

Arts Council Toowoomba Inc. Committee Meeting  
**MINUTES - AGM**  
Meeting - Monday 07-11-2011  
Immunisation Rooms 12 Little Street Toowoomba

1. Greetings, refreshments and mingling (raffle tickets/lucky door tickets)
2. President call to order and welcome (Quorum = 15) 5.35pm

19 in attendance:

**PRESENT:** President Jennifer Wright (Summers), Maria Richardson, Kim Besley-Scott, Mary-Kate Khoo, Glenda Lynch, Chelle McIntyre, Tina Cherry, Helen Hancock, Pixie Roediger, Wendy Ver Beek Van Der Sande, Judy Rafferty, Christian Low, Daniel Daniels, Don Hildred, Nanette Lee (and granddaughter), Robin Kirley, Leith Lethbridge, Christine Brassington

3. Special Guest - Dr Gilbert Burgh - Southern Regional Director on the Board of the Queensland Arts Council

**Apologies:** Judy Hayhoe - Acting Secretary CNAC, Dana McCown, Chantel Schott, Sue Lostroh.

4. RECEIPT OF PROXIES : Dana McCown (proxy to mk), Sue Lostroh (proxy to Jennifer)
5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of AGM 2010 Moved Glenda, Seconded Kim BS
6. BUSINESS ARISING from the minutes – we no longer need to audit our books each year – was changed in the constitution.
7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Jennifer Wright (Summers)  
President’s Report 2011 AGM

In addition to keeping members informed about what’s going in the Arts and promoting members’ events, the past year has seen the ACT committee bring members a couple of new initiatives.

On Sunday 13 March, 240 members Toowoomba’s Arts community came together inside Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery (TRAG) for the opening of ACT’s inaugural exhibition *What is blue to you?*.

*What is Blue to you?* was conceived by the ACT committee to do more for members. A proposal for the inaugural exhibition put to Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery and expressions of interest called in August 2010. Interest was shown from visual artists who use diverse media (painting, mixed media, glass, sculpture, weaving, installation, photography, video), poets and a community choir. The enthusiastic ACT committee actualised this exhibition and engaged Sandy Pottinger to write the essay and Don Hildred for photography.

Works describe personal tragedy, depression, the recent floods and the vulnerability of life. The artworks also demonstrate resilience, challenge dominant paradigms, celebrate the beauty of blue and express the power of nature.

The success of the exhibition reveals the creative potential in our community and allows us to share, grieve, heal and celebrate.

Guest speaker Mr Arthur Frame Member AM Artistic Director and Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Arts Council is a strong advocate for the culturally led revitalisation of regional communities and encouraged us to apply to tour the exhibition.

The *What is Blue?* catalogue was made possible by a Regional Quick Response grant, an Australian Government initiative through the Regional Arts Fund supporting the Arts in regional and remote/isolated Australia.

Here are a few comments.

*'BRAVO!!!! Arts Council, organisers of the BLUE exhibition.*

*Well done to all those who made this exhibition possible. We have never seen TRAG so full of local artists and guests participating in a local arts event. Arthur Frame's comment about the idea of a touring exhibition is testimony to the vitality of our community's artists and the work they create.*

*We sure felt part of that community. Thanks again for the great effort in putting together an amazing exhibition.'*

Victoria Cooper and Doug Spowart, participating artists

*'Personally just wanted to say congratulations... It was really rewarding to see so many local artists in the gallery participating in an extraordinary local project. Lots of happy patrons too. This is what it's supposed to be about! Thank you and Bravo ACT!' Susan Lostroh, Coordinator Education Programmes, Community and Environmental Services, Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery*

Members were so pleased with this opportunity that we put in another successful application and have the atrium again in November next year for our exhibition **impACT**.

## **Public art policy**

For the first time TRC has an arts policy and is developing a Public Art policy with the assistance of Creative Regions.

ACT was successful in its application as a Strategic Project and Shelley Pissani is coming on 5 December to help us further develop the Flood Marker Project.

## **Postcard project**

Members have told us they like to be involved in projects and this year we changed the Great Toowoomba Postcard Project. Although the limited edition sets of postcards had been a success in terms of getting ACT exposure to the public during the three days of the Flower Food and Wine Festival, it has never been financially viable. It's not just the expensive venue, but sales were not great.

This year the committee offered an Artists series and members took advantage of this and we launched the exhibition at KDCAS in September. The postcards are selling steadily there still and although the Gallery Shop has not taken many of them, the committee has found other avenues.

We had good press for this event.

## **Flood Marker project**

The committee developed a project to mark the passage of the January floods. When we first met Pamela Armstrong we had an idea for sculptural 'memorials' but became aware of many problems with sculptures and came up with the Mosaic project, Splashing back where mosaics will be put on the outsides of inundated buildings.

This has progressed and workshops in late October have developed our capacity to deliver this project. The public are behind us in this event and we had good press in the lead up to the workshops and you will see some of the sites later.

Two additional grants are underway and we hope to move this along in 2012.

Next event was 5<sup>th</sup> December Shelley Pissani Workshop

## Warwick collaboration

ACT members worked together to decorate a tree for Warwick's Jumpers and Jazz Festival and it was amazing to see how Kim brought all the orange (our logo's colour) and blue (for our first exhibiton) elements together to create a tree of beauty.

## Gardenfest

Gardenfest was an experience which disappointed members but from which members learned.

## Grants

ACT has auspiced three grants this year. Two for Photovoice and one for the made.Gallery. This is a service we can offer members because we are an incorporated body.We are getting better at writing grants and have been quite successful in the last year.

Jennifer introduced Queensland Art Council's representative for the Southern Region Dr Gilbert Burgh is here to answer any questions about QAC initiatives and funding.

### 8. TREASURER'S REPORT: Kim Besley Scott AGM Financial Report

Flying Minute was circulated and full Financial report for the year ending 30 June 2011 circulated and accepted by those at the meeting.

#### **Moved: Judy Rafferty, Seconded with flying minute proviso by Kim Besley Scott**

9. MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Maria Richardson Approx. 55 financial members. 19 outstanding membership – some of which are here tonight. Moved: Maria Seconded Chelle McIntyre

11. POSTCARD PROJECT report: Kim Besley Scott 12 Artists all up. ACT Profit thus far of \$41-. New postcard sales from Picnic Point

12. TRAFFIC SIGNAL BOXES report: Mary-Kate Khoo Early in the year ACT member Joy Heylen approached the committee with her idea of reviving the painting of traffic signals boxes around town. ACT was thrilled at Joy's enthusiasm for the project and Joy went ahead on her own, securing a grant to get things underway. Disappointingly even though she had addressed concerns raised, she struck a wall with TRC's Regional Traffic Management, Infrastructure Asset Branch of Engineering Services. Unfortunately awaiting a response from them, her grant expired.

At this point ACT offered to help and contacted this dept. directly on Aug 9<sup>th</sup>2011 by email, and follow up phone call **Greg Smith - Regional Coordinator Traffic Management, Infrastructure Asset Branch, Engineering Services**: -on Sept 5rd. We have received no response to either the email or phone call.

With the Splashing Back project gaining momentum we have decided for the moment to put the Traffic Signal Box project into the "too hard basket". It is still something we'd love to see realised and we hope to hear from TRC in the near future to get things underway.

13. SPLASHING BACK REPORT - Jennifer Wright (Summers). Members showed their works and told these stories from the Flying Arts workshop.

#### **Christian Low:**

Preparation for the workshop happened on the morning! Christian decided bike reflectors would be a wonderful element to include in his mosaic and would be quite dramatic in an external environment, (especially good when photographing). Also in the design are waves.

#### **Nancy Lee:**

Nancy told the story of her family members coming in from Highfields to go to doctor's appointment. They stopped by the Coffee Club/Chemist area to collect script after as the water levels were rising dramatically, then went back towards Mt Kynoch. As they drove up the mountain the hillside collapsed in front of them. They were caught there waiting for 6 ½ hrs. Nancy's image is of three faces – her family reacting in shock to the flood. Nancy indicated interest in the Coffee Club area as a

potential site for her artwork. For the project proper she thought her approach would be less "glum" and more optimistic.

**Robin Kirley:** Robin's piece was about her daughter in Withcott, a police woman. A heroic story of how she single-handedly rescued many people to higher ground.

**Wendy:** uses very textured materials. Bev R-K suggested she not use grout because the pieces are very close together. Her piece is titled "Lost". It is about: loss of what was, not found, things lost then found, and what was lost sight of. She described her art work as in a state of disarray, of disjointed disorder.

**Maria:** Maria's described her piece as an aerial view of the Brisbane river Maria's daughter was living in a house there and lost everything in the flood.

**Kim:** Kim's initial comments about her piece led to a discussion about "which way is up?". Her piece is representational of part of a car in flood water. It includes the elements of boulders and rushing water, 'a crushing mess'. Also discussed was the importance for artists to create a relatively flat surface on the Splashing back pieces, and a discussion about how she resolved the water drainage issue with the raised headlight in her piece.

Discussion about preferred option of making the piece relatively flat and not sharp.

**JWS:** Thanked Pixie who very generously offered to hold a grouting session last w'end

**Pixie:** *Mosaic sample no1. This image is remembering Chalk Drive with all the cars in a mangled heap. The water was so deep and fast flowing, that the cars were being shoved around like dodgem cars, at side show alley.*

*Mosaic sample No.2 The mosaic picture my husband and I standing near the old church in Neil Street. Our business is around the corner in Russell Street and we came to see the drama unfold. As we watched, it felt like a scene from a horror movie, as cars were picked up and thrown in the air before being swept up against the bridge, or simply washed on past down the creek. Across the swollen creek a yellow car with four people inside was tilting on the verge of being swept away. Luckily they were saved when a group including our son threw ropes and dragged them to safety. We were watching the flood unfold from Russell street side of the creek. Our sons were on the opposite side taking photos; they were concerned for our safety as we were for theirs as we couldn't contact each other.*

**Christine:** It was a grim time but she wanted to show something positive. Cat up a tree. Family form Lockyer creek in Helidon, teenage girls car floated down drive way – got onto roof. Saved one cat, days later the second cat reappeared.

Second piece – About the sky throbbing with helicopters – the under-side view of a helicopter.

**Erin Birch:** (copy supplied) 13 YEARS, SOUTHBROOK

This mosaic shows what happened to me when we had the floods. The normally dry creek that runs through our farm and under the roads to get to our house is called Grasstree Creek. On that day of the floods it overflowed and cut off the road to our house and rushed through our property. It was cloudy, giving all the plants and grass darker shades of green.

Though in many parts the floods were horrible, for me waking up to the "hum" of the creek and looking down on the farmland from our verandah on top of a hill made me feel happy, for now I know that the drought is over.

**Linda Birch,** (copy supplied) SOUTHBROOK

This is a mosaic of the waterway near the intersection of Russell and Victoria Streets, just below Rowes Furniture store. The walls of the waterway are lined with bluestone and a pedestrian access allows people to walk beside the waterway to Margaret Street. On the day of the flood this area was totally inundated. This mosaic represents the quickly rising water overtaking this surprisingly peaceful area in downtown Toowoomba.

**Jennifer Wright Summers**

1<sup>st</sup> piece is about down the road where Jennifer lives in Hill Street where "Eddie" was being rescued

2<sup>nd</sup> piece was a wide view representing the rigid buildings inner city where east and west creeks come together

**Mary-Kate Khoo:** “Raindrops and Roses” – about drought and the introduction of the waterwise shower roses by TRC and the exchange program. The Avant Garden installation “Bed of Roses” (from where these shower roses came) was about the optimistic attitude of our community despite the drought. The flooding rain of January was a thing of beauty (symbolised again in this piece by the roses) and a welcome relief from the drought. Unfortunately, and perhaps ironically, some painful thorns are part and parcel of mother nature’s sublime beauty. The strength of the roses is being tested by the power of the torrent.

The second piece was an attempt at a possible “Spotted Cow” piece. The “Spotted Cow” Hotel are one of our Splashing Back interested businesses. I wanted to see if I could include found objects in a mosaic - like wine glass bases and bottle caps.

The third (unfinished) piece includes a dissected tap, and is about our unsuccessful attempts to control water flow.

**JWS** commented that this is what the project is all about – stories celebrating how the community helped one another – and is also about community healing. Chelle McIntyre asked if there would be another mosaic workshop. JWS offered that ACT could provide members with the technical info. to enable them to participate.

Presentation by JWS about “Splashing Back” and Powerpoint presentation showing some of the sites during the floods and business who wanted mosaics and reminder of workshop with Creative Regions Monday 5 December at 5.30 in same place.

Pixie – expressed an interest in the National Hotel as a site she would like to work with.

Jennifer – expressed an interest in partnering with Knights Laundry.

MK possibly “Spotted Cow”.

Nancy Lee also expressed an interest in Coffee Club

JWS – introduced Judy Rafferty as our trauma specialist/psychologist. ACT has decided not to involve areas where deaths occurred.

#### 14. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICE BEARERS AND ORDINARY MEMBERS

President: Jennifer Wright (Summers)

Vice President: Don Hildred

Secretary: Wendy Ver Beek Van Der Sande

Treasurer: Pixie Roediger

Membership: Maria Richadson,

Ordinary Committee Members: Kim Besley-Scott, Chelle McIntyre, Christian Low, Mary-Kate Khoo

15. Draw of lucky door prize of Avant Garden catalogue and Postcard set 2011, Raffle draw – Winner of Dana McCown’s donated prize – Pixie Roediger

#### 16. GENERAL BUSINESS:

MOTION: That the minutes of the 10.10.11 were a true and accurate record

Moved MK Seconded Jennifer Wright (Summers)

Flying Minutes:

Jennifer: proposed that Don Hildred be paid \$50 to make 20 CD copies of the photos taken at the Mosaic Workshops Seconded Kim (agreed Maria)

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Incoming:

Post –

Membership applications–

\* Karen Westwood (chq \$50-)

General

\* QAC Arts Update November Newsletter

\* QAC re 50 Great Arts Stories project page reminder (no action necessary)

\* SPLASHING BACK

- \* RADF application – acknowledgement / logo specs. to comply with
- \* Dana McCown – proxy to MK for AGM
- \* Bunnings declining to help with materials sponsorship
- \* TRC Gardenfest Response to JWS to respond to Brian Pidgeon

Invitations:

- \* USQ Big Band – Big Voices Sat Nov 5th/6th USQ Arts Theatre rsvp 1st Nov.
- \* USQ Twilight clarinet and strings recital wed 16th nov. 6-7 usq arts theatre
- \* TRC re meeting room renewal of agreement

Electronic –

\* Chantel Schott re. EXTENDED DEADLINE - MIXED MESSAGES: A MAIL ART PROJECT AND EXHIBITION - ACCEPTING ENTRIES UNTIL THE END OF NOVEMBER (REMEMBER ARTWORK DUE 2 JANUARY 2012) [www.emergeart.net.au](http://www.emergeart.net.au) 0423 235 899

\* Chantel Schott Emerge Newsletter

\* Craft Aust – notice that they have been defunded by Aust Council for the Arts

\* QAC Stakeholder survey <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22DFD2MSYUP>  
survey closes on Friday 18 November 5pm (EST).

\* USQ Arts update

\* Kath Dickson Community Art Space Christmas Art Market 2nd Dec to 23rd Dec 2011

\* QAC Artist by Artist series <http://vimeo.com/groups/artistbyartist>

\* Creative Regions 9 public art opportunities available in Banana, Baralaba, Biloela, Dululu, Goovigen, Taroom Thangool, Theodore and Wowan. Seeking EOI's from Artists.

\* Flying Arts – Employment Opportunity – Project Co-ordinator

Invitations:

\* Lyne Marshall Hidden Dimensions end 6th Nov

\* Chantel Schott (& Janette O'Hanlon) Nautical but Nice 2-20 Nov, Opening 4th Nov. Made Creative Space

\* USQ Graduat Show 11th nov – 16th December

\* Bangarra Dance Theatre Mathinna 19 November, 7.30pm, Empire Theatre Ph 1300 655 299  
or visit [www.empiretheatre.com.au](http://www.empiretheatre.com.au)

\* John Birmingham author talks about his new new book Angels of Vengeance, 6pm  
Wednesday 9 November Irish Club Hotel Russell St, Toowoomba \$8 includes finger food.  
Bookings essential - Toowoomba Library 4688 6670 or Mary Ryan's 4632 0800

\* Flying Arts 40th Anniversary Sat 19th Nov GOMA 1.30-8pm Bne \$45- members/\$55 Non  
Members. To register/ book Carli Ph 3844 7211

\* Flying Arts enews

\* Joy Heylen – Cobb n Co Artisans Challenge 19-20th Nov @ CobbnCo, Lindsay st. T

\* SOULWORKS BY VIVIENNE BOLAND 6:30 pm Friday October 14th 2011

CULLIFORD GALLERY, 1 Godsall Street, Tmba 11 October - 20 November

Outgoing:

Post/delivery:

Splashing Back:

Electronic:

Correspondence with: Bev Ridsdill-Kenny, Shelley Pisani re 5th December meeting and grant  
Sponsorship/quote letters *Splashing back*

ACT member group emails:

Splashing Back various re workshops

Dana –Textile Award

Various Invitations /opportunities forwarded on.

\* Media: correspondence:

Jennifer Fletcher Take 5 | Freelance Writer Level 12, 54-58 Park Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel:0292828655 / 0450629153. Interview conducted, contract signed publication coming up.

Accept incoming mail and endorse outgoing mail. **Moved MK, Seconded Jennifer**

Next Committee Meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> November at 5.30pm  
Close of Meeting: 7.00pm

After the meeting, Dr Gil Burgh Southern regional director stayed and addressed the incoming committee members:

He spoke of QAC – currently undergoing a restructuring & is looking at how to reinvent QAC as a peak arts body. He holds the view that future of QAC is to be more a “bottom up rather than top down” organisation. He discussed “Associate” membership within the organisation and concerns about overall diminishing memberships.

He suggested that Creative Generators might be an option in helping us resolve our TRC issues. He also suggested that this would be an example of the sort of thing he would like to see in our bi monthly report so he could offer suggestions to help resolve.

QAC new website underway – called Arts link – much more user friendly. Includes a Calender – LAC’s can put key events on this site(keywords very important). In future bimonthly reports will be more important – they will be put onto the on website and private - but accessible to the other LAC’s. Each arts council will get a portal.

He suggested that in the future there will/could be be some sort of an annual gathering of all LAC’s. Dr Burgh also spoke of QAC Animated Places. He was very enthusiastic and asked that we all feel free to email him with any and all suggestions.

Jennifer Wright (Summers) thanked him for his attendance and presented him with a copy of the catalogue and sets of ACT Postcards.