

**UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.
DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2005 - 2006**

PROJECT SLATE

- **WOLVI SCHOOL ORAL HISTORIES; DOCUMENTATION OF BUTTERFLY HOUSE AND FROG POND and ANI'S LESSON STUDY GUIDE:**

Both projects have not progressed since last report. Used the "Ani's Lesson" video, in a tutorial with Anne Hudson, at QUT School of Cultural and Language Studies in Education Dept., as an example of approaches to including Indigenous content in the classroom. The study guide with video is still a project worth pursuing but we need to find someone who wants to progress it and find funding available.

- **WILPF CONFERENCE NZ - INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN SOUTH PACIFIC VIDEO COVERAGE:**

The footage was intended to be utilised for the QPAC/COLOURISE "You Are Here" event during the 2006 NAIDOC gathering season but this project was abandoned. (Refer report below.) The videos have been used in the Indigenous perspectives in the curriculum project at QUT, and may be used in the video imagery of sequence 7 of the Boxing Art interactive new media installation project. Used some material in delivery of Indigenous Perspectives Unit at QUT.

- **EYE TO EYE - film drama :**

Completed recording of family history of Eva Salam including her departure from her home of 50 years at McAneny Street Redcliffe to a nursing home. Still to make an approach to Zentropa Productions Denmark regarding co-production - development of drama script and Production. Need guidance from Richard Stewart and Llew Cleaver on how to do the approach in terms of international production and Australian financing. Need to do more research on Zentropa to see how developed they want a project to be before considering co-production. Have also access to Eva Peacock's photographic collection 1938 – 2005, which is being archived and stored for the family posterity.

- **QUEENSLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE / COLOURISE – YOU ARE HERE PROJECT**

This project was initiated by Christine Peacock with support from Judith McLean at QUT Performance Studies Dept. The proposal was to produce an event at QPAC during NAIDOC 2006, employing the skills of musician Kev Carmody in a performance which projected and promoted Indigenous perspectives on relationships to land and relationship between people. The project was supported by QPAC from concept development to creative development stages but did not advance due to differences in arts practices. The dominance of prominent arts venues impacts on community arts practice by devaluing the essence of its creative origins, knowledge, processes and objectives.

- **BOXING ART:**

In November 2004, \$20,000 was received from the Australia Council for the Arts New Media Board (before disbanding) to write and plan the production of a new media installation involving artists, boxers and new media and video producers. Meetings began with Keith Armstrong, Laurence English, Archie Moore, Andrew Hill, Carl Fisher and Christine Peacock in 2005 and carried on throughout 2006. The project has been made part of Christine's Masters by Research at QUT in order to allow more focus upon it and support from QUT. A master script of the project has been produced and Keith Andrew and Christine are currently working on the last sequence of the project, number 7, The Contested Space. This sequence will be produced as a test of both the feasibility of the total project for the Australia Council, and a prototype of the project, for the Masters by Research. The project has been delayed recently due to Christine's ill health but it is hoped will pick-up full production again this year. All documents relating to the project are available for inspection on the project Forum at <http://www.colourisedfestival.com.au/uniikup%20projects/>. There is currently a request for a further deadline extension to the end of March, with the Australia Council. The Masters by Research deadline is December 7th 2007 and the project exhibition is planned for October 2007. Members will be advised of the dates of the QUT project exhibition and Christine Peacock's thesis seminar so that they may attend. It is also an intention to approach the Edinburgh Festival for support to produce the whole project, for exhibition there in 2009.

• **COLOURISED FILM FESTIVAL 2006 - Origins:** **COMPLETED JULY 2006**
 (Refer www.colourisedfestival.com website for details.) The Festival this year returned to its origins in Musgrave Park, where it goes intermittently to re-energise with the spirit of the gathering at the NAIDOC family fun day event. BCC has offered \$5000 funding for three years to assist the development of the festival and this was the first payment. This is the first year of that funding and it was used to promote the Festival in our own community during NAIDOC week and curate and exhibit work of Indigenous filmmakers at the Musgrave Park NAIDOC Family Fun Day. The Festival this year collaborated with the Australian Film Commission, exhibiting their Black Screen program of short films. QUT Equity Branch also contributed \$2500 which was spent on publicity materials – postcards and a banner. Holly Smith, Andrew Hill, Alicia Jones and Christine Peacock worked on the organisation, management, publicity, administration and some video recording of NAIDOC events at Inala, Woodridge and Musgrave Park, which we will use in the proposed 2007 festival exhibition – You Are Here. The 2006 Festival Tribute Ceremony was dedicated to Uncle Tollivar Fisher.

• **COLOURISE FESTIVAL 2007 – You Are Here**

Arts funding has been cut considerably for community initiatives across all art forms and the effort to raise money for an event which is not a commercial concern is enormous. River Festival, Brisbane Festival, Music Festival, BIFF and the Dreaming Festival receive the bulk of the funds available and there are also many other small commercially driven events which also receive good audience support. It was intended to build *Colourise* as a consultancy which could interact with these festivals, to input innovative and progressive Indigenous community cultural forms into the events. There is evidence that this is indeed what is happening in the UK (examples Art Angel at Margate in the Exodus project and the new Artistic Director of the South Bank, Jude Kelly), as culture, as an integral part of social well being, is realised within arts organisation and funding criteria. Indeed, the Queensland Government is currently initiating programs with this approach in rural and remote Aboriginal communities. Whether these are and remain superficial programs of bread for the masses in times of social despair and political crisis is yet to be seen.

Given that the Brisbane arts events scene is so competitive in terms of audiences and finances, it is proposed that *Colourise* Festival is scaled down from a large arts event. It is envisaged that it could be a moving picture show, where a vehicle is hired, from which videos/dvds can be projected at designated community exterior spaces, during NAIDOC week. Another proposal was the design and construction of equipment which could be installed into locations where NAIDOC celebrations are staged. Audiences could access and view a curated festival program, as well as engage in an interactive forum to create messages about what they have viewed. Either plan requires money for the event and personnel, which is a problem to procure due to the limitations of arts funding.

2007 marks the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC celebrations so there may well be other opportunities for funds. It also maybe possible to speak with the Australian Film Commission to see if they are interested in supporting such projects so that their Black Screen program is utilised more fully. Black Screen Message Sticks exhibition was staged at the new Dendy Cinema at Hamilton and other similar venues in capital cities around Australia during 2006, indicating a preference for conventional ways of engaging audiences. We have met with Anne Demigero about support from PFTC and involvement with Brisbane International Film Festival but they are also undergoing a review and are unsure when BIFF will be staged in 2007 or what funds would be available.

As part of the ongoing Arts Queensland funded consultancy arrangement with Cathy Hunt at Positive Solutions, regarding development of the *Colourise* Festival, we are discussing these proposals and ways to progress the Festival in general, as well as the realistic possibility of a *Colourise* cultural consultancy.

• **MARGATE TO MARGATE PROPOSAL**

During a symposium "Of The South" organised by Christine Morris at Griffith University in July 2006, Paul Carter of University of Melbourne was approached to see if he was interested in the development of a project which opened up a dialogue through a series of projects – visual arts, new media installation, internet, performance, music, - involving community organisations,

people and artists in Britain and Indigenous counterparts in Australia. The idea is to focus upon perspectives on relationship to land and the history and outcomes, which link Margate in Britain and Margate in Redcliffe, Queensland. Paul was interested in this project. We also contacted John Phillips at the London Print Studio to see if they would be interested in collaborating on such a project. These contacts also lead us to Jenny Lowe at Brighton University in the UK. She is an Australian and a friend of Paul Carter; and London Print Shop also has an education/training contract with Brighton Uni. We also spoke with Keith Armstrong, a principal artists on the Boxing Art project, about involvement. We are working at advancing this project in 2007 and making it and Boxing Art a reality in 2009.

- **WORK WITH KEITH ARMSTRONG – EMBODIED MEDIA.**

We first worked with Keith on obtaining new CD rom production skills, through a QPIX scheme in February 2001. The current work with Keith on the interactive new media installation project Boxing Art, marks another turning point in Uniikup work, brought about by new technology. We expect to continue this relationship with Keith with other similar projects.

- **MURRIIMAGE COMMUNITY WORK**

Jiran Indigenous Women's Conference – 18-19th October, New Farm, Brisbane

Provided video coverage of this conference under the Murriimage policy of assistance to organisations and individuals who do not have funds to document their events. Kumara Association paid for the cost of mini dv tapes and gas for the vehicle.

- **EULOGY – UCLE TOLLIVAR FISHER**

As part of the *Women and Men of High Degree* documentation project, the life and times of Tollivar Fisher was recorded. Uncle Tollivar passed away on the 26th September 2006, after a long illness of bowel cancer. The video footage was edited to create an eulogy at the funeral, at Uncle Tollivar's request.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Andrew Hill has been working with Uniikup under the Community Development and Employment Program. He has attended courses at the Australian Film Television and Radio School, Brisbane to advance his computer technology skills: AFTER EFFECTS COMPOSITING, 21 – 23 April 2006; Seminar: Developing Content for Mobile Phones 2nd September 2006, with Rebecca Pitt, who was the animator on the "Boy and Moth" production. Andrew is currently working on the Boxing Art interactive media installation project under the supervision of Keith Armstrong and has received a total of \$2000, to date, for work undertaken on that project. Uniikup also provided access to a four wheel drive vehicle to Andrew while he was assigned to Uniikup under the CDEP scheme, to make up for work undertaken that could not be waged.

Jane Williamson at Bridgestone Training has offered Andrew CDEP work at Bridgestone Training and Employment (a Sisters of Mercy company) to update their webpage, and will top up his wage to \$32,000. He will also have the opportunity to obtain certificates for computer training, work on his own projects and go onto full time employment with Bridgestone at some time in the future. Jenny Fraser has also sought assistance from Andrew for her exhibition projects and Andrew has other projects which he is also developing.

OPERATIONS/ ADMINISTRATION:

- **BUSINESS PLAN**

The Arts Qld supported creation of a business plan to further develop Colourised Festival, with Cathy Hunt of Positive Solutions, has changed its objective. Rather than a definitive strategic plan type document Uniikup is now in on-going consultation with Cathy about the best way to progress "Colourise" as a cultural consultant and producer for other festivals as well as run Colourise Festival at a more manageable level bi-annually. Further work on this has stalled over the past six months due to other commitments but will be taken up again in 2007. Other members of Uniikup will be consulted in this process for ideas and direction.

- **CULTURAL ORGANISATION AND GIFT DEDUCTIBLE RECIPIENT STATUS:**

Changes have still to be made to the Constitution to obtain this status and hopefully there may be some assistance available to complete this in 2007. This will allow us to apply for a wider range of funding for projects.

OTHER MATTERS:

- **BOY AND MOTH EXHIBITIONS:**

Jenny Fraser included this Colourise Festival commissioned production in her Nocturnal and Other APT exhibitions in Darwin and Brisbane respectively. This has allowed the artists, John Graham and Rebecca Pitt and producer Christine Peacock, as well as the Festival and Uniikup Productions considerable exposure and promotion. The support that Jenny has provided to artists and Uniikup in this way, she does for many other people and we are greatly indebted. A fee of \$200 was paid to each artist involved. Christine Peacock's fee was deposited in the Uniikup administration account to help with bills.

- **AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION BLACK SCREEN EXHIBITION – MESSAGE STICK EXHIBITION**

Emelda Davis, the manager of the Black Screen program at the AFC, invited Uniikup to assist with the Message Sticks exhibition at the new Dendy Theatre at Hamilton. A fee of \$200 was paid to Uniikup for assistance provided. This also provided good exposure for the Colourise Festival. The Message Sticks exhibition enjoyed excellent support from local audiences in Brisbane and the cross-fertilisation of audience and publicity will hopefully improve audience numbers at the 2007 Colourise, *You Are Here* event.

- **QUEENSLAND INDIGENOUS FILMMAKERS INITIATIVE 2004 - 2007:**

A documentary report of the digital video coverage of the Queensland Indigenous Filmmakers Conference (2004) is being edited by Christine Peacock and Llew Cleaver, who has also provided a summary of the outcome of this initiative.

- **4AAA – BRISBANE INDIGENOUS MEDIA ASSOCIATION and QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY ARTS NETWORK BOARD OF MANAGEMENT and BRIZ31 COMMUNITY TV PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE:**

Christine Peacock remains on the management committee of BIMA but resigned from QCAN and Briz31 committees due to lack of time available. Tiga Bayles is also on the Briz31 committee. These appointments provide Uniikup with good networking opportunities. The organisations are undergoing changes due to funding cut backs but are able to sustain their operations.

- **CHRISTINE PEACOCK - employment and health**

Christine Peacock went on leave without pay from QUT on the 18th September 2006 to focus on masters by research and the research project Boxing Art, as well as to attend to family commitments. She is now sessional staff and has a shared office, L218, in Performance Studies and access to library and other faculties at the university. She is currently receiving support from Abstudy until the Masters completion date on 7th December 2007. An Indigenous Scholarship Christine receives expires on 30th June 2007 at the same time as her employment contract. Christine has also experienced chronic health problems since going on leave without pay and is currently receiving medical treatment. The health problems have caused considerable delays to her Masters studies, Boxing Art Project and Colourise Festival organisation.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The ongoing state of Indigenous Affairs in Australia is the result of colonisation and globalisation of our society, economy and environment - which is a microcosmic reflection of what is being experienced across the globe. Past and recent events indicate that many Australians seem content to keep their heads stuck in the sand of the wonderful beaches their ancestors invaded in their flight from the situations created in their countries of origin. In search of opportunities to improve social standing and prosperity, at any cost, we are experiencing the results of an

increasingly valueless and ethicless society. Many more people continue to flood into the country with the same intention. This situation is of great concern to all.

Uniikup/ Murrimage has survived for 22 years by gradually reducing production, projects and overheads in response to decreased funding and work availability, by adoption of new technologies and has relied upon countless hours of voluntary work, to maintain a media service which can stand independent of the commercially driven, American and Australian corporate/government controlled media system in Australia. This has given us the unenviable privilege of devising and creating work which is politically and culturally relevant to, and reflective of, Indigenous society in the place where, and time in which, we are working.

What are others doing in such a predicament? Should, and how do we continue to undertake such projects and employ these processes to sustain our culture, knowledge, environment, society and spirituality?

**CHRISTINE PEACOCK
PRESIDENT
UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20/01/2007**