

## MINUTES

### Visual Arts Reference Committee (VARC) Meeting

- Location:** Gunnery Meeting Room, Level 2  
43-51 Cowper Wharf Road, Woolloomooloo
- Date:** Wednesday 28 January 2009
- Time:** 10.00am – 12.00pm
- Attendees:** Maisy Stapleton, Suzanne Bravery, Mimi Kelly, Cath Fogarty, Sarah Woods (M&G NSW), Simon Ambrose, Carina Clement, Greg Hordacre, Sophia Kouyoumdjian, Tristan Sharp, Kath von Witt, Louise Teggart (VARC).
- Chair:** Richard Perram (VARC)
- Minutes:** Zoe Johnson (M&G NSW)

### Outcomes

- Sarah Woods, Programs and Services Officer, now assisting Touring Exhibitions and managing the Consultants Register, was introduced.
- The committee provided feedback on the Draft Strategic Plan. This focussed on the importance of gearing goals towards the constituents; of Museums and Galleries NSW positioning itself as a leader in the area of museums and galleries advocacy; on the clarification of the hierarchy of stakeholders; and on suggesting that the document used more pro-active language.
- Draft Business Plan was reviewed by the committee: Great Collections audiences were conservatively estimated to be 20,000. *Alert!* is well received as an important source of news and opportunities.
- After thanking the committee and M&G NSW for his time as Chair, Richard Perram stepped down.

- **Incoming Touring Exhibition Grants (ITEG), Gallery FocusED and Mentorship/Fellowship updates.** The list of successful Gallery FocusED grant (supported by both Arts NSW and Bluescope) applicants was reported to the committee as was the list of ITEG grant successful applicants. Debbie Abraham, Director Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery was the successful recipient of the fellowship at Manchester City Gallery, UK.
- **M&G NSW 2009 programs update and proposed 2010 programs**  
*Access to funding* and *Planning for Sustainability* were key events as part of the Standards Program. The MoS program will continue in 2009.
- **M&G NSW 2009 – 2010 proposed touring exhibitions update**  
The committee was shown the 2009-2010 touring exhibitions program. All exhibitions are accompanied by education material except one, which is being negotiated. Current and ongoing exhibitions include Tamworth Textile Biennial, Archibald Prize Regional Tour, Parliament of NSW Indigenous Art Prize and Shaun Gladwell: Videowork. Great Collections education kit, catalogue and audio guide were excellent additions to the tour. *There's a War on!* is a touring exhibition currently in development, focusing on the impact of WWII on regional NSW.
- The M&G NSW Exhibitions Register continues to be published twice yearly.

The next meeting will be after June 30 2009.