

**UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT 2006 - 2007
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 29/03/08**

Due to full-time Masters by Practice Lead Research studies undertaken by Christine Peacock at Queensland University of Technology, Creative Industries Faculty, the status of many of the projects have not altered from that of the 2005-06 report. Details from that report are therefore repeated below, and updated.

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 and also screened at the Colourise Focus on Community Filmmaking event with BIFF on 10/8/07. **The projects, Butterfly House Documentary and Ani's Lesson Video with Study Guide, unfortunately, have become obsolete due to advances in technology, and were therefore terminated.** The footage is with Wolvi State School.

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

These videos have been used by Christine Peacock as teaching tools, in the Indigenous perspectives in the curriculum project at QUT. The footage would provide a very useful training tool from a political, historical and cultural perspectives. This is an area still to be explored by Uniikup Productions Ltd. in terms of the whole Uniikup Optical Media Collection.

- **EYE TO EYE - feature film (drama) proposal:**

Ongoing recording of family history of Eva Salam including her departure to a nursing home from her home of 50 years at McAneny Street Redcliffe, on Sunday 8th October 2006. Have an idea to approach Zentropa Productions Denmark regarding co-production - development of drama script and production of feature film. Eva Peacock's grandfather was Thomas Randolph who came into the Straits to work the pearling industry in the 1800s. It is believed he came from Denmark which is similar to Torres Strait region in that it is a nation of islands. Need guidance from Producer Richard Stewart (a member of Uniikup) on how to make 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 large family photographic collection 1938 – 2005, which is being archived and stored for the family posterity.

- **SITE/ SIGHT/ CITE (Boxing Art)**

In November 2004, \$20,000 was received from the Australia Council for the Arts, New Media Board (before disbanding), to create a feasibility study - 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 and part of 2007 with Mary Graham as Cultural Advisor. In order to allow both more focus upon it and support, the project was been made part of Christine Peacock's Masters by Practice Lead Research at Creative Industries Faculty of QUT. As part of the practice lead research approach, the project evolved from a broad description of a new media installation, to a master script of the entire project and a detailed treatment of the final sequence of seven planned sequences of the installation project. The project then underwent reconsideration of the objectives and outcomes in terms of real benefits to community. This lead to consideration of adapting the project to the development of the Murri Mura Centre premises at 36 Cordelia St. South Brisbane, which presented an opportunity to consider long term benefits and developments for community and so the project has consequently changed accordingly. Unfortunately it has been necessary to withdraw this proposal from the Murri Mura Aboriginal Corporation due to complex issues confronting its development. However it is intended to take another, similar, approach to the project in consultation with members of the Uniikup Board of Directors and business plan consultant Positive Solutions.

The original project had as its core the expression through new media, of complex Aboriginal concepts of relationship to land and to each other, and extended to how this concept could be applied to the development of sites of significance for the Indigenous community.

The Australia Council has consented to a completion deadline extension to the end of July 2008 and the Masters completion is June 2008. Members will be advised of the dates of the QUT Masters seminar so that they may attend. This project is a trial to develop possible business partnerships for Colourise/Uniikup productions.

All documents relating to the project soon will be available for inspection on the Uniikup Projects Forum site at <http://www.colourisedfestival.com.au/uniikup%20projects/>.

- **COLOURISED FILM FESTIVAL 2007 – you are here** **COMPLETED JULY 2007**
- **COLOURISE BIFF 2007 – you are here** **COMPLETED AUGUST 2007**

Refer www.colourise.com.au for details and attached Festival Report. The Colourise Festival made significant progress this year in that the NAIDOC gathering season event extended to include a partnership with the Brisbane International Film Festival which will be on-going. The experience from this years Festival developments has contributed considerably to being able to create a realistic business plan. (Refer Colourise Festival 2008 below.)

- **COLOURISE 2008**

It is intended to seek funding for event staffing from BCC, Australian Film Commission and Pacific Film and Television Commission. It is becoming more difficult to engage people with the level of skills required to plan, organise and stage the event, due to insufficient funding to support the Festival. Holly Smith, Festival Manager in 2005, 06 and 07 was not able to continue her commitment to the Festival because there was not a realistic wage for her employment. Christine Peacock intends to meet with Deb Bennett and Nancy Bamaga to discuss this problem and enquire who is available that could assist the economics and management of the event. The completion of the business plan is expected to assist in identifying sponsors and funding sources and it is also now a matter of urgency that we pursue the classification of Uniikup as a cultural organisation with the Dept of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts, Register of Cultural Organisations. This will provide Tax Deductible Gift Recipient status which will broaden the scope of funding sources available. The business plan will also assist to define the areas of Colourise/Uniikup activity which can generate income. The activities of Uniikup have been developed over a period of 23 years on a self-determination and economic and political independence basis, and experience teaches that it is a long term commitment to identify, build and sustain (involving a high level of adaptability) the means to attain this achievement in a colonised country.

- **COLOURISE FESTIVAL 2008**

It is intended to partner with existing events throughout the Brisbane Indigenous community, during the NAIDOC Gathering Season to screen a selection of films; and to approach Avid Bookshop West End and Toganinis at SLQ to promote the Festival and Indigenous Filmmaking. It is also intended to participate in the NAIDOC Musgrave Park Family Fun day, seeking to screen some appropriate short films on the big central screen at select times during the day. The Tribute Ceremony will also be held in the Park.

- **COLOURISE BIFF 2008**

Christine Peacock is currently negotiating the following proposal with the Director of BIFF and seeking funds to support the program. A further meeting is planned for the 2nd April.

31st july – 10th august

**2008 INDIGENOUS INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL GUESTS OF COLOURISE BIFF
EVENT:**

Spencer Martin of the Methow people, Washington State, USA, presents his film "Two Rivers" and takes part in a Seminar with Australian Gunditjmara man, Richard Frankland (refer Retrospective Screening below) and other BIFF International guests.

Some 10 years ago, almost by accident, a handful of whites and Native Americans in the Northwest began meeting together to find out why relationships between Natives and non-Natives are virtually nonexistent outside of courtrooms. "Two Rivers" documents their discoveries, as they grappled with the radical differences between the two cultures, and faced the pain and anger Indians feel because of racism, hypocritical and greedy American policies, and the serious harm Indian schools have inflicted on Native families and culture. The results of this groups' work together is astonishing and touching people on both sides. It's changing lives, impacting communities and affecting race relations in the Northwest, perhaps even across America. Dur: 57min (Not rated.)
<http://www.greenleafstreet.com>

SEMINAR - FOCUS on FILM AS FORMATIVE MEDIA (BIFF VENUE)

American political activist and writer Noam Chomsky cites creative arts as the place where intuition and consciousness meet to express fundamental aspects of being human. Such expression crosses the broad spectrum of political and social organisation, moral and ethical action and personal and public answerability. Russian philosopher Mikhail Bakhtin created theory which illuminates the need for open and tolerant societies through dialogue. National and international filmmakers and prominent guest speakers attending at BIFF will gather at a seminar to discuss the power of influence and aesthetics in their work, on social, political, cultural and environmental issues, in a globalised environment.

SCREENINGS: BIFF VENUE/ S

Spencer Martin of the Methow people, Washington State, USA, presents:
"Two Rivers "

RETROSPECTIVE: The Work of Richard J. Frankland

<http://www.goldseahorse.com.au/Text/1058420041570-7693/Richard-J.-Frankland>

- **SONGLINES** documentary – co-writer and director
- **NO WAY TO FORGET** short film - director
- **AFTER MABO** documentary – writer producer director
- **HARRY'S WAR** short film – writer producer director
- **THE CONVINCING GROUND** documentary – writer producer director

• **MARGATE TO MARGATE PROPOSAL**

Background: 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 Architect, 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 artist on the Boxing Art project, about involvement. Christine Peacock met with Jenny Lowe in Brisbane on the 23rd February 2007. We are hoping to advance this project in 2008 and make it and a reality by 2010.

- **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 project at Murri Murra Centre premises marks another turning point in UniiKup work, brought about by new technology. We expect to continue this relationship with Keith with other similar projects with Embodied Media.

- **BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL ARTISTS IN THE MALL PROGRAM – TREE V PROJECT**



(motif design by Tiffany Beckwith-Skinner)

Submission INDEX

P 1	Introducing <i>TreeV</i>
P 2	Applicant Information
P 5	Detailed Outline of the Project
P 9	Target Audience & Mall Position
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Letters of support:

Deb Bennet, Manager, QCAN Indigenous Program
Cathy Hunt Positive Solutions
Zane Trow, Assoc. Prof. QUT Creative Industries

A New Media Arts installation, ideally situated in the Queen Street Mall,

**treeV brings Indigenous infotainment
to the Brisbane cultural landscape,
screened in a tree style, urban iconic structure,
symbolising, and making more tangible,
Indigenous culture,
relationship to land and each other.**

**A collaboration of Indigenous & non-Indigenous artists,
in the spirit of reconciliation,**

**treeV proposes, over 12 months, and beyond,
to develop a digital media program, which
promotes community artists and practices, including:
screening films, visual arts and new media arts projects;
infotainment for residents and visitors about country, language,
events, organisations, places;
documentary artists & storytellers local history -
on this day and treevia programs;
poets' and cartoonist's digital greetings service for the general public and
landscape photographers' local weather, time & a news services.**

This was a very strange experience. Submission was handed in on the closing date 20th April 2007 and information sought thereafter regarding the processing of the applications, by phone and email. We were told originally that we would be advised within a month of the outcome of the submission and that it was very original and looking good. Then communication went dead and we did not hear about the results until we telephoned the BCC project officer. We were then advised that they wanted us to resubmit with more details about how we would produce and manage the project. In the meantime, a similar project was supported in the Mall and we were asked if we wanted to produce material for it. TreeV is now part of the the above SITE/ SIGHT/ CITE (Boxing Art) proposal above mentioned.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Andrew Hill who had been working with Uniikup under the Community Development and Employment Program, has taken employment in the training sector, working for a construction company. He continues to assist Uniikup with computer technology.
- Jenny Fraser has been promoting and exhibiting the 2005 Uniikup commissioned animation "Boy and Moth" at many national and international events. Jenny's contribution to enhancing the profile of Uniikup, and the artists involved in the production of that work, has been of great benefit and we are very grateful for the commitment to the objectives and the voluntary work that she contributes to small Indigenous organisations and artists, not only in Australia but in the Pacific and other international locations.

OPERATIONS/ ADMINISTRATION:

- **COLOURISE BUSINESS PLAN (refer also Site/Sight/Cite above)**

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 creating only a definitive, strategic plan type document, Uniikup entered an on-going consultation relationship with Cathy. Uniikup is developing "Colourise" as a cultural consultant and producer for other festivals, as well as running Colourise Festival at a more manageable level. Further work stalled during 2007 due to other commitments but will be completed early in 2008. Members of Uniikup will be consulted when the first draft business plan is complete.

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

Changes have still to be made to the Constitution to obtain this status. Kendall Salzman kindly went through and updated on the requirements and hopefully there may be some assistance available to complete this in 2008. This will allow us to apply for a wider range of funding for projects.

- **PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE:**

An application for **NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATIONS PUBLIC & PRODUCTS LIABILITY INSURANCE** is with AON, Level 6, 175 Eagle St, Brisbane – Tel: 3223 7596, email christine.reith@aon.com.au. Funds for the insurance are still difficult to locate due to insufficient operational funding.

- **UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD. DIGITAL EDITING SUITE**

This equipment was moved from Wolvi to Maleny in July 2007 to the Mediatrix facility. This provided more security as the Wolvi office is often unattended. We are now able to negotiate with Mediatrix for video editing work to be done at no, or reduced, costs.

- **RESIGNATION OF LLEW CLEAVER FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Llew Cleaver has decided to live in the USA and formally resigned from the Board. He will be replaced at the AGM. Llew will continue to work in film and television in the USA and is willing to keep in contact with Uniikup and continue to assist with production work wherever possible.

- **WWW.COLOURISE.COM.AU**

The organisation website has been kept up-to-date throughout the year. It has had many hits particularly around the Colourise Festival period.

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 work with the Message Sticks exhibition at GOMA in 2007 however we were unable to assist due to other commitments. The night was a success with good community support.

- **4AAA/BRISBANE INDIGENOUS MEDIA ASSOCIATION, MUSGRAVE PARK CULTURAL CENTRE and MURRI MURA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

Christine Peacock remains on the management committees of BIMA and was appointed onto the boards of the MPCC and MMAC in 2007. Christine has resigned from the MMAC Board of Management. Current developments in all these organisations in South Brisbane/ West End, make for good opportunities for community development alliances and partnerships leading to stronger progress.

- **SUCCESSION**

This is a problem faced by management and the boards of all our community organisations at present. It is hoped that people will be encouraged to identify themselves to take over Uniikup to continue to produce media arts in Brisbane. It is hoped the Board for 2007 – 08 will be able to be more active in the planning and projects of the organisation and that they will engage with the organisation to benefit their endeavours as well. It would be good to plan a means to draw more young people to community organisations by creating events or projects which target them.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The demise of the Howard lead Liberal Coalition government, should gradually bring about the repair and relief of the heightened level of stress on Aboriginal communities and families, and open up more development possibilities.

Developments in the Brisbane Indigenous community are very promising but need the level of financial support required to make them successful. Uniikup could play a catalyst role by offering to convene a meeting of organisations to discuss a joint approach to State and Federal governments to promote their business. It would be worth exploring ways to negotiate with government, for support for the level of development that these organisations aspire to and which, if provided, can progress the Brisbane Indigenous community in the area of culture and arts, to effectively impact on community employment and social issues, and the attraction of the State's capital city. We could also negotiate support from the Creative Industries faculty and QUT and other institutions and sponsors to support the meeting/s.

As an introduction to such an initiative, organisations could take a lateral approach to leadership and development by planning a series of community engagement talks together at e.g. community meetings, the Murri School, through the University Aboriginal Units and at other appropriate events like NAIDOC in Musgrave Park, discussing their histories of development, their current work, and plans. Making hay while the sun shines? We could also approach migrant organisations to do the same, so beginning to educate new people to the country, and open up the possibilities of partnerships, in the right and in a positive way, thus spreading and sharing the strength of Indigenous culture.

**CHRISTINE PEACOCK
PRESIDENT
UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.**