



SHIRE OF NORTHAM

**MINUTES OF THE
ART COLLECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD
THURSDAY
04 JULY 2013**

SHIRE OF NORTHAM

MINUTES OF THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM ART COLLECTION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 04 JULY 2013 AT 4:07 PM

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SHIRE OF NORTHAM

Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee held in the Committee Room on THURSDAY, 04 July 2013 at 4.07 pm

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1. **DECLARATION OF OPENING AND WELCOME**

The meeting was declared open at 4.07pm.

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

AVAS
Northam Chamber of Commerce
Community Representative
Shire of Northam

Mr TM (Michael) Letch
Cr Ulo Rumjantsev
Cr Denis Beresford
Ms Stephanie Corcoran (Guest)
Mr Alan Jelly (Guest)
Ms Anne Ashman
Ms Denise Gobbart
Ms Alysha Maxwell
Mr Nathan Gough (Guest)

4. APOLOGIES

Ms Carol-Anne Wescombe

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minute: AR.030

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

That the Minutes of the Art Collection Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 14 March 2013 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED 4/0

6. AGENDA ITEMS

Nathan Gough attended the meeting to discuss item 6.7 Art Storage Design. Mr Gough went over the design in detail and explained how the system would operate.

Nathan Gough departed the meeting room at 4.11pm

6.1 WATER COLOUR PROGRESS – CLAUDE HOTCHKIN BEQUEST

Mr Firth came to Northam on 18 April, 2013 and inspected 16 pieces of artwork from the Claude Hotchkin Bequest. He provided a quote for the repairs and conservation for these paintings. Now that this has been completed the committee must make a decision and recommendation to Council as to which artworks will be conserved.

The issue was raised that the budget may be tight as there needs to be consideration for the costs of getting plaques made for the collection and the costs for constructing a storage system for the collection.

Cr Beresford asked if there was a policy as to what type of artwork we keep, what is sold and what gets conserved. Mr Letch said that the committee has generally followed along the line of what we already have and get artwork that fits with our collection. Cr Beresford suggested selling paintings that aren't worthwhile keeping. Ms Ashman stated that some of the paintings may increase value over the years and that if it was considered selling some, the committee would not receive many funds to restore the other pieces of artwork.

The following table outlines the artworks which were quoted to be conserved and the highlighted pieces are the ones recommended to restore.

| Summary of Quotes – Biblio Folio (Douglas Firth) | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| No | Title & Artist | Condition | Treatment | Quote | Artwork Value |
| 37 | Green Valley – George Benson | Glued to backing and mount | Remove from backing and mount, wash, deacidify, relax and flatten | \$440.00 | \$1,400.00 |
| 39 | Deserted Beach – Arthur Boyd | Mount Burn, Some loss (corners) foxing and tears. Glued to backing | Remove backing, wash, deacidify, repair tears and corners. Retouch with dry pastel | \$880.00 | \$8,800.00 |
| 40 | Quiet Mornings Fremantle – Marshall Clifton | Glued to backing, some surface residue (card) | Remove from backing, wash and deacidify relax and flatten | \$330.00 | \$800.00 |
| 41 | Picnic Spot, Green Heads – Kenneth McQueen | Glued to backing and mount, Some staining | Remove from backing and mount, wash, deacidify, reduce staining if possible | \$660.00 | \$4,400.00 |
| 42 | Scene Near Berwick – Rah Fizelle | Glued down, Mount glue on, discoloration in sky | Remove backing and mount, wash, deacidify, reduce staining in sky as much as possible | \$770.00 | \$1,400.00 |
| 43 | Cloud Swept Valley – Allan Stubbs | Glued to backing and mount, Some discolouration in sky area | Remove from backing and mount, reduce staining as much as possible. | \$660.00 | \$1,200.00 |
| 44 | Old Melbourne – Leith Angelo | Glued to backing and mount | Remove from backing and mount, wash, deacidify, relax and flatten | \$550.00 | \$1,750.00 |
| 45 | Towards Henty, NSW – Thomas Bone | Glued to backing and mount – Some mount burn | Remove from backing and mount, wash, deacidify, attempt mount burn reduction | \$770.00 | \$350.00 |
| 46 | The Silver Lining – Cyril Lander | Glued to board, mount glued on, some foxing discolouration (spots) | Remove from backing and mount, wash, deacidify, reduce staining (spots) | \$550.00 | \$2,400.00 |
| 47 | The Fishing Party – Percy Ivor Hunt | Glued down, some light foxing | Remove backing, wash, deacidify, reduce staining as much as possible | \$550.00 | \$3,500.00 |
| 48 | Olgas, Central Australia – Walter Ebaterinji | Glued to backing and mount | Remove from backing and mount, wash, deacidify, relax and flatten | \$550.00 | \$1,100.00 |
| 49 | Light and Shadow – James Goatcher | Glued to backing and mount | Remove from backing and mount, wash, deacidify, relax and flatten | \$660.00 | \$1,375.00 |
| 50 | St Saviours A.D. 1862 – Peter Rohan | Not Glued, Good but cockled | Wash, deacidify, relax and flatten | \$220.00 | \$250.00 |
| 51 | Dinghy – Portia Bennet | Glued to backing and mount | Remove from backing and mount, wash, deacidify, relax and flatten | \$660.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| 52 | Spring's Offering – Ellen Chappell | Possibly on prepared board | Two options, dependant on situation once unframed: 1. Investigate after reframing, possibly reframe in Museum Quality Materials 2. If not prepared board, conserve in normal way | 1. \$330.00 2. \$1,320.00 | \$550.00 |
| 53 | To the Quarry – Mollie Flaxman | Glued to backing and mount | Remove from backing and mount, wash, deacidify, relax and flatten | \$660.00 | \$660.00 |

RECOMMENDATION**Minute: AR.031****Moved: Mr Michael Letch****Seconded: Cr Ulo Rumjantsev****That Council;**

- 1. Endorse the repair of paintings 37, 39, 40, 41, 43, 46, & 47 at the price quoted by Douglas Firth from Biblio Folio; and**
- 2. Provide a provision of \$4,070.00 in the 2013/2014 budget and undertake the repairs.**

Carried 4/0**6.2 DISPLAY OF HUGO THROSSELL AND SIR JAMES MITCHELL PORTRAIT**

This item was discussed in regards to the Council decision from the meeting minutes of 17 April, 2013. Council agreed that the portrait of Hugo Throssell VC be displayed behind a suitable protective barrier in the Shire of Northam Visitor Centre once renovations have been completed and that the portrait of Sir James Mitchell remain in its current location of the Shire of Northam Council Chambers.

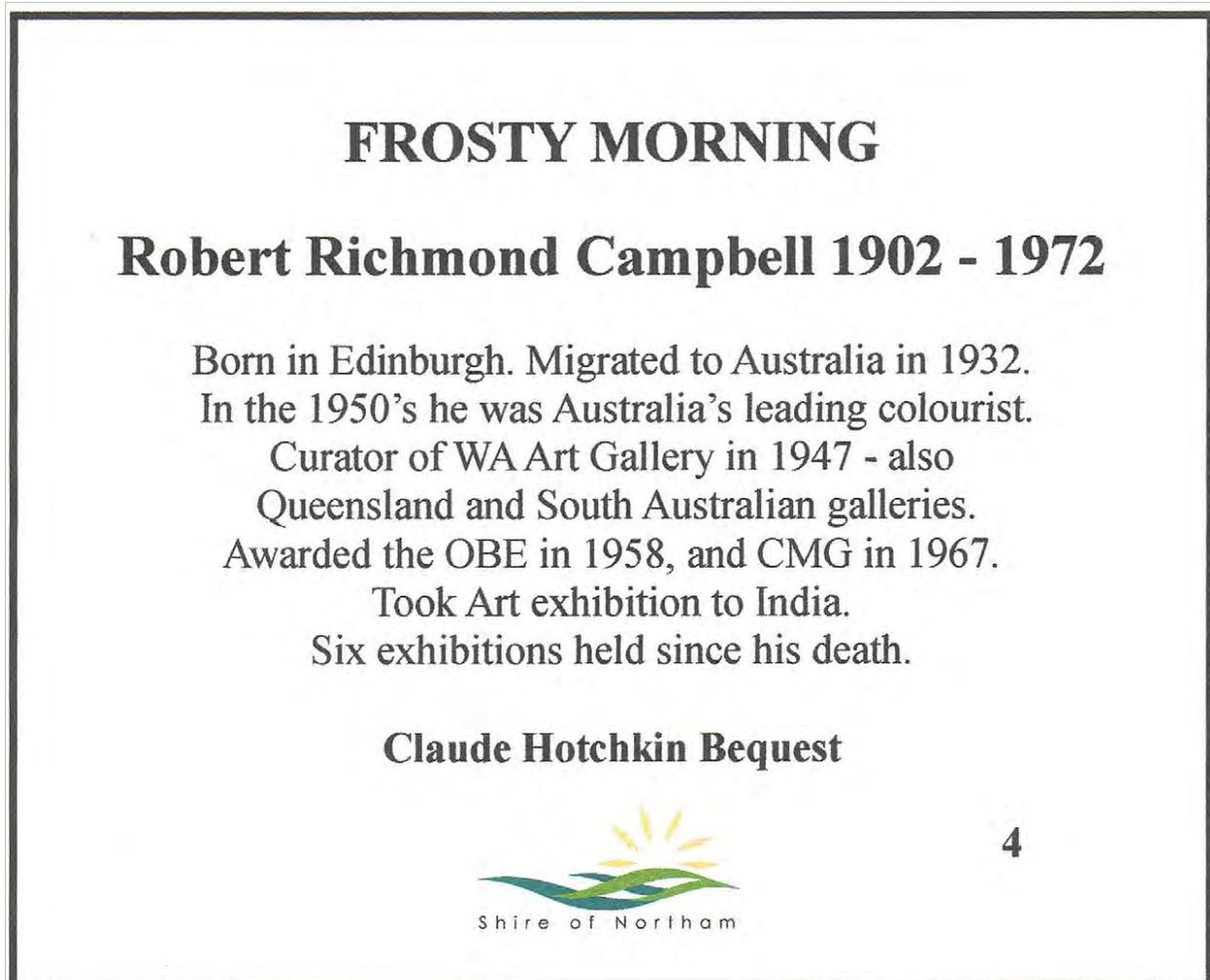
With renovations having been completed at the Northam Visitor Centre the Chief Executive Officer was to get Councillors to inspect the Centre as to the exact location for the portrait to be hung. In regards to the location Mr Letch suggested hanging it on the wall almost directly in front of you as you walk in the new main door.

It was raised that there would be a cost incurred from installing a protective barrier and this must be taken into consideration. Mr Letch suggested the idea of putting a rope across so people can't reach across and touch the painting, Cr Beresford said that the painting will be hung quite high so people can't reach it. Cr Beresford also stated that by having a protective barrier it may retract the look of the painting. He raised the point that there is good security at the Visitor Centre and when putting items on display you have to take a chance. It was raised that if someone was going to cause damage, they would do this regardless of a barrier or not.

Agreed: That the committee will meet down at the Visitor Centre at 11.00am Thursday, 5 July, 2013 and decide on a suitable wall to hang the portrait.

6.3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF PROVENANCE CARD FORMAT

Mr Letch has designed a provenance card format which is suggested to be used for the artwork in the Shire of Northam art Collection when on display. The below is an example of what the card would appear like which would be printed on silver paper.



Ms Ashman stated that many art galleries use this type of design. Mr Letch said that his wife, Mrs Letch is willing to prepare and provide the provenance cards for all of the paintings to the Shire on a thumb drive. This was estimated that it would take approximately 18 hours to complete and could be done at a cost, payable to Mrs Letch. Once completed and the thumb drive is provided to the Shire, the cards could then be printed and laminated in house. The total cost of preparation to laminating the cards is estimated to be no more than \$500.00

Cr Beresford said that we could look into the plaques that Tinetti Funerals use. Mr Jelly stated that he didn't believe that all the information regarding the paintings would be able to be contained on these plaques due to size restrictions.

RECOMMENDATION**Minute: AR.032****Moved: Ms Ann Ashman****Seconded: Cr Ulo Rumjantsev**

1. **Endorse the design of the provenance cards; and**
2. **Make provision of \$500.00 in the 2013/2014 budget for the provenance cards to be prepared and laminated.**

Carried 4/0**6.4 MISSING ART WORK FROM THE COLLECTION**

There has been continuous attempts into finding the missing piece of artwork believed to be “Don Juan’s Garden” by Norman Lindsay.

Mr Letch stated that he had rung various places including a dealer in Queensland who has sold one recently, but stated that unless we know the artwork number it is hard to locate the piece.

It was suggested by Mr Letch to seek Council to take this matter off the board and write the missing piece off as it is believed that there is no hope or way forward with this matter.

RECOMMENDATION**Minute: AR.033****Moved: Cr Denis Beresford****Seconded: Ms Ann Ashman**

1. **That the missing piece of artwork from the collection, believed to be “Don Juan’s Garden” by Norman Lindsay be written off from the Shire of Northam Art Register.**

Carried 4/0**6.5 KATE O'CONNOR - MOTHER AND CHILD OIL PAINTING - QUOTE FOR CLEANING**

While Douglas Firth came to inspect some of the artwork in the Claude Hotchkin Bequest he had a look at the “Mother and Child” oil painting by Kate O’Connor which

has become quite dull over the years. Mr Letch stated that this is the only expert advice which we have received in regards to this painting.

On Mr Letch's request images of the painting have been sent to Gallery 360 requesting a quote for cleaning. The conservator has advised that he is unable to give an accurate quote without examining the artwork. Gallery 360 has provided an estimate figure of \$1,200.00.

The committee felt that as there are other matters which will also require significant costs allocated, this should be delayed for a further 12 months.

RECOMMENDATION

Minute: AR.034

Moved: Cr Denis Beresford

Seconded: Ms Ann Ashman

- 1. That the cleaning of the Mother and Child oil painting by Kate O'Connor be delayed for 12 months due to other expenses.**

Carried 4/0

6.6 TO CONSIDER A FUNCTION TO LAUNCH THE DISPLAY OF THE COLLECTION

Mr Letch suggested displaying 50 pieces of the collection in the Lesser Hall during the Avon Valley Arts Society Eisteddfod. It was also suggested that drinks and nibbles could be provided. Mr Letch believed as it is getting close to the date of this event he doesn't believe that it is possible to organise the display within this timeframe. In conjunction with this Mr Letch stated that it will be very costly to kick off, at an estimated \$1,300.00.

Ms Ashman suggested that we could work with AVAS as to displaying some of the artwork at the Visitor Centre in the AVAS area.

The possibility was raised as to displaying some artwork in local businesses. Mr Jelly stated the Northam Chamber of Commerce Committee discussed this at their meeting and it was pointed out that not many premises' would be suitable for display. He said many businesses queried the insurance, Ms Gobbart stated the paintings are insured by us wherever they go.

Ms Ashman said that the Chamber of Commerce could see if any businesses are interested and send out a flyer. Mr Jelly said that he will send out information about this matter to the business members seeking any interest to display some artwork.

Mr Letch said that it is going to be difficult to get this matter off the ground. It was suggested that a list could be developed as to some possible buildings to display some

artwork, this could include the Wundowie Library, Silver City (State Government Offices on Fitzgerald Street), Bridgley Community Centre, ANZ and the Post Office.

Mr Letch said that he believes we need to have a function to get the collection off the ground. Cr Rumjantsev asked whether it was possible to seek funding through local businesses etc, Ms Gobbart stated that this is a possibility. Ms Gobbart said we may be able to arrange a small function and this can be resolved after further research. Ms Corcoran said that this matter can be discussed at the next AVAS meeting which is due to be held on 18 July, 2013

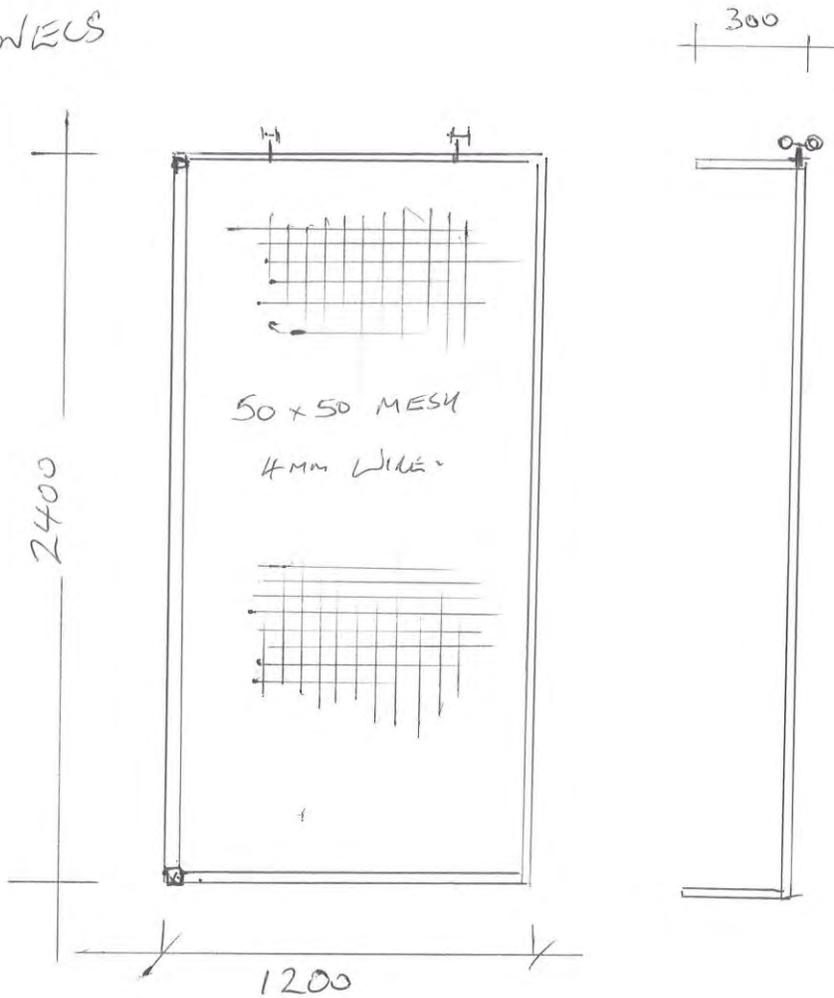
6.7 ART STORAGE DESIGN

Nathan Gough has drawn up some plans and also made a budget estimate for the cost to supply and install a storage unit for the Shire of Northam's art collection. Mr Gough attended the meeting while this matter was discussed to explain the design and how this system will operate. It is proposed that there would be 12 sliding racks, 2400mm high and 2100mm wide with a track attached to the concrete ceiling. The panels will slide along the tracks and have stoppers so that the panels don't collide together. This design would also have a mesh security fence with two sliding panels for access.

This unit is able to be refitted in the new records facility to be located within the new depot.

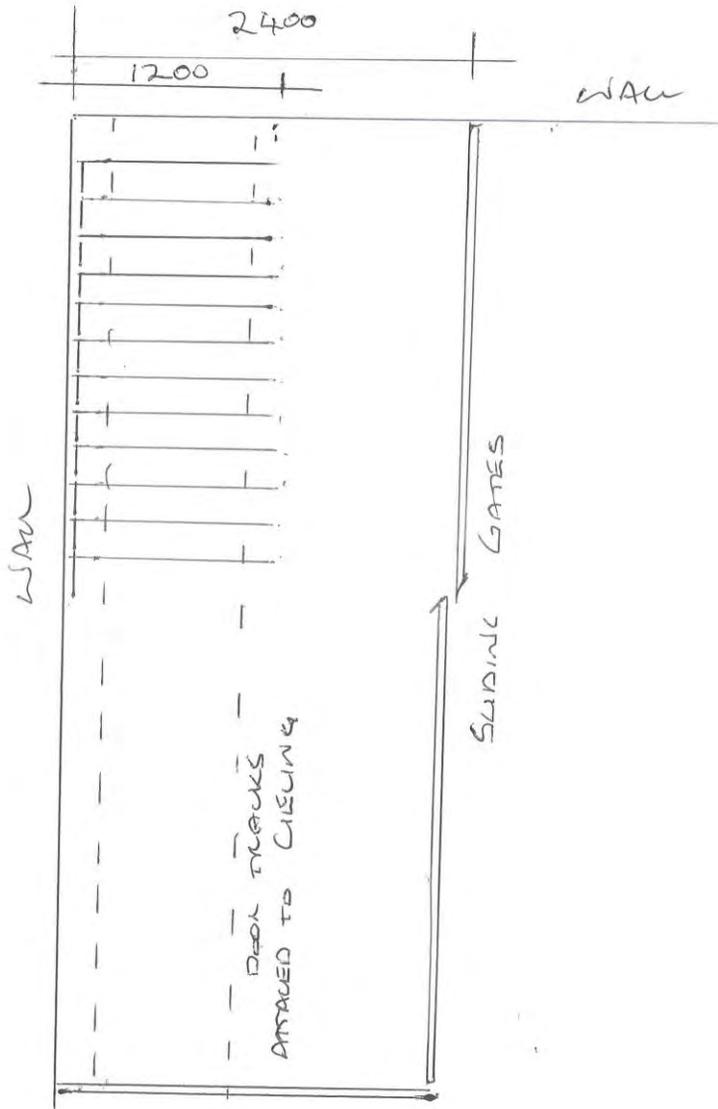


11 / PANELS



FRONT VIEW

SIDE VIEW



Top View

RECOMMENDATION

Minute: AR.035

**Moved: Cr Ulo Rumjantsev
Seconded: Mr Michael Letch**

That Council;

- 1. Endorse the proposed art storage design at an estimated cost of \$13,236.00 which will be temporarily installed at the Northam Recreation Centre and then shifted to the new records facility to be located within the new depot; and**
- 2. Provide a provision of \$13,236.00 in the 2013/2014 budget and undertake construction and installation of the proposed storage system.**

Carried 4/0

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

7.1 LETTER TO PHIL MAYNE (NORTHAM PICTURE FRAMERS)

Ms Ashman stated that she believes we should write a letter to Phil Mayne at Northam Picture Framers thanking him for his patience and for his suggestion of Douglas Firth. We could also provide him with an update of what is happening with the artwork.

7.2 REPRODUCTION OF HUGO THROSSELL FOR CANBERRA MEMORIAL

Ms Ashman suggested that we could write a letter and see if the Australian War Memorial is interested in getting a copy of the Hugo Throssell portrait made and framed. If they agree and a cost is associated it could then go to Council requesting a copy to made and framed for the Australian War Memorial.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee is to be held on Thursday, 1 August 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 5.20pm.

“I certify that the Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 04 July 2013, have been confirmed as a true and correct record.”

_____President

_____Date