

MINUTES of the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Castlemaine Art Museum (ABN 21 613 667 664) (CAM) held by Zoom on Thursday, 25 November 2021 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Craig Mutton (Director and Chair), Chris McAuliffe (Director and Deputy Chair), Liz Tromans (Director and Secretary), Shane Tregillis (Director and Treasurer), Amanda Jane Jean (Director), Naomi Cass (Gallery Director), Gerard Condon, Anne van Gemert, Hans van Gemert, Pat Grumont, Lyndell Green, Kerry Hansford, Doug Hansford, Melinda Harper, Rosemary Hooke, Ian McShane, George Milford (Trustee), Deborah Ratliff, Patricia Robins, Peter Strang, Kaye Swanton, Chris Wheat.

In Attendance:

Nell Fraser (General Manager)

1. Welcome and introductions

At 6.04pm, there being a quorum present, the Chair, Mr Craig Mutton, declared the meeting open, acknowledged the Dja Dja Wurrung Country on which the Gallery stood and welcomed members, the Director CAM, staff, volunteers, George Milford (Trustee) and fellow Board members to the annual general meeting

The Chair informed members of the order of business for the meeting which included reports from the Chair, the Honorary Treasurer and the Director CAM about the Experimental Print Prize.

The Chair informed members that it had been unnecessary to undertake an election of the vacant Elected Director positions because as at the close of nominations 3 eligible nominations had been received for the 3 vacant Elected Director positions and, under clause 11.2(b)(ii) of CAM's Constitution, the following persons had been taken to be elected to fill the 3 vacant Elected Director positions:

- Dr Chris McAuliffe;
- Ms Tamasine Dale; and
- Ms Melinda Harper.

2. Apologies

Members noted that the Secretary had received apologies from Tiriki Onus (Director), Joanna Parkes, Bishop Jeremy Ashton, Sue Cappy, Judy Annear and Betty Ashton.

3. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on 24 November 2020 and minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 18 February 2021

The Minutes of the third Annual General Meeting of CAM held on Tuesday, 24 November 2020 were received and confirmed.

Moved: George Milford
Seconded: Gerard Condon

There was no business arising from those minutes.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Thursday, 18 February 2021 were received and confirmed.

Moved: George Milford

Seconded: Gerard Condon

There was no business arising from those minutes.

4. Chair's Report for the 2020/2021 Financial Year

The Members noted the Chair's report summarising the key activities for the organisation during the 2020/2021 year, in particular the Chair's acknowledgement of the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic which had resulted in rolling lockdowns and closures during the 2020/2021 year.

The Chair thanked the staff for their diligence and perseverance to ensure that members had the opportunity to remain engaged with the Gallery through the successful 'Reflections' Program which incorporates reflections on aspects of CAM's art and museum by members of the CAM community.

Members also noted that despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic, CAM had staged several exhibitions during 2020/2021 which included:

- From the Land, Cloudy—a few isolated showers;
- Melinda Harper: In Conversation with the Collection;
- Indonesian women artists #Perempuan 2021 – Contemporary Indonesian Art which expanded CAM's horizon; and
- the continuation of CAM's ongoing Orbit series which focuses on artists who live and work in central Victoria and currently features Alvin Darcy Briggs.

Members noted that CAM was looking forward to staging the second of three Experimental Print Prizes from 20 November 2021, an exhibition by Peter Tyndall in the Sinclair Gallery from December 2021, and the return of the Len Fox Painting Prize from March 2022.

Members noted other key achievements during the year, which included:

- continuation of the cataloguing of the major collection and digitisation efforts, supported by the Albert and Barbara Tucker Foundation;
- launch of a new visual identity at CAM along with a new website, developed in collaboration with Art Guide Australia, with the logo building on the strengths of the previous design by

referencing CAM's cherished Art Deco Neo-Classical building while moving to a more contemporary graphic style;

- receipt of a \$100,000 grant with the support of Maree Edwards MP, local member for Bendigo West, which was used to complete a Masterplan for a future building redevelopment;
- completion of the first stage of critical façade remediation works utilising funds received from a Living Heritage grant from Heritage Victoria (\$85,000); and
- receipt of Federal Government funding through the RISE Program (\$267,750) which will enable CAM to deliver the 'Future Beacon' project which will include seven artists' commissions of projections onto the facade of the building, an exhibition of contemporary indigenous art, and an exhibition of prominent artist David Rosetzky.

Members noted the Chair's expression of thanks to CAM's major sponsors and donors, including Creative Victoria, Christine Bell, Peter Lovell, Michael Jan, Konfir Kabo, Project Eleven Foundation and other supporters, including the Mount Alexander Shire, and FOCAM (via its CAM conversations).

Members also noted the special thanks expressed by the Chair to:

- his fellow Board members for their support, including former directors, Mark Sheppard and Jacqueline Millner who had decided to retire from the Board at the expiry of her term;
- dedicated staff members for their work, including Naomi Cass, Nell Fraser and Elizabeth Retallick who, after eight years of committed service had decided to retire; and
- the devoted volunteers, for their on-going service and contributions to CAM.

The Members noted that a summary of the Chair's report was included in CAM's 2020/2021 Annual Report which was available on CAM's website.

5. Treasurer's Report for the 2020/2021 Financial Year

Members noted the Honorary Treasurer's report, from Shane Tregillis who had been appointed to the Board by the Directors in July and assumed the role of the Treasurer upon his appointment. The report highlighted:

- revenue for 2020/2021 was \$492,000;
- a small operating surplus of \$20,530 for the year;
- an increase in net assets to \$492,000 (compared to \$436,000 in 2019/2020);
- the completion of the audit of the financial statements without any major issues arising, including a clear audit report from CAM's Auditor; and
- the projection of a budget deficit of \$60,000 for FY2022 and the ongoing pressure on fundraising capacity which had been hampered by the pandemic; and

- CAM's future sustainability was dependent on donations and continued grant funding from Creative Victoria and Mount Alexander Shire and that government grants were insufficient to cover CAM's on-going operating costs.

Members noted the Treasurer's expression of thanks to the former Treasurer, the General Manager and the Bookkeeper.

Members also noted that a summary of the Treasurer's report had been included in CAM's 2020/2021 Annual Report.

6. Noting of the Annual Financial Statements as presented in the CAM Annual Report

The Members noted the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021, which were included in the 2020/2021 Annual Report.

7. Gallery Director's Report

Naomi Cass acknowledged the Dja Dja Wurrung Country and thanked the Board and the Trustees for their support and provided a special thanks to Nell Fraser for her extraordinary contribution as General Manager.

Members received an oral report from Naomi Cass about the Experimental Print Prize (EPP), during which she thanked Michael Rigg for his commitment and engagement to bring to life his vision to create a prize for artists.

Members noted that:

- the EPP had attracted more entries than on previous occasions, with a total of 145 entries received and 43 works exhibited and overall the exhibition had been extremely well received by the guides and visitors; and
- CAM had been fortunate to attract highly regarded judges (Catherine Pilgrim and Trent Waller) to select the winner of the EPP which had proven to be very difficult because of the high calibre of the works submitted.

Members also noted that FOCAM had funded the 'People's Prize' award of \$500 and that a catalogue of the exhibition photographed by Julie Millowick would be available in the Gallery and on-line.

The Gallery Director encouraged members to visit the Gallery to view the exhibition.

The Gallery Director received and answered questions from members.

8. Questions to directors (including question on notice)

The Chair reported that CAM had received one question on notice prior to the meeting relating to the Masterplan. The question was:

When will the details of the proposed building renovations/upgrades/extensions be made available to members for comment?

The Chair explained that the Masterplan was not a public document and was unable to be shared with any person other than the Board, Management and Creative Victoria. There will be opportunity at the next stage for broad community consultation.

9. Conclusion of formal business

The Chair thanked members for their attendance.

At 6.55pm, there being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed as a true and correct record of the 2021 AGM held on 25 November 2021.



Mr Craig Mutton, Chair
Castlemaine Art Museum