

Friends of NERAM Inc (9885114)
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 24th March 2024
at 4:30pm at the New England Regional Art Museum

1. Welcome

Debra Kelliher welcomed members to the meeting. Acknowledgement of Country took place during the meeting.

**Present;
Committee;**

Debra Kelliher (Chair), Trevor Edgar (Deputy Chair), Stephen Halliday (Treasurer), Lynne Walker (Secretary), Julia McCosker, David Rose.

In attendance

Rachael Parsons (NERAM Director)
Paul Akon, Campbell Bastow, Elspeth Belfield, Richard Bird, Phillip Bookallil,
Robert & Anne Clarke, Lou Conway, Bill Dangar, Susie Dunn, Kerry Dunne,
Liz Foster, Paul Gaddes, Sally Hardaker,
Dacre King, Pam Koebel, Judith Laffan, Moira Lloyd, Rose McCarthy,
Andrew Murray, Leanne Pleash, Rosemary Randall, Nan Robertson ,
Martha Saw, Jennifer Taylor, Kim Taylor, John & Wendy Wearne , Graham & Helen Wilson
Lucinda Wright.

2. Apologies

Jack Bedson, Margaret Bain, Barbara Beynon, John Beynon , Ady Hallam, David Hallam, Peter Lloyd
Bruce McCarthy, Jennifer Miller, Liz Spring, Tony Spring, Elizabeth Niven.

3. Declaration of Proxies

Liz Spring appointed Lynne Walker as her proxy

4. Confirmation of AGM Minutes March 2023

It was moved that the minutes of the Friends Annual General Meeting of 27 March, 2022 be confirmed.

Moved: Martha Saw Seconded: Julia McCosker

The motion was passed

5. Chair's Report

Debra read her report and in doing so;

- committed to contributing to NERAM as a significant place of learning in the creative arts and as an iconic institution in the New England
- thanked outgoing committee member Julia McCosker and former committee members Richard Purssey and Deb McKern who had stepped down earlier in the year
- thanked the Fundraising sub committee for their catering and fundraising
- thanked the White Rhino Film Club sub group, Wendy & John Wearne, Mike Gibson, Paul Gaddes and Lynne Walker, for all their work in maintaining and growing such a successful club which has contributed so significantly to FON fundraising income, The International Film Festival was also a great success. The WRFC contributed over \$17,000 to FON funds last year
- acknowledged two other fundraising highlights - the High Tea which raised \$7,500 to conserve one of our Hinton treasures and the NERAMble in October which raised \$11,800
- advised that Friends of NERAM were applying to register as a charity because of newly introduced tax law changes
- congratulated Rachael and her wonderful staff on the creativity and diversity of the exhibitions and activities at NERAM

- thanked the FON members for their response to a recently conducted member survey to which 94% of members responded and for their continued support and attendance.

Debra asked that her report be accepted.

Moved Moira Lloyd Seconded; Richard Bird

The motion was passed

6. **Treasurer's Report – Financial Year ending 31 December 2023**

Stephen presented the audited report for the year prepared by Altitude Business Advisory and highlighted a few points;

- last year showed best financial result for FON since 2014
- there was a good mix of fundraising events
- a new accounting system was introduced in response to members wanting more granularity in accounts.

Stephen then moved that the report be accepted.

Moved: Paul Akon Seconded: Julia McCosker

The motion was passed.

8. **Appointment of Patron and Associate Members**

Debra advised that the following had agreed to continue appointments as Patron and Associate Members.

Director of NERAM – Rachael Parsons

Patron – Angus Nivison

Honorary Solicitor – Greg Moin

Honorary Accountant – vacant

7. **Election of Office Bearers.**

All office bearers vacated the chair with Debra handing over to outgoing member Julia McCosker who declared all positions vacant and proceeded to read out the nominations.

Chairperson – nomination of Debra Kelliher. Nominated by Lynne Walker & Julia McCosker

With the Chair position filled Julia vacated the chair and handed the meeting back to Debra who then read out the other committee nominations.

Deputy Chairperson – nomination of David Rose. Nominated by Lynne Walker & Debra Kelliher

Treasurer – nomination of Stephen Halliday. Nominated by Trevor Edgar & David Rose.

Secretary – nomination of Lynne Walker. Nominated by Debra Kelliher & David Rose

Membership Sec. – nomination of Merran Pearson. Nominated by Lynne Walker & Debra Kelliher

Other Members ;

Trevor Edgar Nominated by Stephen Halliday & David Rose

As there were no other nominations Debra declared the six nominees elected.

9. NERAM Director’s Report

The chair welcomed Director Rachael Parsons who in her report:

- thanked the Friends of NERAM for all their support in all its capacities
- commented that NERAM’s 40th anniversary year was a great year
- reported that 2023 had seen the highest number of visitors with 80,000 visitors through and acknowledged the contributions of the Six Counties restaurant in making NERAM a destination.
- said there were multiple special events including a Long Lunch for FON volunteers
- that there were a number of significant exhibitions including the rehangng of the Hinton exhibition and ending on a high with the Inspirations & Iterations exhibition
- mentioned that the Adopt An Artwork appeal had had its best year yet and thanked the FON
- advised that the masterplanning process for the building to determine what it needs to be for the next 40 years was proving a long process but a lot of progress had been made in the last year and that there should be a decision this year.

Rachael thanked Kim Taylor for her tireless work on the project.

Rachael concluded by thanking Friends for being “heart and soul” of NERAM

Debra thanked Rachael for her report and expressed her thanks and gratitude for Rachael’s leadership and creativity.

11. Presentation of Oarsman Awards

Debra then presented the two Oarsman’s Awards to the two recipients, Kim Taylor and Bob Clarke amid great applause from the audience.

There being no further business Debra thanked everyone for coming, declared the meeting closed and invited all those present to stay for a drink and to vote for one of the three works requiring conservation under the Adopt An Artwork programme which FON will fund. She introduced Curator Jennifer Taylor who explained the history and conservation requirements of the three works which are as follows;

<i>Zinnias.</i>	by Richard Phillips.	Estimated cost	\$8,800
<i>Untitled (beach painting)</i>	by Eliot Gruner	Estimated cost.	\$4,000
<i>Head of Bacon</i>	by Brett Whiteley	Estimated cost.	\$4,000

Trevor explained the voting process and invited everyone to vote. Untitled by Eliot Gruner was the members choice.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm.

Date of 2025 AGM t.b.a.