may be able to be dealt with by staff.

Mr Letch indicated that it has been previously decided by Council that the collection needs to be curated and displayed appropriately. Selected works will need to be taken back to Wundowie and rehung at the library. Mr Letch stated that he wishes to speak to the library regarding available space.

Cr Beresford put forward that we will need copies of the new Outward Loan/Transfer form to be filled out for every piece on display. It was also discussed

that it may be wise to consider other places within the Shire to house pieces, as there have been a few expressions of interest from places wishing to house pieces.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Meeting of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee is to be held on Thursday, 22 November 2012, 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 5.09pm.

“I certify that the Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 27 September 2012, have been confirmed as a true and correct record.”

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_

Date