

# SHIRE OF NORTHAM

## Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee Meeting held Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at 4:01 pm

### **DISCLAIMER**

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Northam for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council/Committee meetings or during formal/informal conversations with staff. The Shire of Northam disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council/Committee meetings or discussions. Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or limitation of approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Northam during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice or approval from the Shire of Northam. The Shire of Northam warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Northam must obtain and only should rely on **WRITTEN CONFIRMATION** of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Northam in respect of the application.

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

The Meeting was declared open at 4:01pm.

### **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 Pat French  
Ms Anne Ashman  
Ms Denise Gobbart

Northam Chamber of Commerce  
Community Representative  
Shire of Northam

### 4. APOLOGIES

AVAS

Ms Carol-Anne Wescombe

### 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**Moved: Ms Pat French**  
**Seconded: Cr Ulo Rumjantsev**

**That the Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee Meeting held on Thursday 31 May 2012, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that Meeting.**  
**Carried 6/0**

*Ms Gobbart and Ms Ashman attended at 4:03pm*

### 6 AGENDA ITEMS

#### 6.1 ART RECORDS- STATUS REPORT

Cr Rumjantsev and Mr Letch are now at the stage where they have photographed all works held at the library, and have assigned numbers to all that didn't have one. Mr Letch informed the Librarian they could hang them if desired, until they are needed, as long as they remain out of direct sunlight.

A small number of works still remain unrecorded at both the Visitor Centre and Killara, including posters and prints.

Ms Ashman suggested that perhaps the best place for the artwork that is not being used is in the specially designed pigeon holes at AVAS. Mr Letch noted that although the building is locked, the room where the pieces are to be kept is not.

Ms Gobbart put forward that it may be best to leave the collection where it currently sits until AVAS have moved out of the building.

Mr Letch raised the subject of the original watercolours from the Claude Hotchin Bequest. It was stated that they need to be de-framed and backed with acid-free paper as soon as possible, and many will need to be re-numbered and re-framed also. Provenance cards will need to be made, a possibility being Purslowe & Tinetti monuments, as it may work out being a more professional product at a cheaper rate.

The issue of who was able to do this was discussed. Mr Letch has compiled a list of works to be considered, in order to obtain quotes to present to Council, as follows;

### Work required.

[1] Remove from frames and photograph.

[2] Restore as above.

[3] Reframe, record and replace original number. [Number on back to be large and permanent]

List of works -----

No	. Artist	Title	Size
37	George Benson	Green Valley	29 x 35
39	Arthur Boyd	Deserted Beach	54 x 73
40	Marshall Clifton	Quiet Mornings	64 x 74
41	Kenneth McQueen	Picnic Spot	61 x 66
42	Rah Fizelle	Scene near Berwick	54.6 x 60
43	Allan Stubbs	Cloud Swept Valley	54.5 x 63.5
44	Leith Angelo	Old Melbourne	57.5 x 75.5
45	Thomas Bone	Towards Henty	57.5 x 61.5
46	Cyril Lander	The Silver Lining	55 x 60
47	P. Ivor Hunt	Fishing Party	54.5 x 62
49	James Goatcher	Light and Shadow	50 x 57.55
51	Portia Bennett	Dinghy	77.x 68
52	Ellen Chappell	Spring's Offering	89 x 72.5
73	Mollie Flaxman	To the Quarry	53 x 62

### MOTION

**Moved: Cr Denis Beresford**

**Seconded: Ms Pat French**

**That two quotes be obtained for the work needed before the recommendation for the work to go ahead is put to Council.**

**CARRIED 6 / 0**

There has also been found an oblique aerial photograph of Victoria Oval and the Swimming Pool that has faded slightly. The placement or use of this in the collection is to be discussed.

## 6.2 ARTWORK POLICY

Mr Letch suggested that the original intention of Council was to curate and to exhibit the collection where possible, in suitable secure public places in town.

Ms French put forward that all artwork loans should be dealt with through the Shire. We firstly need to put a policy in place, including a statement of purpose and a determination of the scope of the policy. Although the policy currently used by Mundaring is very good, we cannot base ours entirely on this, since AVAS is currently under review, and as a result, its relationship with the Shire cannot yet be determined. The Mundaring policy would rely heavily on the dynamics of this relationship.

Mr Letch suggested that AVAS may only become involved at the point that an award such as the Northam Art Prize, and also that perhaps we should consider conducting loans primarily through Shire owned sites first.

Ms Ashman raised the issue of the storage of the collection, and suggested that we use the purpose-built pigeon holes at the AVAS building, which is dark, and at the centre of the building. Ms Ashman also suggested that we move what we currently have at the Visitor Centre to AVAS, to which Ms Gobbart replied that this may be best left until AVAS have completed their move out of the building.

Mr Beresford indicated that the committee should identify what is currently on loan and send out a loan form, once one is created, so as to catalogue the collection properly.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Moved: Cr Denis Beresford  
Seconded: Ms Pat French**

**That Council endorse the creation of an outward loans form.**

**CARRIED 6 / 0**

If the idea is endorsed by Council, Cr Rumjantsev suggested that there should be a master file for loan forms and other loan documents. Also, at times when pieces are to be repaired, or are out on loan to Shire owned sites, a loan/transit form should be filled out and recorded as usual.

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

### **7.1 MOSAIC SOFTWARE**

Ms Ashman stated the importance of having a centralised records system. Cr Beresford questioned why there can't be the same information recorded on a regular computer program, such as a spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel, that would be

updated by the relevant officer as loans and updates happen. As stated by Ms French, the money could then be used elsewhere.

**7.2 ACCESSIBILITY OF ART COLLECTION**

Cr Beresford put forward that the collection should be available to view online, possibly with a watermark, so as to stop unlawful use of the works. This, along with regular exhibitions would boost the exposure of the collection.

**7.3 ACQUISITIONS**

Cr Beresford stated that pieces are usually bought from the Art Show or Art Prize. It needs to be made known that we are open to bequests, perhaps this could be done in an acquisition policy.

Cr Rumjantsev suggested that perhaps the Committee compile a Mission Statement, including the scope of works, curating of the collection, and acquisition of pieces. A policy may grow from this later.

**7.6 RESIGNATION OF MS PAT FRENCH**

Ms French indicated that this meeting would be her last, as she has resigned from her position at the Chamber of Commerce, and that the Chamber should provide another member, as they wish to continue their involvement in the Committee.

Mr Letch requested that thanks to Ms French be recorded for representing the Chamber of Commerce, and also that a letter should be written to the Chamber to provide a replacement.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Meeting of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee is to be held on Thursday, 30 August 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 4.52pm.

<p>“I certify that the Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 19 July 2012, have been confirmed as a true and correct record.”</p>	
<p>_____</p>	<p>Chairman</p>
<p>_____</p>	<p>Date</p>