

SUMMARY & OUTCOMES

Visual Arts Reference Committee (VARC) Meeting

Date: Monday 12 July 2010, 2pm

Chair: Jane Cush (VARC)

Attendees: Tim Braham, Kent Buchanan, Caroline Downer, Oliver Watts, Kath von Witt (VARC), Suzanne Bravery, Rachel Arndt, Lillian Lim (M&G NSW)

Minutes: Asha Bradley (M&G NSW)

Apologies: Donna Brett, Sophie Kouyoumdjian, Mathew Poll and Louise Tegart.

1. Members gave an update on their recent activities and a general discussion on funding opportunities through Arts NSW ensued. The Committee expressed concern over long delays in the announcement of Arts NSW grants.
2. M&G NSW Mentorships and Fellowships were announced and the upcoming program of events, including *Can you handle it?* on 29 and 30 July, and the Museum of Sydney seminar, *Thinking ahead: claiming the creative space* on September 10. M&G NSW will assist with the RPG NSW conference on 22 October at a venue tbc, with the IMAGinE Awards taking place on the same date at the Museum of Contemporary Art. An oral history workshop is currently planned for the end of the year and a sustainability event will be considered for the 2011 program.
3. The current touring exhibition program was tabled with extensive discussion on the *Parliament of NSW Aboriginal Art Prize*. The committee provided feedback on several exhibitions currently in development.
4. NETS lobbying activities were reported on, building on recommendation 13 from the Visual Arts Craft Strategy which was not implemented. The NETS Australia network met in Canberra, met with Minister Peter Garrett and staff from DEWHA. A document stating NETS Australia's case has been developed.
5. VARC and the Museums Reference Committee agreed to convene a joint meeting to address outcomes from the Arts NSW Review of M&G NSW, once released.
6. The next meeting will be on 21 October 2010 at M&G NSW.