



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Of Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre
Held on 26 March 2019 at 6.00pm**

At the offices of Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre
Level 1, North Building, 180 London Circuit, Canberra

Present: Jodie Cunningham, Agnes Bullard, Monique Van Nieuwland, Valerie Kirk, Beverly Smith, Sue Gascoigne, Louis Grant, Barbara Wheeler, Stephen Cassidy, Rebecca Coronel, Ruth Hingston, Kate Nixon, Madisyn Zabel, Rachael Coghlan, Andrea Ho, Ian Hodgson, Marilou Chagnaud, Julie Bradley, Diane Firth, Sari Sutton, Rob Henry, Caren Florance, Rohan Nicol, Bev Hogg, Ann McMahon, Sean Booth, Rose-Mary Faulkner, Gilbert Riedelbauch, Graham Humphries, Julie Ryder, Belinda Toll, Sam Bryant, Richard Whiteley, Abbey Jamieson, Daniel Venables, Fran Romano, Richilde Flavell.

Apologies: Patricia Parker, Louise Hamby, Avi Amesbury, Barbara Rogers, Kirstie Rae, Jo Victoria, Julie Bartholemew, Rob Schwartz, Lisa Cahill, Sarit Cohen, Judi Elliot, Cathy Franzi, Jenni Martiniello, Anita McIntyre, Joanne Searle, Annie Trevillian, Luna Ryan, Nadina Geary, Debra Jurss, Cassandra Layne, Isabelle Mackay-Sim, Lucy Palmer, Tamara Schneider, Marcia Holden, Lia Tajcna, Kaye Pemberton, Leonie Andrews, Diane Wood Conroy, Ximena Briceno, David Williams, Margaret Williams, Angela Bakker, Harriet Schwarzrock, Belinda Jessup, Phoebe Porter, Sue Hewitt, Anne Masters, Hiroshi Yamaguchi, Hannah Gason, Meredith Hinchliffe.

1.0 Welcome and apologies

The Craft ACT President, Graham Humphries, and the CEO and Artistic Director of Craft ACT, Rachael Coghlan, welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting.

2.0 Acceptance of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 27 March 2018

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were accepted without revisions and confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: Ian Hodgson
Seconded: Richard Whiteley
Accepted unanimously
Carried

3.0 President's Report 2018

On the eve of Craft ACT's 50th anniversary I am delighted to observe Craft ACT's growing role in the international craft and design landscape and its continued relevance and standing.

After six years on the board, and with Craft ACT in one of the strongest positions it's been in both artistically and financially, I have announced that I will retire from the Board of Management by the end of this year to ensure a smooth transition. As such, this will be my final President's report for Craft ACT and I have a number of people to thank.

Board members - I thank my fellow board of management members Andrea Ho, Rebecca Coronel, Stephen Cassidy, Sari Sutton, Rob Henry, and would like to note in particular the dedicated contribution of Treasurer Sam Bryant. I thank departing member Helen O'Neil (since 2013) for her intelligent and expert contribution to Craft ACT over many years, as well as other retiring members Rohan Nicol (2015), Lisa Scharoun, Agnes Bullard and Kevin Keith (2018).

My thanks also to the Craft ACT staff team: Kate Nixon, Dr Paula Lull Llobera, Madisyn Zabel, Caren Florance and Selina Kang, all of whom contribute to the extraordinary and diverse Craft ACT achievements enjoyed by both members and the art, design and craft community in the region. The talent and commitment of all staff has continually contributed to the outstanding success of the many programs, exhibitions and functions now enjoyed by Craft ACT audiences.

Craft ACT Members are of course the backbone of the organisation. The growing membership numbers attest to the success of the many programs and benefits offered by Craft ACT.

I thank the ACT Government, the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy (an initiative of the Australian, state and territory governments), and the Australia Council for the Arts (the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body) for their on-going support of Craft ACT.

The organisation has also been privileged to receive significant financial support from its growing number of sponsors without which many of our programs, particularly the Design Canberra festival, would not be possible. It is heartening to see the corporate community supporting and promoting good design in all its manifestations.

I had the privilege of becoming President of Craft ACT in 2013 with Avi Amesbury as CEO. Avi provided inspired and energetic leadership culminating in the creation of Design Canberra with the longer-term objective of building a design festival which would support Canberra becoming a UNESCO City of Design. When Avi decided to retire from the CEO position of Craft ACT to resume her art career, we faced an enormous challenge to find someone to fill her shoes.

Rachael Coghlan has more than filled those shoes and under her leadership Craft ACT has developed and matured to an entirely new level. Her management and guidance in all aspects of Craft ACT's activities has been remarkable, particularly in growing Design Canberra in both the quality of the program as well as the number and diversity of the activities within the festival. My sincere thanks to Rachael for all her wonderful achievements, excellent leadership and constant good cheer.

Despite the incredible progress achieved, there are a number of challenges facing the organisation:

Location and exposure: The existing location, particularly of our exhibition space and retail outlet is not conducive to growing the public awareness and access to all Craft ACT has to offer. Craft ACT is looking at alternate locations including the proposed Kingston Arts Precinct to ensure better public access and visibility.

Facilities: With the growth in the organisations activities as well as the need for better access and visibility, the need for larger premises is now a priority. It is important to have office, exhibition and retail spaces all collocated as at present, however the need for increased area with the appropriate technical resources and public exposure is important.

Funding remains a constant and major issue. Much energy and scarce resources are devoted to chasing what appears to be an ever-decreasing funding pool. As mentioned earlier, we are most grateful for the valuable financial support provided by both the ACT and Federal Governments, however individual program funding remains a constant challenge.

The constant funding pressures clearly limit the resources Craft ACT can invest in qualified staff. Inevitably this leads to reasonably high staff turnover and the consequential administration issues. Whilst we are delighted to engage the enthusiasm and skills of young talented people, it is understandable when other opportunities arise for them more in line with their financial needs.

Finally, I would like to mention the importance of building and integrating Indigenous arts, craft and design programs into the very fabric of Craft ACT. The valuable indigenous cultural inheritance as well as diversity of creative opportunities can both enrich and expand the community's awareness of the importance of craft, art and design.

I sincerely thank Craft ACT and its members for the privilege of serving as president of what I believe is one of Australia's most valuable, relevant and effective arts and craft organisations.

Graham Humphries

President, Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre Board of Management (2013-2019)

4.0 CEO/Artistic Director Report 2018

When I was handed custodianship of Craft ACT in early 2016 I was fortunate to inherit a strategic plan with four inspiring pillars. Even through our recent efforts to strengthen our resilience, relevance and reputation these pillars shape what we do: artistic excellence, Indigenous craft and design, access and sustainability. As we edge towards our 50th anniversary in 2020, these pillars enable us to stay connected to the reason we are here, the community we serve, and the vision we want to achieve.

At the heart of Craft ACT is its commitment to **artistic excellence**. Put simply, our organisation has always and will always support artists to make excellent work, foster experimentation and grow artists' profiles internationally. Respect for Craft ACT's artistic program continues to grow: 2018 saw a record number of exhibition proposals, all of an extremely high quality. One of the distinctive dimensions of the Craft ACT artistic program is the respected peer review process – acclaimed Accredited Professional Members (APM) across craft mediums assess exhibition and residency applications. This ensures a national and global experience shapes an exhibition program which extends the boundaries of artistic excellence. In 2018, we delivered increased onsite exhibitions of the highest quality including solo exhibitions by APMs Sharon

Peoples, Elizabeth Kelly and Keiko Amenomori-Schmeisser. We showcased exhibitions by craft practitioners, artists and designers at every stage of their practice across all craft mediums and presented the largest members exhibition. We experimented with new exhibition venues to bring these beautiful works to new audiences, forged collaborations across disciplines and showcased new trends and research.

Craft ACT has an abiding commitment to **embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander craft and design practice into Australian arts and culture**. In 2018 I was honoured to initiate Craft ACT's new Indigenous Craft and Design Residency and Workshops. Craft ACT board members, staff, and numerous individuals collectively donated a total of over \$10,000 to bring this program to life, and Cultural Partnerships Australia matched dollar for dollar each of those donations. I was overwhelmed by emotion as we installed the beautiful rings and pendants by the talented artists who participated in this pilot program. Yet again, collaboration was central to this project and I acknowledge the leadership of the Indigenous Jewellery Project's Emily McCulloch Childs, the expertise of contemporary jewellers who led the workshops Mel Young and Alison Jackson, the mentorship of Jenni Kemarre Martiniello, the dedication of the participating artists, and the ANU School of Art and Design for hosting the workshops. It has been an honour to see this important collaborative program unfold.

Connecting contemporary craft and design to new and engaged audiences is a priority at Craft ACT and 2018 saw the work of our organisation reaching record audience numbers. From international and diplomatic engagement, to building local, regional and national audiences and artist participation, to media and social media coverage, and scholarly engagement, Craft ACT is, as always, punching above its weight. Our acclaimed artist-in-residence program in Namadgi National Park, supported by ACT Parks and Conservation, invites artists to be cultural interpreters of our landscape. DESIGN Canberra allows us to achieve more for our members across some measures than we do across the whole year: \$177,842 of income was generated for artists and designers during the festival, nearly 4000 people attended our members' open studios, we gained national media coverage for members and featured members in signature events. Importantly we shine a light on Craft ACT's vital role in our region's arts ecology and our sector's growth and celebrate and promote Canberra's deep roots in craft and design.

It is affirming to see dynamic and sustainable growth for Craft ACT to support our members, staff and community into the future. Given the challenges facing not-for-profit arts organisations, the increased and diversified funding from government, sponsorship and self-generated sources in 2018 is warmly received. As Craft ACT is in the midst of applying for the next round of multi-year funding from the Australia Council, and the future of our current 3 year funding agreement (2017-2019) from the ACT government to support DESIGN Canberra is undecided, it is important to acknowledge that the security of funding we have enjoyed in the past few years is never assured, nor should be taken for granted. Our careful financial management and energetic efforts to attract new sources of funding have transformed Craft ACT which has in turn helped us to remunerate staff appropriately, upgrade infrastructure, promote artists, initiate new professional development opportunities and create new platforms to showcase new trends, innovation and research in craft and design work to diverse audiences.

All of these achievements are the result of a whole community working together but I'd like to single out some individuals who went above and beyond to realise these inspiring outcomes. The Craft ACT team of staff, volunteers and interns is one of the most dedicated, creative and professional teams I've had the pleasure of working with and I thank them, sincerely, for their generous contributions. There are great rewards for working in the community sector – a sense of purpose, agency, creativity and community – but there are challenges too. I'd like to bring a greater sense of delight into our workplace so please take the time to thank the team when you see them next. I'd also like to thank the Craft ACT Board of

Management and especially Graham Humphries who is retiring at our AGM. Graham is a leader in his field of design excellence and architecture and his contribution to Craft ACT will be enjoyed for years to come, not only as President but also his injection of vision for what DESIGN Canberra could achieve for Craft ACT and for our city if it nominated as a UNESCO City of Design. I'd like to thank the relevant ministers and their dedicated staff at the Australia Council and ArtsACT who support Craft ACT not only through their Federal and ACT Government funding but in a multitude of ways, as well as the many sponsors who extend our reach to new markets and connect us with likeminded people. I thank every member of Craft ACT for their support and note in particular the members who have participated in our 2018 exhibitions, residencies, committees and public programs for their time and goodwill.

As you read the following pages celebrating our 2018 achievements, spare a thought for the many people and many hands which made this possible, not only in the past year but in the past half a century. There is much to celebrate, and cherish, about Craft ACT – a rich past, a vibrant present and a sustainable future. We look forward to sharing it with you.

Rachael Coghlan
CEO/Artistic Director, Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre

5.0 Financial Report ending 31 December 2018, including Treasurer's Report and Auditor's comments

I am very pleased to present the 2018 financial report for Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre. Our auditor, Vincents, has issued an unqualified audit opinion and this report represents a true and fair view of the financial position of Craft ACT. In the Board of Management's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Federal and Territory governments encourage arts organisations to secure diverse sources of funding. Craft ACT has been successful in recent years in securing grants, sponsorship, ticket sales, donations and commissions in response to this encouragement.

In 2018, Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre finished the year with a \$81,723 surplus, which was a direct result of increases to revenue for the year including a 50% increase in membership revenue. It is imperative to acknowledge and thank our members, sponsors, supporters and donors for their important ongoing contributions.

The increase in grant income was welcome and all grants were expended carefully according to the deeds of agreement, as were all sponsored partnerships. Ticketing revenue was similar to the previous year and a new bookings process and commission fee for DESIGN Canberra introduced another revenue source and streamlined the ticket sales processes. The only area of reduced income was from gallery sales. In part gallery sales can be unpredictable but a greater proportion of artist payments for exhibition sales fell in 2018 which distorts the figure slightly. Retail sales are stable and a good source of revenue and support for members.

Due to changing accounting standards, Craft ACT will establish a dedicated term deposit for surplus funds which will be used to invest in staffing numbers, member development and other areas of high activity for Craft ACT which have not received an increase in budget for several years. In 2018 we invested in an

overdue upgrade of the IT system to improve membership services and conditions for staff. We have also piloted a new online membership database.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our CEO Rachael Coghlan and the Craft ACT staff who have produced an amazing year of results both financial and non financial.

Sam Bryant
Treasurer, Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre

The Treasurer's report was accompanied by Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2018 and auditor comments.

Moved: Rebecca Coronel
Seconded: Rohan Nicol
Accepted unanimously
Carried

6.0 Election of Management Committee

2018 management committee members were:

Graham Humphries, President
Sam Bryant, Treasurer
Agnes Bullard, Secretary/Public Officer
Andrea Ho
Helen O'Neil
Rohan Nicol
Kevin Keith
Lisa Scharoun
Rebecca Coronel (interim board member for Helen O'Neill)
Stephen Cassidy (interim board member for Lisa Scharoun)
Rob Henry (interim board member)
Sari Sutton (interim board member)
Rachael Coghlan

In accordance with the constitution and statutory requirements, all positions were declared vacant. CEO Rachael Coghlan took the Chair for the election of the management committee and the following eight nominations were received:

Graham Humphries, President
Sam Bryant, Treasurer
Sari Sutton, Secretary/Public Officer
Andrea Ho
Rebecca Coronel
Stephen Cassidy
Rob Henry
Julie Ryder

Gilbert Riedelbauch
Rachael Coghlan

There being sufficient vacancies, the meeting elected the above members to the Board of Management unopposed.

Moved: Graham Humphries
Seconded: Agnes Bullard
Accepted unanimously
Carried

7.0 Appointment of Auditor for 2019

Vincent's Audit Pty Ltd was proposed as the Auditor for 2019.

There being no questions or comments from the members present, the Chair confirmed Vincent's Audit Pty Ltd as the Auditor for 2019.

8.0 Other Business

There were no questions raised by members present. The following other business was therefore attended to:

- a. 50th anniversary in 2021
- b. Exhibition call out – closes 31 March
- c. Artist in residence – call out open 5 April
- d. Seeking more member engagement
 - i. Board
 - ii. Artistic excellence committee
 - iii. Membership committee
- e. New funding opportunities for artists (presentations from ArtsACT, CAPO and City Renewal Authority provided following the AGM).