

# Arts Advisory Committee Minutes



**Date:** Monday 9 April 2018  
**Time:** 7pm to 9pm  
**Venue:** Nillumbik Shire Council, Civic Drive, Greensborough  
**Chair:** Cr Karen Egan  
**Minute taker:** Grace Longato

## Order of business

**Attendance:** Cr Karen Egan (Chair), Brian Gilkes, Blaise van Hecke, Michael Wilson, Matt Blackwood, Julie Tipene-O'Toole, Eugene Howard, Ute Leiner,

**Officers:** Cultural Collections Officer Grace Longato, Kylie Lethbridge Manager, Business Tourism and Marketing (arrived at 8pm)

**Apologies:** Cr Jane Ashton (Deputy Chair), Arts and Cultural Development Coordinator Michelle Zemancheff

1. **Conflict of interest:** N/A
2. **Minutes from previous meeting:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2017 were confirmed as true and accurate records:

**Moved:** Ute Leiner

**Seconded:** Julie Tipene-O-Toole

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2018 were confirmed as true and accurate records:

**Moved:** Matt Blackwood

**Seconded:** Blaise van Hecke

<b>Business items:</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Action</b>
3. <b>Conquest of Abundance, John Young – removal request</b>	<p>A group hiring a meeting room at the Hurstbridge Hub have asked for the painting <i>Conquest of Abundance</i> by John Young to be removed or covered up. The group considers the work inappropriate because it contains elements of nudity.</p> <p>AAC members unanimously voted to recommend the painting remain as is, in its current location.</p> <p>Reasons for the recommendation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The painting has been in the Nillumbik Shire Art Collection for close to 20 years;</li><li>• The painting is considered a work of excellence by a prominent Australian artist;</li></ul>	<p>Cultural Collections officer Grace Longato to inform the manager of the Hurstbridge Hub of the AAC members' decision and reasons for having the painting remain at the Hub as is currently displayed.</p>

- The painting explores and responds to ideas of religion, spirituality, science and technology;
- The painting depicts the nude respectfully, is in context to the ideas in the work and is not gratuitous;
- The committee noted that the figure (nude) in art is a genre that is widely represented in major public art collections world-wide.
- The painting is well received and admired by stakeholders of the hub, which includes Maternal Health and Child services;
- The painting is not located in the room for hire, which does not impact on the group directly.

**4. Nillumbik Shire Art Collection**

**Consideration of two acquisitions:**

a. **Painting: *Ramera* (1984)** by Lynne Quintal (donation from Liz Nettleton)

The artwork is not representative of local identity, yet extends upon the artist's work already represented in the collection, albeit not of the same suite.

The painting requires conservation work, with its primary support board bowed and cupped in areas.

Although the painting reflects the artist's style, it is not a significant work as per the Art Collection Policy acquisition criteria.

AAC members viewed the work and recommend against acquiring it for the Collection as it did not meet the Art Collect Policy criteria.

b. **Painting: *Spirit of Place*** by Robyn Kaires (invitation to purchase \$3,800)

This painting is an extension of the work *Past, Present, Future*, which Kaires made in response to the Black Saturday bushfires.

The artwork was not made available by the artist for the committee to view, as per the committee's requirements. However, AAC members discussed a photograph of the work and the artist's statement.

The artist statement and elements within the work caused cultural concern and sensitivity for some AAC members.

In the absence of the opportunity to view the artwork, the AAC members recommend against purchasing the

**Action**

Cultural Collections officer Grace Longato to thank and inform both the donor (Liz Nettleton) and the artist (Robyn Kaires) that neither artwork meets the Art Collection Policy criteria and as such were not recommended for acquisition.

painting for the Collection as on face value it did not meet the Art Collection Policy acquisition criteria.

**5. Nillumbik Shire Art Collection Policy 2014-2017 review**

AAC members were directed to p.9-10 (selection criteria) of the Art Collection Policy for revision and discussion.

AAC members discussed the need for more clarity regarding each selection criteria, and the prospect of introducing an emerging artist acquisition stream.

Members were asked to provide suggestions regarding phrasing or wording for the draft policy by email before the next meeting.

**Action**  
Cultural Collections officer Grace Longato to draft the new Art Collection Policy, in anticipation of the next AAC meeting for further consideration and discussion.

**6. The Nillumbik Prize review**

AAC members reviewed the recommendations and costings to change the structure and rollout of the program.

AAC members were open to the proposed changes considered for the Prize, which included:

- A bi-annual Prize;
- National prize with a local component;
- Increase in total prize money;
- Different prize categories including an emerging artist category and residency opportunities;
- Council administering and hosting the event.

AAC members were informed that revisions to cost estimates need to be undertaken to ensure all elements reflect a national level event and are relative to anticipated increased entries, and commensurate with retrospective resourcing for marketing and promotions, administration and judging processes.

**Action**  
Cultural Collections officer Grace Longato to complete business case for Council review and support of an increase in the operational budget.

**7. Other business:**

- a. Kylie Lethbridge, Manager, Business Tourism and Marketing introduced herself to AAC members and discussed future plans and support for Arts within her portfolio.
- b. Cr Karen Egan informed the committee members of the progress made with the new Artist in Residence Program with details to follow next meeting.
- c. Cr Karen Egan informed the committee members the logistical and financial issues surrounding the future development of the Outdoor Performing Arts Space at Civic Drive.

**8. Next meeting date:**

Monday 21 May 2018, venue to be confirmed.