

**UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT 2007 - 2008
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2/05/09**

PROJECT SLATE

• **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. Negotiating with MPCC re screening these interviews at 2009 Musgrave Park NAIDOC event Friday 10th July as much of the information is relevant to plans for that day, in line with Brisbane being host city for NAIDOC 2009.

• **EYE TO EYE - 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 and her care being undertaken by daughter Janece at her home in Petrie in January 2009. Investigating the idea of an ebook project, from a link provided by Jenny Fraser: <http://www.dawnatmyback.com/>. This idea supercedes the idea of the project being produced on video.

• **PROPOSAL**

This project was originally proposed as part of Colourise Festival 2007 – *you are here*. Restricted time and funds make it impossible to proceed with the project. However, with Tamara Whyte now a board member who has interests in creating performance projects, *Proposal* is reinstated to the Uniikup project slate to be further developed as a Colourise event. Inspired by the classic play of Russian playwright, Anton Chekhov, this is a proposal for the Australia of the future, firmly grounded in the culture of the present and the past. It is intended that the performance features video documentation in the Brisbane Indigenous community dating back to 1986, live art performers, visual artists and musicians. A unique media arts event, "Proposal" will have you laughing at relationships and rethinking positions on land and boundaries.

• **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 with involvement from Jenny Fraser and with Mary Graham as Cultural Advisor. In order to allow more focus upon it and support, the project was made part of Christine Peacock's Masters by Practice Lead Research at Creative Industries Faculty of QUT. A preliminary website housing the concept development was constructed at the colourise website domain and is currently under examination along with the exegesis written about the work. Access to the preliminary website *site_sight_cite* is via a tab on the menu of the Colourise website www.colourise.com.au and is not available for public viewing until both examination procedures are complete and the concept has been discussed with local custodians. Jagera and Turrbul have made representations in court for a decision on the legal registration as traditional owners of the land where the *site_sight_cite* project is proposed, and it is estimated that the court case will not be finalised until early 2010. Further extensive research is required for the project which is described on the website at the *site_sight_cite* tab. It is a large and ambitious media arts project, estimated to require up to \$300,000 to come to fruition. Financing the project is part of the further extensive research required and which will commence in July 2009.

UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD. DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT 2007 – 2008 continued
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 02/05/2009

Completion deadline for the Australia Council funded component of *sight\site\cite*, "Contested Space" (previously "Boxing Art") is 30th June 2009. Keith Armstrong, Andrew Hill and Christine Peacock are working on a test installation as part of the project feasibility study, which will be contained in the report to the Australia Council. Uniikup Board and Membership were invited to view Keith Armstrong's installation "knowmore" at the State Library Queensland to get an idea of the Contested Space project.

- **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 led 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. *site\sight\cite* precedes and paves the way for the development of the Margate project which would commence in 2011.

- **COLOURISE FESTIVAL 2008 – *generations***

COMPLETED JULY 2008

Refer www.colourise.com.au for details and attached Festival Report. In 2008 the Colourise Festival was conducted in accordance with the research undertaken as part of a business plan, supported by Arts Queensland. The business plan has been undertaken in consultation with Cathy Hunt of Positive Solutions. The business plan is part of an on-going consultancy project to determine the most appropriate framework for the successful and sustainable staging of a media arts festival, as a shared cultural experience that is part of *N.A.I.D.O.C.*, an expanding, annual Indigenous community gathering season event. Board and Members of Uniikup will be consulted for input when the first draft business plan is complete.

The management team focused upon development and delivery of *Colourise*, as an event which exhibits films and videos in Indigenous inspired and created environments in which other art forms are included. The event is also designed to be a catalyst for creation of partnerships with community, corporate and government bodies to promote and engender Indigenous community screen culture and practices. The 2008 event, entitled *generations* sought to examine the current environment, support, potential partners and suitable locations, for the continuation of the event.

Limited time prevented the required level of focus upon the event to address planning, organisation and staging, which could increase funding support. It is proposed that the consultancy project with Positive Solutions will be completed in 2009, with a plan that will effectively develop and sustain the objectives that the Festival has focused upon over five years.

- **ColouriseBIFF 2008**

COMPLETED AUGUST 2008

Refer www.colourise.com.au at the BIFF tag on the main menu, for event details and report. The ColouriseBIFF program was curated in partnership with BIFF Executive Director Anne Demy-Geroe from a selection of work Anne accessed for the 2008 Festival.

UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD. DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT 2007 – 2008 continued
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 02/05/2009

Colourise proposed to BIFF (which successfully raised funds) to host Native American, Methow community spiritual leader, Spencer Martin, who had brought about the production of the documentary *Two Rivers Pow Wow*. The seminar *Focus on Film as Formative Media* opened discussion on the formative nature of films and their effect upon society in a globalised world. The opening of ColouriseBIFF, with a welcome to country by traditional owner and custodian Stan Smith of the Jaggera people, and an introduction to country by Eurahaly-i man, Chris Hubbard, set the tone for a positive and thoughtful exchange at the ColouriseBIFF Seminar. Guest filmmakers were Spencer Martin (USA), Debbie Carmody (WA), Nancy Tait (NZ), Jeni Thornley (Tas), Penny Saxon (Tas and Vic), Adoor Gopalakrishnan (India), and Andrew Pike (Australia), with an almost capacity audience at GoMA Cinema B. The seminar was followed by a welcome gathering at the Festival Club in the Regent's Theatre with bush food refreshments provided by Dilly Bag and event and hospitality trainees who were engaged through Nancy Bamaga and Bridgeworks training. The gathering provided an ideal opportunity for international networking and engagement with the Brisbane Indigenous community; an opportunity not usually available at such events.

- **COLOURISE FESTIVAL 2009 - *beTween***

The establishment of National Indigenous Television service has limited the effectiveness of screening work produced for broadcasting by Indigenous people. Responding to these changes Colourise Festival as a screen culture based event needs to re-assess its program for 2009. Working with local NAIDOC event organisers to develop and enrich their programs remains an objective and the program for Colourise Festival 2009 – *beTween*, will be devised in consultation with these partners accordingly. The Festival is partly funded by BCC and the Pacific Film and Television Commission. Some work for screening will be sourced through Black Screen now conducted by the National Film and Sound Archive.

It also remains a matter of urgency that the work commenced last year to pursue the classification of Uniikup as a cultural organisation with the Dept of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts, Register of Cultural Organisations, is finalised. This will provide Tax Deductible Gift Recipient status which will broaden the scope of funding sources available. The plan devised with Positive Solutions will also assist focus upon the areas of Colourise/Uniikup activity which can generate income.

- **ColouriseBIFF 2009**

Christine Peacock is currently negotiating a proposal with the Director of BIFF to screen international Indigenous films with some Indigenous Australian productions with a comparison of approaches, content and context taken up in the Seminar (see below). ColouriseBIFF, funded by BCC, creates the opportunity for debate to be raised on various issues, both through the films screened and a specially formulated seminar event. Funds for the BIFF event are subject to the current economic downturn and guests for the ColouriseBIFF 2009 event will be affected accordingly.

Seminar: screen global – shoot local (GoMA – BIFF venue)

Indigenous Australians and Canadians have maintained a concerted campaign to government to achieve recognition and funding to ensure the Indigenous presence in the media. In many other countries films are still made about Indigenous peoples and there are similarities between these productions due to the structure of training, funding and programming in the film and television industries. This seminar provides the opportunity to address these issues.

Screenings: BIFF VENUE/ S to be advised.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- > Andrew Hill has continued to work with Uniikup on the construction of the site_sight_cite preliminary website. Andrew has advanced skills in computer technology which are not recognised due to his being self-taught for 16 years. Being part of the *site\sight\cite* project provides him with industry credits and evidence of his abilities. Andrew is also working with Keith Armstrong on the “contested space” installation. Andrew continues to assist Uniikup with computer technology and funds are sought to employ Andrew on a project to preserve and restore the Uniikup Optical Media Collection.
- > Jenny Fraser has continued to promote and exhibit 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 work of John Graham, writer, and Rebecca Pitt, animation artist, 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 to artists, not only in Australia but in the Pacific and other international locations.

OPERATIONS/ ADMINISTRATION

• **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 in 2007 and Tamara Whyte, Leah King-Smith and Christine Peacock continued with the work until other commitments overtook their efforts. The work will commence again in May 2009. Successfully gaining tax deductible gift recipient status will allow us to apply for a wider range of funding for projects.

• **PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE**

A policy for not-for-profit organisations public & products liability insurance was taken out with AON, Level 6, 175 Eagle St, Brisbane – Tel: 3223 7596, email christine.reith@aon.com.au for 2008 and 2009. Funds for the insurance are still difficult to locate due to insufficient operational funding. During the Colourise Festival public liability is covered by event and organisers or venues.

• **UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD. DIGITAL EDITING SUITE; RECORDING & SCREENING EQUIPMENT**

Equipment was moved from Maleny to Brisbane in 2008 and is currently housed at QUT, by kind support of Keith Armstrong, until premises can be located from which Uniikup can operate. This facility is being used with the *site\sight\cite* project and will be used with the proposed preservation of the Uniikup Optical Media Collection project. It is available for Uniikup members to access at any time and can be arranged with Christine Peacock.

• **NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Nancy Bamaga, Andrea Fisher and Andrew Hill joined the board at the AGM in March 2008. As there has not been a lot of activity in the organisation over the past 12 months meetings between Directors relating to Colourise Festival and the development of *site\sight\cite* have been conducted by phone.

• **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. The registration of the domain

**UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD. DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT 2007 – 2008
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 02/05/2009**

name was changed from IT Distribution to MDWebhosting where the Colourise website domain is hosted.

OTHER MATTERS

• **4AAA/BRISBANE INDIGENOUS MEDIA ASSOCIATION and MUSGRAVE PARK CULTURAL CENTRE**

Christine Peacock resigned from the management committees of BIMA and is on leave of absence from the board of the MPCC. The economic downturn and current developments in many organisations in South Brisbane/ West End, make for good opportunities for community development alliances and partnerships leading to stronger progress.

• **SUCCESSION**

This is an ongoing problem faced by Uniikup management. As people identify themselves Uniikup will continue to be managed by community people wanting to produce media arts in Brisbane. It is hoped the Board will be more able to be active in the planning and projects of the organisation in 2008 – 09 and that they will engage with the organisation to benefit their own 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. This year's NAIDOC theme of Elders and Youth provides the opportunity for the Colourise Festival to engage more with Youth and Elders. Uniikup was able to do this through the production of videos in the past and needs to renew and strengthen this aspect of its work.

• **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

There are many and various developments in the community happening through organisations like BIMA and Indigenous Directions and Development as well as Kumara Association; and projects like the BCC Coolamon cultural program and a June 09 conference on Building Community Centred Economies: dialogue for action, organised by the Foresters Community Finance Institution, which formulates activities to channel capital into under-served markets that would have difficulty securing finance from mainstream financial institutions. Carbon Media, a new privately owned and operated Aboriginal new media agency and content creator business, is receiving assistance from QUT in its developments; and the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce is forging ahead. The effects of the economic downturn are still to be felt and sustainment of community organisations and development may bring about community meetings which have been sadly missing from the scene for the past few years. At these meetings we got to know what was going on where and with whom and shared intelligence on funding opportunities, developments and sustainment.

Hopefully in 2009 organisations will begin to take a lateral approach to leadership and development with maybe a series of community engagement talks together at e.g. community meetings, the Murri School, or through the University Aboriginal Units. The MPCC NAIDOC in Musgrave Park this year is developing a program for this sort of communication on the Friday, with the usual cultural gathering taking place on the Saturday. It may be a good time to also engage more with migrant organisations, to educate new people to the country, and open up the possibilities of partnerships, in the right and positive way, thus sharing and spreading the strength of Indigenous culture?

**CHRISTINE PEACOCK
PRESIDENT
UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.**