

**UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT 2012 - 2013
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 08/03/14
MURRI MURA, 36 CORDELIA ST., WEST END.**

PROJECT SLATE (Refer also past Director's Statements)

- **EYE TO EYE - proposal (status unchanged)**

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 extend to include stories from her children about their lives and relationship with Eva, and family photos. Insight into how our lives unfold is lost due to the nuclear family structure imposed on our communities, and literature in "whisps of narratives" is a way of addressing the loss of information and creating exchange. This project can serve as a prototype for others who may be interested in recording family histories in this way.

- **PROPOSAL (status unchanged)**

This project was originally proposed as part of Colourise Festival 2007 – *you are here*. Restricted time and funds made it impossible to proceed with the project at that time. 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.

In April 2012 *Proposal* was submitted to the Indigenous Arts Board of the Australia Council for funding support under their Experimental Art Fund program supporting Indigenous-led projects that benefit the development of contemporary Indigenous media, Interdisciplinary and hybrid art practitioners. The submission was not successful in that round (which is very competitive with many submissions). The project will be resubmitted again for the 2013 funding round.

- **SITE/ SIGHT/ CITE WEBSITE and LIVE-MEDIA-ART**

Background:

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

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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 a preliminary approach was made to Maroochy Barambah for Turrbul with regard to support for the development of the project. An application for Australia Council Interarts funding was made in October 2011 but was unsuccessful. It was intended to resubmit the application in the August 2012 round but time and other commitments did not permit this. The proposal will be submitted again in 2014.

The **site\sight\cite website** is a large and ambitious media arts project, estimated to require a minimum of \$300,000 to come to fruition. Financing the project requires further extensive research and was to be part of Christine Peacock's original PhD by practice-led research and involving some if not all of the artists who participated in the concept development. Due to the size of the project it was decided it was too big for a PhD and is now being developed exclusively as a Uniikup project. Details of the project have been posted to the on-line Uniikup Projects Forum, link available in the Projects Slate tab of www.colourise.com.au.

- **www.indigenousoverigntyaustralia.com.au**

In the meantime an offer from Jenny Fraser / *cyberTribe* to fund a website project resulted in the production of the above website the purpose of which is to open up the conversation on sovereignty to local, national and international Indigenous people, via the web. Christine Peacock developed the concept and worked on the design with Susan Beetson and Karen Batten, highlighting the work on ethics of Mary Graham and Guidelines to keep a sacred planet by Ross Watson. Susan Beetson used Dreamweaver and Karen Batten Wordpress to construct the site. It was entered into competition by *cyberTribe* at the Native Canadian *Imaginative Film and Media Art Festival 15-22/10/2013* in the media-art category. This may also assist to attract funding necessary for the full production of the **site\sight\cite** website project. We will be seeking people with the necessary skills to assist that production, preferably Indigenous, throughout 2014. Christine Peacock travelled with Jenny Fraser and two other Indigenous media artists, Jason Davidson and Michelle Blakeney (<http://blackoutcollective.blogspot.com.au/>) to Toronto Canada for the presentation of the project at the Festival. Jenny and Christine then travelled together to London to present their practices at the In the Balance: Indigeneity, Performance, Globalization Conference as part of their phd work - <http://www.indigeneity.net/events/Cfp-In%20the%20Balance%20conference-final.pdf>. A verbal report on these two events will be provided at the AGM.

- **SIGHT \ SITE \ CITE OPTICAL MEDIA COLLECTION**

Background:

Christine Peacock changed her PhD to *Sight\Site\Cite digitising philosophy : the dynamics of representation*, to allow a comprehensive evaluation of the Uniikup Optical Media Collection and the values inherent in community film-making practices. The study involved researching how to enable a conservation survey of the collection with a view to data storage and development of a system which allows community access; a creative project was proposed to produce a dvd from the archival footage with new footage linking this material to create an innovative video program to illustrate and promote community film-making practices. The values of Indigenous community film-making arise from a philosophy of connection between people and with land, in this case as recorded in the Uniikup Optical Media Collection, representing place across time.

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Details of the project were posted in the Projects Slate tab at www.colourise.com.au and a link to the confirmation document of the PhD is posted there also for community access to the study which was scheduled to be completed in January 2013 but which could continue through to the end of 2013 due to time lost as a result of the Brisbane Flood in January 2011 and further flooding in Wolvi in 2012-13. The creative project part of the study is a co-production with Uniikup Productions Ltd.

Current:

Since that time another decision was made for the creative project part of the PhD by practice-led research, to produce only the **live first** live-media-art element of the *site\sight\cite* website project. The unfolding of a PhD often sees changes to the original concept arising as part of the investigation/study, in this case of Christine Peacock's creative practice. Christine became disenchanted with both the induction of audiences to passivity of film-making as well as the control of the art form by both industry regulations and technology both of which determine content and aesthetic and collaborative process. The research creative project was conceived to provide an alternative to and address the difficulty to attract and build audiences outside mainstream venues which have the finances to provide necessary staff and publicity and which provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait culture in forms appealing to mainstream audiences (eg Clancestry at QPAC). The PhD creative project was renamed **Colourise Festival 2013: eARTH** and the PhD topic changed to **eARTH the dynamics of ontological representation**.

• **UNIIKUP OPTICAL MEDIA COLLECTION – ARCHIVAL PROJECT**

Christine Peacock is currently negotiating with QUT to digitise and store the collection on the QUT Digital Warehouse as part of a project with David Gillette who is a visiting academic from CalPoly Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies, California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, California, USA. This will be a long and complex process but the main purpose is to have the footage accessible to the community. We are most concerned that the copyright of the footage remains with Uniikup and the work David Gillette has been doing in California with local communities has met similar concerns. Christine will seek to engage in the process through a post-doctorial project at QUT and negotiations begin in February 2014.

• **MARGATE TO MARGATE**

This project has been rolled into the *site\sight\cite* project, with a focus on patterns of migration in relation to effects on populations of catastrophic events like colonisation, tsunamis, civil war and so forth, as part of the international conversation arising from these political and environmental conditions. This part of the *site \ sight \ cite* project is being led by artist Paul Carter (refer www.colourise.com for concept and ideas).

There is also afoot an idea forming to merge the concept and ideas with a large media art projection project which could also be attached to Colourise Festival eARTH event.

• **COLOURISE FESTIVAL 2012-13**

The festival this year was conceived to involve live-media-art performances at places of contemporary significance in relation to Australian Aboriginal concepts of sovereignty. Colourise Festival 2013: eARTH was staged in collaboration with *Black History Month* in NAIDOC week 2013, in two parts over four nights. It included collaboration with Murri Mura Aboriginal Corporation for workshops preceding the walk, where Australian Aboriginal concepts of ethics and philosophy and principles underpinning the idea of sovereignty were open for discussion as participants created wreaths and other

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ceremony props and prepared for the event. A shared meal after the workshops at Murri Mura 36 Cordelia St. South Brisbane started the cross country event and ended in a walk across the Kurilpa (part 1) and Good Will (part 2) bridges to Southbank. The event was also a valuable health exercise with participants walking 22klms in total over four nights across Brisbane city in the cool of July. It was participatory with no division between artist and participants who during the walk, in a creative act of sovereignty, projected images and archival video using mini-projectors, re-imagining Brisbane through Indigenous eyes. The event was educational in the form of workshops, discussion and hand out information concerning concepts of sovereignty and development of local Indigenous live-media-art performance (a modern form of corroboree which includes music and spoken word). Details of the event can be found on the Colourise website www.colourise.com.au and video documentation of the event on the colourise vimeo site (link to be provided by email).

The 2012-13 BCC grant was acquitted and funding will be released for the next event later in 2014 (\$7000 a year for three years was offered by BCC to continue to produce Colourise Festival) when the contract and program have been submitted, as per funding contract. It is envisaged that Colourise will seek to collaborate with Turrbal Aboriginal Nation Traditional owners of Meanjin (Brisbane) (<http://dakibudtcha.com.au/Turrbal/>) on production of the 2014 event at a date to be set for Oct-Nov. In 2013-14, 2014-15 applications for project officer and organisational funding from ATSIAB and Arts Queensland respectively are proposed (refer Grant Funding below), as well as a more realistic and substantial amount of project funding required to produce Colourise Festival.

Also refer the projects slate tab at www.colourise.com.au.

OPERATIONS/ ADMINISTRATION

ORGANISATION FINANCES

The organisation does not have the amount of income that requires an annual audit. There have been no outstanding debtors or creditors. It is proposed Haywards Chartered Accountants will remain the organisation's official accounting and auditing firm and Haywards also ensures all documentation required to be presented to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission is kept current. Accounts for the financial year 2012-13 again have been done by Kitty Cara to tabled at this AGM. Uniikup Productions Ltd. is auspice organisation for Cybertribe funding from Australia Council. Changes of Directors, due to the resignation of one of the board members, were submitted to Australian Securities and Investments Commission for 2012-13.

The signatories to the Uniikup Bank of Queensland accounts were changed to accommodate Cybertribe funding and also, a new account opened for Cybertribe funding. The account is accessible by on-line banking and signatories were authorised to give access for these transactions to occur. The Bank of Queensland in Gympie has details required to process changes.

GRANT FUNDING

There is an outstanding grant acquittal for Arts Qld of \$5000 which was used to set up a business plan for Colourise Festival but which was not completed. Christine Peacock is responsible for this project and it is intended that this will be done in 2013-14 to allow for further funding to be sought.

Funds for the operating costs of the organisation (including rent for a space in Brisbane), employment of a Projects Officer with a project slate (refer above and Colourise website for details), as well as funding for the website and optical media collection projects will be

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of great assistance. Any assistance from board members with these applications would be beneficial.

CULTURAL ORGANISATION AND GIFT DEDUCTIBLE RECIPIENT STATUS (status unchanged)

Uniikup member Amber Roberts very kindly prepared a word document of the Uniikup Productions Assoc. constitution and gathered information and documents required to register the company as a cultural organisation, and for tax deductible gift recipient status. All this has now been done in preparation for changes to the constitution to be submitted to a special general meeting of Uniikup; in line with the requirements to register the company as a cultural organisation, for tax deductible gift recipient status. . Holly Smith who was event manager for Colourise Festival 2005-2010 has kindly offered to assist with the process this year, as she made a successful application for another organisation recently. Successfully gaining tax deductible gift recipient status will allow us to apply for a wider range of funding for projects, in particular philanthropic funds; however applications for this type for funding require particular knowledge and approach

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

A policy for not-for-profit organisations public and products liability insurance was taken out with AON, Level 6, 175 Eagle St, Brisbane – Tel: 3223 7596, email christine.reith@aon.com.au for 2012-14 and 2014-15 will be taken out in April 2014. Funds for the insurance are still difficult to locate due to insufficient operational funding. The 2012-13 Colourise Festival being a street event, did not involve different cover or more costs.

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

Equipment was moved in February 2011, as a result of the flood, from QUT Brisbane to 888 Kin Kin Road Wolvi where there is a dedicated office and editing room. This facility is being used for the *site\sight\cite* website, Colourise Festival **eARTH** and **Uniikup Optical Media Collection** Archival projects (the Uniikup Optical Media Collection document can be found under the Uniikup tab on the website www.colourise.com.au).

The equipment and audio visual collection is available for Uniikup members to access at any time and can be arranged with Christine Peacock. Tamara Whyte is using the digital video recording equipment and accessories for her Coochiemudlo media arts project. The whole video camera and edit suite equipment requires upgrading and an application to the Gaming Machine Benefit Fund will be made in 2013-14 or 2014-15.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There were no new members to the organisation but Ryan Presley (visual artist) and Semah Mokak- Wischki (filmmaker) are invited to become members. Teila Watson and other young people will also be invited to become members. There are changes of Directors in 2012 – 2013 with Phyllis Harrison replaced by Brian Arley as Board member.

UNIIKUP WEBSITE WWW.COLOURISE.COM.AU

The organisation website has been kept up-to-date throughout the year. It serves as a means of keeping the community informed of the activities and aspirations of the organisation, including reports about its operations, to maintain transparency and so that the organisation can attract other members and interested parties. www.colourise.com.au has most hits particularly around the Colourise Festival period. The registration of the domain name is with Net Registry where the Colourise website domain is hosted (both *Colourise* and *Colourised Festival* which was the original website name and which is now archived). The www.indigenousoverigntyaustralia.com.au site is also with Net Registry.

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 and that they will engage with the organisation to benefit their own endeavours as well. Directors Tamara Whyte and Jenny Fraser are active in this regard and some members seek references for projects from time to time. The current financial situation for many of us makes these ideals difficult to realise.

It is now necessary and urgent that the details on the operations of the organisation, which have mainly been managed by Christine Peacock, to be provided to Jenny Fraser and Tamara Whyte as proposed new signatories to the financial accounts with Bank of Queensland. This is to ensure that the organisation can continue to operate effectively in Christine's absence. All of the company files are kept at Wolvi, which is the registered address of the organisation, but a more central keeping place is required and an official approach has been made to Murri Mura at 36 Cordelia St., South Brisbane for a table and cupboard space in their building in 2014 in return for services Uniikup can provide.

GENERAL DISCUSSION – provided in each Director's Report as information and food for thought. (unchanged)

It is important that a media arts organisation with some historic grounding in the community is able to carry on the function of creative arts output which employs a policy of acts-of-sovereignty in its practices. Uniikup (originally Murriimage) has devolved from a community of people who up-held this belief in the establishment of many essential services – legal, health, media, education – despite the wear and tear of insistence, resistance and, in particular, consistence.

It is not an ideal but rather the continuum of Indigenous life in this county that creates a spectrum of forms, within a repertoire of realities, from a kaleidoscope of ideas. The Uniikup Board of Directors is representative of this context, and that there is not as much input into the organisation as desired, is a reflection of the pressures upon us to subsist in both practical and fulfilling ways.

Each board member is engaged in the community in the terms described above, and all are outstanding members of our community for this reason. Murriimage and Uniikup were not set up to be show-pony organisations which successfully feed from government programs that also control development and self determination. The work accomplished is integrity focused and meant to endure when dollars for Indigenous inspired interests wane or deplete. Creativity remains the breath and spirit of the Indigenous past, present and future and for this reason is truly existential.

**CHRISTINE PEACOCK
PRESIDENT
UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.**