



Museum/Art Gallery Advisory Committee

Minutes

Tuesday 12 May 2009

OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm

ATTENDANCE

Suzette Beresford (Chair)
Margie Brown
Val Buchholz
Rene Fagan
Lorna Finlay
Helen Miller
Diana Palmer
Peta Warner

APOLOGIES

Moved Margie Brown seconded Val Buchholz that apologies be received from Mayor Jo Shepherd, Mark Watt and Simon Beel.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Suzette Beresford seconded Val Buchholz that, as the last meeting was over 12 months ago, the Committee should commence afresh in considering Museum and Art Gallery issues.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Art Gallery

1.1 Security and Lighting

Members discussed security and lighting as issues still requiring attention. Margie Brown advised that Council is currently reviewing security (including locks into and within the Centre). She advised that the poor lighting in the Museum Heritage Exhibition area will be addressed once the new floor plan for the exhibition space has been considered and approved.

1.2 Schedule of Exhibitions

Members enquired about the ongoing program of exhibitions. Margie advised that the Nash Snider exhibition is due to end 28 May 2009. The next scheduled exhibition is 'Cunnamulla Local Art and Craft' curated by Rene Fagan. Opening night Friday 29 May and running to 28 July 2009. However, as no time has been allocated between exhibitions for pulling down and setting up, these dates may need to be reviewed. Margie Brown will liaise with Nash Snider and Rene Fagan in this regard.

The schedule of forthcoming exhibitors includes:

- 28/07/09 – 28/09/09 Graeme McCulloch 'Grazart' to be confirmed
- Peter Conaghan 'Water Colours to be confirmed

Moved Suzette Beresford seconded Rene Fagan that Margie Brown should speak to proposed future exhibitors and confirm their availability for discussion at our next meeting.

CARRIED

1.3 Art Gallery Opening Night Entry

Discussion ensued regarding the increasing price of entry to Exhibition Opening Nights. The general view was that, except for special occasions such as the Governor's visit, we need to keep the cost to a minimum (\$10 or less) in order to attract a larger audience. This would mean cutting back on the food and alcohol offering, and limiting alcohol consumption to a glass of wine, or even consider selling alcohol at these functions.

The issue of food being taken into the Gallery and/or being carried from the store room through the gallery also needs to be addressed.

1.4 Communication/Public Relations

The need for improved communication and promotion of Exhibitions and Exhibition Opening Nights was highlighted. Margie Brown agreed that we need a communication plan for the Centre and this would be prepared as a priority.

Moved Suzette Beresford seconded Lorna Finlay that we have regular features in the Paroo Review and also ask the Mayor to discuss items in her Mayoral News.

CARRIED

1.5 Storage and access to toilets

The need for storage space was again highlighted and it was noted that Council is reviewing the use of space within the existing footprint of the building. The external toilets present a security problem for staff and an alternative internal access needs to be explored as a matter of priority.

2. Museum Heritage Exhibition

2.1 Artesian Time Tunnel

Members enquired about the progress of the Indigenous stage of the Artesian Time Tunnel experience.

Margie Brown advised that negotiations will recommence with Brandi shortly and that Council is keen to initiate consultation with the Indigenous community towards incorporating their stories into stage 2 of the display.

However, there are some issues relating to the impact of the 'lift' vibration and possible structural damage to the building that need to be addressed as a priority. Also, in reviewing the floor plan for the historical exhibition, there may be some enhancements required in the Artesian Time Tunnel which would provide a logical representation of our pre-European, explorer, pastoral and mining history. It has also been suggested that our miner may need to be moved to a new position within the Exhibition area that would provide more space for people to sit and listen to the stories.

2.2 Museum Heritage Exhibition

With regards to the Museum Exhibition, Margie advised that a 'Knowledge Group' of local senior residents has been meeting at 10am each Wednesday for over a month to consider the important themes and stories to be presented in the enhanced Museum Exhibition. These residents have included:

Val Buchholz
Doug MacGregor
Dan Gwydir
Margaret Cain
Jill Cain
Lorna Finlay
Darby Land
Herb Wharton
Dave Webster (home visit)

Other residents have been identified to be invited to assist, including Gordon Warner, Les Capewell Snr., Wendy MacKellar to name a few. This is certainly not an exclusive group, and all members of the community will be invited to contribute their stories over time.

A recommendation of the Knowledge Group is that we place advertisements in the Western Sun and Queensland Country Life newspapers requesting support from current and past residents of the Paroo Shire.

The Knowledge Group has been discussing important issues such as cataloguing the collection with stories of individual artefacts (expanding the work that Val Buchholz and the Museum volunteer group has already undertaken), introducing a collection and accessioning procedure, sorting museum artefacts/photos into themes, developing a geological and social timeline for visitors, introducing a permanent exhibition highlighting pre-European history and Explorer/Pastoral/Mining history, and developing the first of a contemporary exhibition which would change each 6 to 12 months.

Moved Val Buchholz seconded Suzette Beresford that we place an advertisement in the Western Sun and the Queensland Country Life (with feature copy) inviting residents and former residents of the Paroo Shire to forward their stories and photos for inclusion in our collection.

CARRIED

Peta Warner suggested that we should seek professional assistance if we are to conduct oral histories, assuming we may wish to use these recordings and/or film in our exhibitions. Peta will forward one of her contacts to Margie Brown for further enquiry. There may also be funding to support this type of project.

Suzette Beresford left the meeting at 2.00pm.

2.3 Historical Society 'A Collection of Papers' Vol I, II and III

Diana Palmer advised that she was unable to purchase Vol II of the Collection from the Visitor Centre. Margie Brown apologised for the inconvenience; however, advised that the Centre was in the middle of a stock review and that the three volumes had been removed for review and pricing. Currently, each volume sells for \$5 each, which does not cover our actual costs for photocopying and binding.

Volume One: 113 pages
Volume Two: 191 pages
Volume Three: 204 pages

VIC staff has requested a quote from Council for actual costs.

Margie advised that the Knowledge Group has also discussed re-editing the three volumes and re-publishing as one volume with photographs. This project may attract funding support.

3. Donation to the Collection

Rene Fagan tabled Courier Mail (1973) newspaper articles relating to Cunnamulla forwarded by Mrs Stella Kerr.

Moved Margie Brown seconded Val Buchholz that a letter of thank you be forwarded to Mrs Kerr.

CARRIED

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Cunnamulla Fella VIC on Thursday 11 June 2009 from 1pm – 2pm.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 2.20 pm.