

**UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT 2013 - 2014
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11/04/15
SKYPE GROUP MEETING**

PROJECT SLATE (Refer also past Director's Statements and projects slate tab at www.colourise.com.au.)

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

Ongoing recording of family history of Eva Salam. The idea of an ebook project, came from a link provided by Jenny Fraser to an ebook project. (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 projects creating "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, dancers 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 (status unchanged)**

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 website

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www.colourise.com.au BUT is not available for public viewing. Please seek username and password details from Christine Peacock 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 for arts funding support in 2015. 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 (status unchanged)**

Part of Jenny Fraser / cyberTribe website project <http://www.superhighwayacrossthesky.net/> 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 2015. 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>.

- **UNIIKUP OPTICAL MEDIA COLLECTION (UOMC) – ARCHIVAL PROJECT**

Negotiations with QUT to digitise and store the UOMC collection on the QUT Digital Warehouse as part of a project with David Gillette who was a visiting academic from CalPoly Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies, California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, California, USA did not bear results. 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 Peacock is now researching a means of involving the Australian Cultural Library Ltd. located in Toowoomba which took the QPIX library into their collection. The site for more information about this organisation is <https://www.facebook.com/TheAustralianCulturalLibrary> Christine will keep the Director's circle informed of progress.

- **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 proposal is part of the **site \ sight \ cite** project being led by artist Paul Carter (refer www.colourise.com for concept and ideas).

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

- **COLOURISE FESTIVAL 2013-14**

The 2014 festival held 13-17 October was conceived to follow on from the live-media-art performances at places of contemporary significance in relation to Australian Aboriginal concepts of sovereignty. The event is recorded in photos, programs and material on the www.colourise.com.au site in the events tab. There was an increase in interest in the event this year that we hope to sustain and increase for the 2015 event.

The 2013-14 BCC grant was acquitted and funding will be released for the next event later in 2015 (\$7000 a year for three years (2015 is the last year of that offer) was offered by BCC to continue to produce Colourise Festival) when the contract and program have been submitted, as per funding contract. An application in July 2014 for a project officer from ATSIAB was unsuccessful. Christine Peacock will continue to research sources for a more realistic and substantial amount of project funding that is required to produce Colourise Festival. What is needed in particular is an effective marketing plan, as suggested by Mary Graham. Suggestions are welcome. The planning for Colourise 2015, with a theme of chance change and motion is currently in progress.

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 remain the organisation's official accounting and auditing firm. All company and financial documentation is now presented to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission, and is kept current. Refer <http://www.acnc.gov.au/ACNC/Home/ACNC/Default.aspx?hkey=3e39ac62-4f04-44fe-b569-143ca445c6bf>. Accounts for the financial year 2013-14 have been done by Kitty Cara. Uniikup Productions Ltd. is auspice organisation for Cybertribe funding from Australia Council and bookkeeping also done by Kitty Cara.

GRANT FUNDING

There is still 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 2014-15 with assistance from Brian Arley to allow for further funding to be sought.

Funding is very competitive since the election of the Liberal Government so there is not much chance of securing operating costs of the organisation (including rent for a space in Brisbane), employment of a Projects Officer with a project slate, as well as funding for the website and optical media collection projects. Christine Peacock will continue to research funding sources. Any assistance with these applications from the circle of Directors would be beneficial.

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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 2014-15 will be taken out again in April 2015. Funds for the insurance are still difficult to locate due to insufficient operational funding. The Colourise Festival now being a street event, did not involve different cover or more costs.

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

Equipment remains at 888 Kin Kin Road Wolvi where there is a dedicated office and editing room. This facility is 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). We will negotiate with Australian Cultural Library to see if some of the equipment could go there if they are interested in storing our collection.

The changes to video recording and editing with digitation has made it unnecessary for Uniikup to maintain a production facility at Wolvi. Christine Peacock has been slowly dispensing with assets which are now obsolete technology and relocating that which is of no further use, to other not-for-profit organisations. Other Uniikup/Colourise equipment currently consists of the mini-projectors and accessories and SLR camera used for Colourise Festival. There is a G5 MAC desktop which will be assessed for continued use. Currently, editing has been outsourced or done on moviemaker on Christine Peacock's Toshiba laptop.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There were no new members to the organisation in the 2013-14 period.

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. A new tag has been added to the website – TEXT – for access to PhD and other writings by Indigenous people. Christine Peacock has also created a colouriseblog for increasing the potential of engagement with others.

OTHER MATTERS

UNIIKUP CIRCLE OF DIRECTORS

Christine Peacock proposed that the management of the organisation be referred to as a Circle of Directors rather than a Board of Directors to provide a more suitable description of how the organisation is managed. A board is flat and hierarchal whereas with a circle ideas, responsibilities can be regarded as shared? – “not merely our thinking about the real changes: reality itself changes as we think about it differently (from Dupré).

REGISTRATION WITH CENTRELINK AS AN ORGANISATION FOR VOLUNTEER WORK

Christine Peacock and Brian Arley completed necessary documentation for Uniikup Productions Ltd. to be officially registered as a not-for-profit organisation which accepts volunteers. Christine Peacock completed her PhD at QUT in December 2014 and has returned full-time to Uniikup/Colourise work. Christine Peacock is eligible to do voluntary work as part of her work pathway program, which is required to receive Centrelink payments. She has signed a contract to do 15 hours a week with Uniikup as a media-artist and administrator for twelve months. As she reaches retirement age (currently 65) in 2016, she will soon migrate to aged pension category, but intends to keep working until 70 if health permits. This registration will be helpful to other Uniikup members who may need to sign up with Centrelink, but you need to be over 55 to be eligible to do voluntary work rather than seek employment.

SUCCESSION (status unchanged)

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 independent Indigenous media-arts in Brisbane. It is hoped the Circle of Directors 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 Leah King-Smith, Tamara Whyte, Jenny Fraser and Brian Arley 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, are provided to Jenny Fraser and Tamara Whyte as they are also 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 company files are kept at Wolvi, but a more central keeping place is required. Nguin Warrup and Black Drum at 1/12 Merivale Street, South Brisbane, have generously allowed Uniikup to work from their small office in return for services Uniikup can provide. 1/12 Merivale Street is the registered address of Uniikup with Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission.

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

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 persistence, resistance and, in particular, resilience.

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 Circle of Directors is representative of this context, and that there is not as much input into

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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 with a principle of adaptation rather than development, which is a tradition that allows us 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.