

**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  
Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 5.00pm**

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome**

President Warren Polglase OAM declared the meeting open at 5.08pm

**2. Acknowledgement of Country**

*We recognise the generations of the local Aboriginal people of the Bundjalung Nation who have lived in, and derived their physical and spiritual needs from, the forests, rivers, lakes and streams of this beautiful valley over many thousands of years, as the Traditional custodians of these lands.*

**3. Attendees**

Warren Polglase OAM, David Wolff, Richard Roberts, Sally Campbell, Susi Muddiman OAM (Gallery Director), Cr. Chris Cherry, Troy Green PSM, Karlene Polglase, Prue Cutting, Penny Bond, Alan Conder, Alan Pigott, Helen Otway, Matthew Marshall, Justine Costello, Lyn Macnaughton, Rosemary Berting, Alison Allcock, Shona Charters, Julie Murray, Ian Holston, Kree Harrison (minutes)

**4. Apologies**

Helena Duckworth, Andrew Illingworth, Helen Withey, Lisa White, Sue Hoy, Mark Hoy, Michael Rayner, Makala Schofield, Deryck Carters, Gaida Macs

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

Moved: Julie Murray

Seconded: Ian Holston

Adopted with unanimous support from members.

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

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: David Wolff

Seconded: Sally Campbell

Adopted with unanimous support from members.

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

The Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Ltd (Foundation) like any business during the last few years faced challenges to deliver on the main function of the Foundation and that is to raise funds from donations, membership, and functions to purchase art for the Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre (MOAC). To assist in that

process the Foundation appointed a Project Officer whose role was to look through some strategies on the Foundation's Business Plan to help to attract some new supporters to the Gallery and Foundation.

The process has delivered some results: Husk Distillery and Villa Rustica came on board and have provided some sponsorship to functions held by the Foundation. We as a Foundation need to become more innovative and creative in this area as the Foundation is now registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and this will give the opportunity for business to donate to the Foundation and obtain a tax benefit. This financial process will allow the continued support of art acquisitions with contributions to contemporary art works, including works by Margaret Olley, for the enjoyment of all Gallery visitors.

We attracted a significant bequest of a property from a local resident, who was clearly a fan of the Gallery and its programs (and Susi) despite the fact they were not a member of the Foundation, making it clear that the Gallery's reputation is stellar. There are two galleries in NSW that do not receive funds for an acquisition budget from their local Council. The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, being recognised as one of the leading regional art galleries in Australia, is one of them.

The Foundation supported the Gallery's inaugural Wollumbin Art Award by sponsoring the Bundjalung Award for First Nations artist to the tune of \$10,000. The award was won by Michael Philp. This function was a great success, and the Foundation should continue to support this award.

We have hosted, some great events, including the joint Hosting with the Friends of the Gallery of the Acquisition Show case event in August which featured artworks funded by the Foundation and the Friends. The showcase event for 2023 is celebrating Margaret Olley 100 years. Preparation for this event is being planned.

Why is the Gallery up there with the best? Because we have a creative, dedicated and a can-do team with attitude that say we want to be the best and yes, they really are! The conduit that brings all this together is Susi, our Gallery Director. Susi's passion to deliver great outcomes with perfection and represent the Gallery with her grace and charm is why we are up there with the best. Thanks Susi. There is one thing I am aware of: never get between Susi and a bucket of money.

Another person I wish to acknowledge is Phillip Bacon AM. Over many years Phillip has been a strong supporter with good advice and wisdom, and is considered as an icon in the industry.

The Foundation Board members have given their time and energy to promote the Gallery to maintain the recognition the Gallery has in the a sector, and I thank them for their efforts. Mike Rayner, Penny Bond and Susan Hoy are retiring from the Board. Their input and knowledge will be missed, and we wish them well in the future.

The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is growing and delivering for the Tweed. Yes, we are an icon and will continue to be, with your support.



November 2022

**Resolved:** That the President's Report be adopted.

Moved: Warren Polglase OAM

Seconded: Richard Roberts

Adopted with unanimous support from members.

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

The Hon. Treasurer presented the audited financial accounts.

No questions were submitted by members.

**Resolved:** That the 2021/2022 annual accounts and Auditor's report be adopted.

Moved: Warren Polglase OAM

Seconded: Cr. Chris Cherry

Adopted with unanimous support from members.

## **7. Gallery Director's Report**

### **Gallery Director's Report to the Annual General Meeting Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Ltd, 23 November 2022**

In what's been a roller-coaster ride of a year, it is timely at the AGM to reflect on the 2022 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.

I still find it difficult to believe that with the disruptions of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, last year was by far our busiest on record, with the Gallery attracting over 150,000 visitors. We seemed to be able to recover so well from all that was launched at us during 2020 and 2021. The beginning of 2022 was looking prosperous and exciting for us, and then the devastation of the floods ravaged our region. Despite further closures and disruptions to our program, the Gallery has managed to fare well during turbulent times. We remain grateful for the Gallery's geographical position which saw us remaining high and relatively dry, safe from the damaging waters. The staff here felt so badly, as many others did, for our colleagues in the sector and all the artists who lost their studios and their work. We did what we could for our peers, offering enrolments and free tickets to our programs in a bid to relieve some strain

and reconnect some to their sector and creativity. There is no way we could have done that without the unfaltering support of the Foundation and the Friends. With the support of Council remaining steadfast in our recurrent funding, we were grateful we could offer a little more to our loyal visitors and artists of the region, whilst also attracting new audiences keen to connect with the Gallery and the kind of sanctuary it offered from the harsh reality of their everyday. It became even more evident to me during times like we have been through in the last couple of years just how integral the Foundation is to the Gallery's reputation and important social and professional role in the community, and more broadly to the arts sector.

I am genuinely proud of the Gallery staff and volunteers for ensuring everyone's safety and continuing to deliver all our other programs and events, and I am equally proud of the Foundation's role during 2022 to further cement the Gallery's part in the health of the arts sector of our creative region. This was evidenced through the Foundation's unanimous support for the inaugural Wollumbin Art Award, through their generous financial contribution to the Bundjalung Art Award of \$10,000 being awarded to a First Nations artist of the region. This was a timely, respectful and important lead for the Foundation to take as the Gallery endeavours to provide more for artists of our region. It is an exciting outcome too that the winner of the Bundjalung Award will have the opportunity to create a body of work to exhibit at the Gallery during 2023.

With the hype around the new Wollumbin Art Award, I was also delighted that existing Foundation members Leanne and Greg Tong-Lyon generously supported the Emerging Artist category of the Award, pledging their support for 2022, as well as the 2024 and 2026 Awards.

As our President mentioned earlier, the Foundation, with the Friends, via both organisations' continual fundraising, prevail as the source of the financial resource behind the Gallery's acquisition program. Whilst I would always like the acquisition program to be more robust, given the circumstances I remain extremely grateful for the generosity extended by the Foundation towards supporting the development of the Gallery's collection and Council's substantial asset. I have surprised myself this year by not asking for much really, and that's not due to any lack of temptation offered by exhibitions across the country which would complement our existing holdings. It is knowing that next year, in 2023, the Gallery faces what should be viewed as a tremendous opportunity in celebrating Margaret Olley's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is clearly a one-off event, and we'll be needing to make some substantial investments in putting the Gallery and the MOAC firmly on the map, ensuring that everyone knows that we are the venue for all things Olley, and to give lots of money to in order to enhance our splendid Olley Centre.

On the subject of acquisitions though, during 2022 there have been two contemporary works acquired for the Collection, being a ceramic work by First Nations artist Penny Evans, who lives and works in Lismore. Her work, titled *Black cockatoo sitting on a burnt banksia stump* 2020 was purchased for the collection by the Foundation and the Gallery Donations Fund.



An additional contemporary acquisition was a wonderful painting by artist Richard Lewer titled *Full moon dancing*, painted in 2022 as a direct result of Richard's time here in the Tweed when he hired the Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio. Richard's residency was immediately following the flood event affecting the Northern Rivers, and has direct references to Wollumbin and images the artist responded to in the re-creation of Olley's home studio. Both are excellent additions to the collection. I am particularly proud of one of the significant acquisitions made by the Foundation last year too, given the recent very sad news of the passing of artist Nicholas Harding following a long period of illness. Sad times like this emphasise the importance of collecting current work by living contemporary artists. It was the Foundation who funded the acquisition of the stunning painting *The Poppy Rider* 2020 by Nicholas depicting the re-creation of Margaret Olley's home studio. The Gallery staff consider it an honour for the collection to include this work, especially given Nicholas' close connection to Olley, and the Gallery.

As our President also mentioned, I was delighted to receive notification a few months ago now from a local solicitor as to a significant bequest to the Foundation by a local resident whom had recently passed away. Although not a member of either the Foundation nor the Friends, Mr. Kenneth Fizzell of Condong was a regular visitor to the Gallery. I was informed by the solicitor that Mr Fizzell had attended an event here years ago and had asked me a number of questions about the Gallery's operation following the presentation, and apparently myself and the staff in attendance were helpful. Apparently whatever was said had a long-lasting effect on Mr. Fizzell, and as a result the Foundation is the sole recipient of his estate. The generosity of people continually surprises and astounds me, and I consider it a privilege that the Gallery is able to make peoples' lives happier and more fulfilling. I guess this bequest also highlights the fact that you never really know who visitors are, or what their intentions may be, or indeed, how our personalities and programming may affect them. In response I can only say, 'Thank you so much Mr. Fizzell'.

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, but during the last year, the staff have been so clever in maintaining a premier presence for the Gallery online. Currently we have 16,600 Followers on Instagram, not surprisingly our more popular platform, and an additional 8,500 Followers on FaceBook.

In the success of 2022 I am personally grateful to the support of the Foundation's Board of Directors for appreciating my opinion and taking the time to listen to my point of view. 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. The work of Project Officer Bianca Charleston over the last couple of years has made a significant difference to the workload of myself and our Operations & Business Officer, Kree

Harrison. Bianca's conscientious approach has been excellent, and her contribution has led to the establishment of favourable partnerships for the Foundation and the Gallery that have longevity. I thank, and congratulate Bianca on her achievements.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the three Board members on the occasion of their retirement from their Director duties. Penny Bond, Sue Hoy and Mike Rayner have all made significant contributions to the Board, each bringing their skills to the fore. I thank each of them for their considered approach to Board matters.

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.

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. The Board has worked well together, which is an excellent sign 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 2023 is brighter, and drier, than 2022, offering more opportunities to share amazing visual arts experiences. The program for 2023 is strong – myself and the staff all look forward to presenting you all with many visual treats!

Susi Muddiman OAM  
Gallery Director  
23 November 2022

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

Moved: David Wolff

Seconded: Richard Roberts

Adopted with unanimous support from 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, Troy Green PSM, took the Chair and called for proxies.

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

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

**President:** Warren Polglase OAM

**Vice President:** Sally Campbell

**Honorary Secretary:** David Wolff

**Honorary Treasurer:** Richard Roberts

**Director:** Alan Conder

**Director:** Alan Pigott

**Director:** Andrew Illingworth

**Director:** Justine Costello

**Director:** Lisa White

**Director:** Makala Schofield

The Returning Officer congratulated all nominees for their election to the Board and vacated the Chair.

The President resumed the Chair.

## **10. 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.

Alan Conder was nominated and accepted the position.

**Resolved:** That Mr Conder be declared as the Foundation's representative to the Tweed Regional Gallery Advisory Committee.

Moved: Warren Polglase

Seconded: Richard Roberts

Adopted with unanimous support from members.

Cr. Chris Cherry also thanked the Foundation Board for their contribution to the Gallery.

The President thanked the members for attending the AGM and closed the meeting at 5.43pm



**Tweed Regional Gallery**  
Foundation Ltd

David Wolff  
Secretary, 23 November 2023