

**UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT 2008 - 2009
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20/03/10**

PROJECT SLATE

(Refer also past Director's Statements)

- ***EYE TO EYE* - proposal**

Ongoing recording of family history of Eva Salam. The idea of an ebook project, from a link provided by Jenny Fraser: <http://www.dawnatmyback.com/>, is the proposed development. (This idea supercedes the idea of the project being produced on video.) It will extended to include statements from her children about their lives and relationship with Eva, for family posterity. A lot of insight into how our lives unfold is lost due to the nuclear family structure imposed on our communities and literature is a way of addressing the loss of information and exchange.

- ***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 board member Tamara Whyte's successful production "Red Sanctuary" in Nov 2009 (staged at Metro Arts) *Proposal* could be further developed as a Colourise event. Inspired by the classic play by 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. Keith Armstrong, Andrew Hill and Christine Peacock worked on a test installation as part of the "Boxing Art" (now Contested Space) project feasibility study, details of which were contained in the acquittal report to the Australia Council submitted 11/9/09 and acquitted 1/10/09 .

More focus upon it and support, was allowed by making the project part of Christine Peacock's Masters by Practice Lead Research at Creative Industries Faculty of QUT. A preliminary website housing the concept development, including example work and/or information about 16 participating artists, was constructed with Andrew Hill on the Colourise website domain. The Masters degree was awarded in September 2009. Access to the preliminary website is via a tab, *site_sight_cite*, on the menu of the Colourise website www.colourise.com.au BUT is not available for public viewing. Please seek username and password details from Christine Peacock or Andrew Hill for access.

The project involves information and creation of ideas about land in the Jagera and Turrbul boundaries. These custodians 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 a minimum of \$300,000 to come to fruition. Financing the project is part of the further extensive research required and which will commence in May 2010 as part of Christine Peacock's PhD by practice led research and involving some if not all of the artists who participated in the concept development. A stage two proposal for the

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PhD has been produced which outlines in detail the scope and intention of the project. This is available upon request in PDF format. It is currently awaiting presentation to the QUT Research Review Committee.

In December 2009 Christine Peacock met with ATSIAB, Interarts and Creative Communities Partnerships at the Australian Arts Council offices in Surry Hills, Sydney to discuss funding possibilities and will commence applications in March 2010 for a 2011 start on the website project *site\sight\cite*.

- **MARGATE TO MARGATE PROPOSAL (status unchanged)**

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 2012 after the launch of the *site\sight\cite* web project.

- **COLOURISE FESTIVAL 2009 – *between***

COMPLETED JULY 2009

Refer www.colourise.com.au for details and attached Festival Report. In 2009 the Colourise Festival was again conducted in accordance with the research undertaken as part of a business plan, supported by Arts Queensland. The business plan was 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, expected to progress and complete in March-April 2010.

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 (performance in particular). 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 2009 event, entitled *between* (in accord with *honour our elders and nurture our youth* NAIDOC theme) sought to further 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 2010, with a plan that will effectively develop and sustain the objectives that the Festival has focused upon over five years.

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- **ColouriseBIFF 2009**

COMPLETED AUGUST 2009

Refer www.colourise.com.au at the BIFF tag on the main menu, for program, 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 2009 Festival.

BIFF raised funds to host Briar Grace-Smith (Maori) for the presentation of her film "Strength of Water" and Joseph Pulinthanath of Kerala, in India, for his film *Yarwng*. Helena Gulash kindly opened and delivered the welcome to country protocol for the ColouriseBIFF Seminar "Shoot Local Screen Global" and panel members were Ngati Hau hapu writer ("The Strength of Water") Briar Grace-Smith, of Nga Puhī, Maori New Zealand; Father Joseph Pulinthanath – filmmaker (*Yarwng (Roots)* from Tripura, India; Aboriginal writer ("Aunty Maggie and the Womba Wakgun") Angelina Hurley of Brisbane; Aboriginal philosopher from Kombumerri country on the Gold Coast, Mary Graham; Kuku Yalanji filmmaker and musician Luke Briscoe, who recently graduated with a Certificate IV in Screen and Media with the QPIX, Black Pearls initiative and Aboriginal writer, filmmaker, photographer and performer Tamara Whyte also a QPIX Black Pearls initiative graduate. Food for the after Seminar gathering was provided by Yaraka Bayles' "Murri Way Catering" and entertainment by Georgia Corowa and Sandra Paulson. Karen Batten created publicity posters and cds and Richelle Spence Stage Managed.

COLOURISE FESTIVAL 2010

Working with local NAIDOC event organisers to develop and enrich their programs remains an objective and the program for Colourise Festival 2010, will be devised in consultation with these partners accordingly but we are also in need of a focused approach with new ideas being introduced and tested. A sub-committee is required of people who are interested in a Brisbane Indigenous Festival during NAIDOC week who have time to source funds and work on a program and staging the event.

It is also remains a matter of urgency that the work commenced 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. Amber and Luke Briscoe have offered to assist to progress the work to make this happen and will meet with Christine Peacock in March. Consultation will be held with board members with regard to the changes required to the constitution to fulfil the requirements of the cultural organisation status.

- **ColouriseBIFF 2010**

BIFF has been changed from a winter, August, to a summer November event to coincide with and link to the film festival held on the Gold Coast. BIFF's Cinesparkes will continue to happen in August and Christine Peacock is currently discussing a proposal with the Director of BIFF, Anne Demi-Geroe, to screen international Indigenous films with a possible retrospective on Indigenous films and a seminar on film-making developments and the development environment. ColouriseBIFF, which has been 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 at the Festival. Funds for the BIFF event are subject to the current economic downturn and guests for the ColouriseBIFF 2010 event will be affected accordingly. Changes in the Pacific Film and Television Commission, now Screen Queensland, indicate that other approaches are necessary and these are also being discussed with Anne Demi-Geroe with a view to involving Carbon Media.

ColouriseBIFF Seminar 2010: Due to the change in time for the film festival no plans have been made yet.

Screenings: BIFF VENUE/S to be advised and no plans have been made as yet due to the change in time for the film festival.

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 March/April 2010 with Amber Briscoe assisting. 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 2009 and 2010. 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. Funds will be sought from ATSIAB for support for Andrew Hill as an Arts Worker over three years for this project. The equipment and audio visual collection is available for Uniikup members to access at any time and can be arranged with Christine Peacock. The Uniikup Optical Media Collection document can be found under the Uniikup tab on the website www.colourise.com.au

- **NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

There were two new members to the organisation. The same Directors will be nominated for appointment in 2009 – 2010, if there are no resignations received.

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

The organisation website has been kept up-to-date throughout the year. It has many hits particularly around the Colourise Festival period. The registration of the domain name was changed from IT Distribution to MDWebhosting in 2009, where the Colourise website domain is hosted.

OTHER MATTERS

- **SUCCESSION**

This is an ongoing problem faced by Uniikup management but with new young members it can be addressed. 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 2010 – 11 and that they will engage with the organisation to benefit their own endeavours as well. Tamar Whyte did this successfully in 2009 with her stage production "Red Sanctuary". It would be good to plan a means to draw more young people to community

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organisations by creating events or projects which target them. 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**

Many and varied developments continue to happen in the community through organisations like BIMA and Indigenous Directions and Development as well as Kumara Association, and projects like the BCC Coolamon cultural program. Information and contacts from the 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 could be valuable for future projects. Carbon Media, a privately owned and operated Aboriginal new media agency and content creator business, has developed strongly from assistance received from QUT Creative Industries; and the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce is giving some good support. The effects of the economic downturn are still to be felt in particular in the funding available for arts and culture. Community meetings have been happening sporadically to deal with community issues. At these meetings we get to know what is going on where and with whom but there is still little shared intelligence on funding opportunities, developments and sustainment.

As stated in the 2009 Report, hopefully 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.**