



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of the Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Limited  
ABN: 29 003 230 073**

**Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre  
2 Mistral Road, Murwillumbah NSW  
Thursday 18 November 2021 at 5.00pm**

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome**

President Warren Polglase OAM declared the meeting open at 5.00pm

**2. Attendees**

Warren Polglase OAM, Michael Rayner, David Wolff, Sally Macnaughton, Lisa White, Penelope Bond, Susan Hoy, Richard Roberts, Mark Hoy, Karlene Polglase, Margot Anthony, Helen Withey, Helen Otway, Matthew Marshall Dereck Charters, Troy Green PSM, Susi Muddiman OAM, Bianca Charleston, Kree Harrison (minutes).

**3. Apologies**

Sally Macnaughton, Cr Pryce Allsop, Alan Hann, Alison Allcock, Jim and Rosemary Berting, Peter and Judy Budd, Lyn Macnaughton, Valerie Hardy, Gaida Macs.

**Resolved:** That the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Michael Rayner

Second: David Wolff

Adopted with unanimous support from the members.

**4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Friday 20 November 2020**

**Resolved:** That the 2020 Annual General Meeting minutes be adopted.

Moved: David Wolff

Seconded: Penelope Bond

Adopted with unanimous support from the members.

**5. President's Report on the activities of the Board**

**President's Report**

**Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Ltd, 18 November 2021**

Over the past year, the Foundation has worked tirelessly to support the Tweed Regional Gallery through what has been one of the most challenging phases the Gallery has had to endure.

Auspiciously, the Federal Government amended the prerequisites for donations to the Gallery, which provided our donors with a tax deduction. The Government



amendment required a revision of some of our existing documents to become compliant with the Legislation. I thank David Wolf, the Board Secretary for his assistance to achieve this successful outcome.

The Board engaged Bianca Charleston for a twelve-month contract as a project officer. During this time, Bianca has been working on assignments identified in the Foundation Business Plan.

As a result of the Covid pandemic and associated health orders, promotional functions with sponsors and improved engagements with existing members, along with marketing aimed at attracting new memberships has been a challenge. Fortunately, Husk Distillery, which is owned and operated by the Messenger family, sponsored a brilliant event during the Ned Kelly exhibition.

Due to the diabolical affect the pandemic has had on businesses globally, the Board has agreed to extend Bianca's contract for a further six months, until May 2022.

The Margaret Olley Art Trust has been an avid supporter of both the Foundation and the Gallery. Consequently, as an expression of gratitude, a Memorial Garden was constructed on the Gallery site.

When Margaret Olley's name was initially suggested to create a gallery in her honour, (compared to where we are today) it was a courageous decision by the Foundation Board to proceed with this extraordinary proposal.

However, Gallery Director, Susi Muddiman and Philip Bacon AM, a great friend and supporter of the Gallery, proposed a strategy of what would become one of the Gallery's most successful ventures.

Susi Muddiman is supported by a great team who have kept the Gallery 'moving forward' under conditions that have been somewhat of a challenge.

In closing, it is essential for the Foundation Board to be creative in its philosophy to increase our membership and marketing activities.

We must continue to lobby the Tweed Shire Council to create a fund for the acquisition of art.

My sincere appreciation to the Board Members who have worked steadfastly in providing their professional input to support the Gallery and the Board.

Warren Polglase OAM  
President

**Resolved:** That the Presidents' Report be adopted.

Moved: Warren Polglase



Seconded: Richard Roberts  
Adopted with unanimous support from the members.

## 6. Financial statements and Auditor's Report for the year 2020/2021

The Vice President presented the accounts to the meeting. No questions were submitted by members.

**Resolved:** That the 2020/2021 annual accounts and Auditor's report be adopted.

Moved: Michael Rayner

Seconded: Lisa White

Adopted unanimously by the members.

## 7. Gallery Director's Report

### Gallery Director's Report to the Annual General Meeting Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Ltd, 18 November 2021

In what's been a roller-coaster ride of a year, it is timely at the AGM to reflect on the 2021 program, and with that, the Foundation's support and involvement in the Gallery's professional presentation of quality visual arts to our visitors, both in the Gallery and online.

After being closed to the public for a long period during 2020, it was a thrill to kick off the year continuing the extraordinary visitor attendances in response to our Summer 2020/2021 program. There's no doubt the tour of the *Archibald Prize* from the Art Gallery of NSW is always popular with visitors, but following the lockdowns and restrictions, it was an extraordinary response from our seemingly culturally-deprived visitors when almost 38,000 people flocked through our front doors in 33 days to view this Prize. We were quite overcome by the enthusiasm and volume of people who were so keen to participate in celebrating the Prize returning to the Gallery. Our visitor numbers here during the exhibition, and including the Opening night spectacularly hosted by the Foundation, have broken all current records of any regional gallery for the tour of the Prize. At a time when we had to work within the boundaries of current Public Health Orders due to COVID-19 restrictions, I am so proud of the Gallery staff and volunteers for ensuring everyone's safety and continuing to deliver all our other programs and events. This was quite an achievement, and I am so grateful to the Foundation for their continued support in helping us to maintain our reputation as a quality, professional venue.

There's certainly been some excellent exhibitions and supporting programs throughout the year, including the outstanding *Sidney Nolan's Ned Kelly series* toured by the National Gallery of Australia, the stunning *Void* exhibition showcasing the work of Australia's leading First Nations' artists, and our flagship Award in the *Olive Cotton Award for photographic portraiture*. Bookending the Archibald Prize for 2021, we are



ending the year with the spectacularly colourful Ken Done exhibition *Up to 80*, the new media extravaganza of *Experimenta* and the stunning new Gallery-initiated exhibition *At Home: Margaret Olley and Ben Quilty*. The Foundation's involvement and support both directly and indirectly, in these exhibitions, among others, has been constant, and very much appreciated.

Along the way we have welcomed new members and partners, which is always very exciting for me. It is truly a joy for me to see names added to the Donor Wall (and not just for the dollar signs attached!) I see it as a privilege to be involved in bringing quality visual arts experiences to our visitors, and a pleasure to hear from them of their enjoyment in our programs. That some consider what we offer as such a treat as to join the Gallery's support organisation is icing on the cake for me.

In the success of 2021 I am personally grateful to the support of the Foundation's Board of Directors for appreciating my opinion and listening to me. I know I am lucky to have a considerate Board of Directors, when I am well aware that some of my colleagues in the sector don't have what I have, and I can honestly say I enjoy their envy at times. I particularly appreciate the Board's decision to embrace and follow through on the strategies of their Business & Strategic Plan, and there's no doubt at all that their support of a part time Project Officer to work on the realisation of the strategies has achieved fruitful results.

As an example, the Foundation's partnership and working relationship with HUSK Distillery has been a fantastic outcome, among other achievements. I congratulate, and wholeheartedly thank, Project Officer Bianca Charleston for her skills in working on some outstanding projects this year.

The Gallery's performance online continues to build on the successes of 2020 when so much of our content was transferred online during our closure. Our social media presence had been strong prior to COVID, and it's always encouraging to receive great feedback from Council's Communications team on our continually escalating numbers, but during the last year, the staff have been so clever in maintaining a premier presence for the Gallery online. Currently we have 14,600 Followers on Instagram, not surprisingly our more popular platform, and an additional 7,700 Followers on Facebook.

There's no doubt that the pandemic has forced a shift to online bookings for pretty much everything, and as such our website has been receiving more traffic. I believe it is testament to the fact that we have such excellent programs on offer complementing our exhibition program that events, once posted online, sell out so quickly. It's disappointing that guests miss out, but when there's great events on offer, you have to be quick! The Ken Done events this week, and the event for the new *At Home: Margaret Olley and Ben Quilty* are classic examples. It is very exciting that the Gallery's new website will be launched soon, as part of the roll out of Council's new website, and we are grateful to the Communications team for listening to the Gallery



staff's input into how the useability of the new site and how it will appear for our patrons.

So many of our programs are designed around artists and the artworks they have created, so I am always conscious of the quality of artworks exhibited and considered for acquisition to the Gallery's collection holdings. Alongside the generosity of donors and artists, it is the unwavering support of the Gallery's two support organisations that have seen the collection grow from strength to strength. The Foundation and the Friends of the Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre Inc. remain staunch champions of the collection, always prepared to consider acquisition proposals. I am so grateful to the Foundation during 2021 for considering the acquisition proposals of two works which I consider as gems of the collection, as well as being works of significance in terms of their quality, relevance and documentation of the times we live in. I am proud of the two significant acquisitions made by the Foundation this year, being the paintings *The Poppy Rider 2020* by Nicholas Harding depicting the re-creation of Margaret Olley's home studio, and *Multi Vitamins and Surface Spray 2020* by Ben Quilty, which is included in the current Gallery-initiative exhibition in the Margaret Olley Art Centre and has attracted so much positive feedback from our visitors.

The Foundation continues to enjoy a close working relationship with the Margaret Olley Art Trust, to whom the both the Foundation and the Gallery are grateful for their ongoing support and recognition of our programs. During 2020 the Trust made a significant financial contribution to the long-awaited Margaret Olley Memorial Garden at the southern end of the Gallery site. Foundation member and donor Tim Fairfax AC also contributed substantial financial assistance to this project. We were so lucky with the timing of the Opening of the Garden in late June, as everything aligned to give us perfect weather, Cross Border access for our guests and a timely date which coincided with a celebration of Margaret Olley's birthday – reflecting her routine of her later life of gifting to regional galleries she felt deserved some extra love. Since its completion the Garden has blossomed and is enjoyed by so many of our visitors both during and after hours, prompting lovely messages from them as they realise the Garden serves as Margaret's final resting place.

There's no doubt too that the sculpture gifted by artist Tim Storrier AM, located on the *Line in the Landscape* pathway dedicated to Doug Anthony AC CH in memory of his extraordinary contribution to the Gallery, and which formed part of the Garden project, has drawn significant attention from our visitors. Both the Garden and the Tim Storrier bronze have become two of the most photographed scenes of the Gallery to be posted on social media - all excellent for audience development and tourism!

I know that Tweed Shire Council is indebted to the Foundation for their commitment to supporting the Gallery's artistic program. Council's contribution to this building and our programs is truly commendable, but I know Council acknowledges that the Gallery would not be able to present our visitors with the calibre and standard of our



programs without the support provided by the Foundation - both financial and through the Board's expertise.

On behalf of the staff and myself, we are also appreciative of the enthusiasm and always-encouraging support of Manager Andrew Illingworth, who contributes his enthusiasm, spirited interest in the program and excellent humour, recognising all aspects of the Gallery's delivery and acknowledging the commitment to engagement and professionalism of the staff.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank all members of the Foundation, and particularly the Board of Directors, for their ongoing and genuine support of the Gallery, and myself. It has been another strange year, and I am genuinely grateful for your support. The Board has worked well together, which is an excellent the future, especially given some of the exciting proposals I plan to put forward to them from early next year!

I'd like to also take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Gallery's talented staff for their professionalism and dedication to their roles. I am blessed to have such a wonderful team who take such pride in their work in delivering quality to our visitors. I know so many Foundation members, and particularly the Board, value their contribution and their commitment to their respective roles.

Thank you to you all for your support throughout the year. Let's hope that 2022 is brighter, with less restrictions and more opportunities to share amazing visual arts experiences. The program for 2022 is looking fantastic – myself and the staff all look forward to presenting you all with many visual treats!

Susi Muddiman OAM  
Gallery Director  
18 November 2021

**Resolved:** That the Gallery Director's report be adopted.

Moved: Warren Polglase

Seconded: Sue Hoy

With unanimous support from the members.

## **9. Election of members to the following Board positions:**

The President vacated the Chair in preparation for the election of Board Members. The Returning Officer, took the Chair and called for proxies.

The Returning Officer, Troy Green read out the nominations as follows:

President: Warren Polglase OAM  
Vice President: Sally Macnaughton  
Honorary Secretary: David Wolff



Honorary Treasurer: Richard Roberts  
Director: Penelope Bond  
Director: Susan Hoy  
Director: Michael Rayner  
Director: Lisa White

The Mayor of Tweed Shire Council or a serving Councillor nominated by the Mayor, and the Gallery Director hold positions on the Board and are not subject to election. This position will be appointed following the Council elections on 4 December 2021.

The Returning Officer vacated the Chair, the President resumed the Chair.

## **10. General Business**

NIL

### **10.1 Nomination of Foundation Board delegate for position on the Tweed Regional Gallery Advisory Committee.**

Nominations were called from the Board Members to act as the Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation's representative on the Tweed Regional Gallery Advisory Committee.

Penny Bond generously nominated herself to this position. The members thanked Penny for volunteering her time for this process. Ms Bond was declared as the Foundation's representative.

The President thanked the members for attending the AGM, and closed the meeting at 5.35pm.

David Wolff  
Secretary, 18 November 2021