



# Minutes Banyule Arts & Culture Advisory Committee 4 November 2021

**Present****Council Officers**

Cr Elizabeth Nealy, Cr Peter Dimarelos, Kath Brackett, Hannes Berger, Steph Neoh

**Committee Members**

Kate Hansen, Genelle Ryan, Joanne O'Hara, Caroline Wall, Leah Crossman, Paul Higgins, Deb Lemcke, Amy Stephenson, June Gassin

**Apologies**

Craig Eloranta, Janelle Dunstan, Kevin Ritchie

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**I. Welcome and Apologies**

Cr Nealy declared the meeting open, acknowledged the traditional owners the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, read the Banyule Diversity Statement and welcomed all present and noted apologies.

- Actions from previous meeting – all were completed.

**2. Art Collection Working Group**

## Acquisition Policy and Activity

- Art Collection Working Group has been formed, with committee members Leah Crossman and Caroline Wall, as well as Cr. Elizabeth Nealy.
- First task of the Art Collection Working Group will be to assist the Art Curator to acquire artworks from the 2021 Banyule Award for Works on Paper.
- Recommendations and discussion will take place in January, with a formal Recommendation brought to February BACAC meeting for endorsement.
- BACAC's endorsement is a requirement of the Banyule Art Collection Policy prior to the recommendation going to Council for approval.

De-accession recommendation – *Sleeping Sentinel* by Leigh Conkie

- Art Collection Working Group has also met to discuss de-accessioning this public art work that has come to the end of its life. The Working Group recommended to BACAC (as per the policy) that the work should be de-accessioned. The artist has been contacted, in accordance with the Art Collection Policy.
- Working Group members spoke on the rationale for the decision: Leah Crossman – (Art & Collections Coordinator, Darebin Council), provided insight on life-span of public artworks and requirements for decommissioning public artworks. Caroline Wall (AMaGA Victoria) endorsed Banyule's policy & process as ethically sound and explained and commended the de-accession process.
- June Gassin – voiced her strong sadness at its loss, expressed a desire to see this public artwork replaced with another at this site.
- Amy Stephenson – speaking as an Ivanhoe resident, used to walk past this sculpture with her small child in a pram, and that her child learnt the word "sculpture" from this artwork! Sad to see it go but recognizes that it is at end of life.
- The committee had a discussion prompted by these illustrations of the value and importance of Public Art, and also the process for commissioning new and replacing existing works.
- Hannes explained the need for Council to develop a Public Art Framework (in addition to the Public Art Policy) to guide decision-making on how Council best directs its resources in this area, in an equitable way. Requests for public art are growing.
- **Unanimous vote taken in support of Recommendation to de-accession *Sleeping Sentinel*.**

**ACTION:** Proceed to decommissioning phase of *Sleeping Sentinel*. Hannes to distribute Art Collection Policy to BACAC.

### 3. COVID Roadmap & the ‘New Normal’

Sector round-up (what are members experiencing in their areas?) Challenges / opportunities / considerations for art & culture this summer:

- Leah Crossman – Darebin – reopening of Bundoora Homestead, managing COVID requirements and anxieties of artists/volunteers/staff, etc.
- Joanne O-Hara – Arts Centre Melbourne– “Play On Victoria” – reopening weekend was very successful, a lot of excitement, with a level of anxiety. Everyone is struggling with the question of how to run events safely. Fortunate to have the Sidney Myer Music Bowl as an outdoor venue.
- Amy Stephenson – ACMI Festivals team – staff burnt out from WFH, and cancelling/planning/rescheduling events, but also a lot of excitement, “full throttle ahead” for December.
- Deb Lemcke – from commercial/retail perspective – staff are nervous about returning, staff burnt out, working hard (community-based events) to work with restrictions/requirements.
- Paul Higgins – Empire Recording Studio – managing reopening studios with studio upgrade construction, exhausted, keeping the business viable, pivoted through lockdown to online sale of equipment. Current challenge of dealing with anti-vax musicians – how to navigate a business, turning away customers, etc. Lost schools programs as well over past 2 years.
- Cr. Nealy – mindset change – do venues have the capacity to socially distance??
- Caroline Wall – chats with regional organisations struggling with loss of volunteer workforce, peoples’ priorities change, life changed during lockdowns, so routines have changed for people.
- Joanne O’Hara – “the great resignation”, people resigning jobs, changing their lives in response to COVID, more able to take risks that they wouldn’t before. Astounded by Paul’s experience of anti-vaxxers, as she has not seen this at the Arts Centre
- Paul Higgins – more anxiety now about contracting COVID than previously – general consensus of nervousness of returning to “normal” life with so many COVID cases around.

### 4. Council Plan 2021 – 2025

Workshop/discussion to explore directions for new A&C Strategic Plan.

- Hannes introduced the Banyule Vision 2041 and next 4-year Council Plan
- 6 Priority Themes in the Council Plan, and many Strategies to achieve these.
- Arts & Culture have reportable actions in 4 of the themes in the next Annual Business Plan
- Discussed the role of the Arts & Culture Strategic Plan and how it supports/embellishes the City Plan and embeds the Cultural Outcomes Framework.
- Recap on Cultural Outcomes and public policy planning.

Discussion:

Committee’s response to Council Vision and Plan?

How to marry the Cultural Outcomes to the Council Plan’s Priority Themes?

What should Banyule’s Arts and Culture priorities be over the next 4 years?

- Paul Higgins – audit of existing artists, etc. Perhaps from finding out WHO is in our community, we can direct WHAT we program/deliver. Find different modes of delivery, for different people, different experiences.
- Leah Crossman – identify and prioritise neighbourhoods in Banyule who are in need of activation or social connection through the arts.
- Genelle Ryan – was there a review of the previous Arts & Culture Strategic Plan?
- Joanne O’Hara – what does the community want? Do they want more festivals, events, writing, music? What do people want?
- June Gassin – seems like the next 6 months will be a transition time, taking into account our new ‘reality’, finding out what kind of activity people are comfortable with in our new reality.

Hannes explained that a review of the previous strategic plan and the process of developing a new plan had not formally started yet.

He said the consultation for developing the Banyule Vision 2041 revealed a strong demand for more arts & culture experiences – consultation to determine what these experiences are will form part of the developing the next plan.

He discussed plans to do an Arts & Culture audit of Banyule (existing venues, activations, programs, public art, etc.) in addition to the community consultation.

Exciting opportunity to explore new possibilities for programming in the next few years!

## **5. What’s On**

- *Germinate* by Felicity Gordon (17 Nov – 5 Dec)
- *Bubbles* by Joe Pascoe & Don Walters (10 Dec – 16 Jan)
- FILM+ (Thurs 18 Nov, 6:30-8:00pm)
- 2021 Banyule Award for Works on Paper (14 January – 13 March 2022)
- Pinpoint Networking Event (2 Dec)
- Carols by Candlelight (Sat 18 Dec)
- Projector Bikes Program (Jan-March)

**ACTION:** Hannes will send out details of all upcoming events and invitations to Pinpoint Artist Networking Event. Steph will provide exhibition postcard invites.

## **6. Other Business?**

MS Teams – Banyule IT has set up functionality for each Advisory Committee to have a private Teams group: for online chats and file sharing. Does BACAC want to utilize this functionality?

Sense from group that multiple channels of communication can be confusing and ‘one more thing to monitor’. Agreement to set it up and trial it but request to continue emailing for important communications.

**ACTION:** Hannes to invite committee to join BACAC Teams Group. Also distribute info on using Teams.

## **7. Meeting Close**

Cr Nealy closed the meeting at 7:47pm

**Next Meeting: Thursday 3 February 2022 – in person, at ILCH.**

## ATTACHMENT I

### WHAT'S ON – NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

#### Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub

- Art Gallery 275 closed for the remainder of 2021
- Loft 275 will operate to Library opening hours in November/December 2021

#### ***The 2021 Banyule Award for Works on Paper – Finalists' Exhibition***

Postponed Exhibition Dates: 14 January – 13 March 2022

Opening Night: Wed 13 January

#### **Germinate**

by Felicity Gordon

**Exhibition Dates: 17 November – 5 December**

Engagement, collaboration and permaculture have long formed the basis of Felicity Gordon's work. *Germinate* invites community members to engage with nature by growing some of their own food. Gallery visitors will be able to sow a food plant seed to germinate at home. By coming closer to nature, visitors will be able to gain an appreciation of the enchanting and naturally occurring systems of decay and renewal. Using collage, worried paper, violent splashes and pools of ink the works mimic microscopic underground communities of bacteria and fungi. It is a mostly unknown world of immense power and diversity.

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#### **Bubbles**

By Joe Pascoe and Don Walters

**Exhibition Dates: 10 December 2021 – 16 January 2022**

*Bubbles* are the collaborative creation of artist Don Walters and poet Joe Pascoe. Bubbles is an every-person character who finds life a little bewildering, but still has wonder and hope. You are invited to join Bubbles and their friends on a joyous adventure together. This exhibition will display the original artworks and the respective poems from a soon-to-be-published book, *Bubbles: On an Island Somewhere South of Paris*, by the creative duo.

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#### **Yarra-me Djila Theatrette @ ILCH**

#### **FILM+ (Experimental Film Nights)**

**Thursday 18 November, 6:30-8:00pm**

**FILM+** is a night of short films and video art curated by local filmmaker Jutta Pryor, via her association with filmmakers and film festivals across the globe. Each event will be themed and presents an international collection at the forefront of experimental film. This is a unique opportunity to discover the latest directions with access to the vision of international filmmakers.

**POETICISM** is the first presentation, a diverse international collection of curated works covering a multitude of personal interpretations of that theme.

Limited Seats, Bookings Essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BSQOR>

**Three A&C Grants funded projects (2020 round) taking place around Banyule:**

**Artsish**

Artsish is a digital art showcase that features, fosters and furthers the work of diverse artists in the Banyule Community. Launching in December, the website will contain stories in the form of podcasts with artists alongside an opportunity to view their artwork online. This one of a kind virtual showcase will stimulate the audience's curiosity and imagination by featuring unique art in all its forms, from music to graphic design and poetry.

Artsish will be launching in December at [www.artsish.org](http://www.artsish.org)

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**Stop, Listen**

Stop, Listen is a public sound art installation by Vincent Giles and Alice Bennett that uses listening shrouds at Yallambie Park and Warringal Parklands, to allow people to intimately listen to the wonder of the environment around them. Inspired by observation of humans engaging with resonant objects, such as seashells, the work will celebrate the abundance of acoustically rich fauna and encourage a stronger auditory connection to place. For more information on dates and locations go to: TBC Banyule event listing page

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**Banyule Walk & Talk**

Banyule Walk & Talk is an exciting new web-series created by local artists Troy Larkin and Lou Endicott that highlights different urban nature walks in Banyule. The idea for the series was born out of the 2020 Covid-19 lockdowns, when the both artists relied heavily on Banyule's green spaces for exercise, mental well-being and a place to recharge and relax. Supported by a Banyule Arts and Culture grant, each five-minute episode explores different local parklands and the historical, cultural and environmental attributes that make each walk unique. For more information go to: <https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Events-activities/Whats-on/Community-events/Banyule-Walk-Talk>

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**PINPOINT ARTIST NETWORKING EVENT**

**Thursday 2 December, 6pm – 7.30pm**

**Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub**

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