

**UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT 2015 - 2016
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22/07/17**

OPERATIONS/ ADMINISTRATION

ORGANISATION FINANCES

Uniikup Productions Ltd. 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. Brad Harbourne of that organisation kindly provides gratis advice from time to time on the grounds of our long-standing relationship.

Ruth Springer - Ruth's Books & Administration Rescue Agency - was unable to continue in the role of bookkeeper and Camille Rumble of Quintessential was contracted at the recommendation of Brad Harbourne. Camille Rumble was able to do the job at short notice but has not given an Invoice despite repeated emails from Karen Batten (who retrieved books from Camille's office Eagle St city) and Christine Peacock. Christine Peacock to keep trying for invoice.

All company and financial documentation is 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 2015-16 were completed by Camille Rumble, the information from which Uniikup Productions Ltd. uses to complete the on-line Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Annual Information Statement and the Australian Tax Office annual Business Activity Statement. Extensions to the submission deadlines were obtained for both the ACNPC and Tax Office due to delays in getting the Cybertribe account documents to the bookkeeper.

Uniikup is the auspice organisation for funding from Australia Council Jenny Fraser's Cybertribe project. The A.C. require a financial statement detailing grant expenditure, which Jenny Fraser is to organise and submit with her acquittal report. Failure to do this will result in action taken against Uniikup by the Australia Council. Sue Beetson has kindly provide advice on how the organisation can better manage both Uniikup and auspiced project accounts in the future.

GRANT FUNDING

The outstanding acquittal for ArtsQ of \$5000 (granted 2005), which was used to research and write a business plan for Colourise Festival, was finalised on 29th December 2016, with all relevant documents emailed to Investment at Arts Queensland as directed. Response from Arts Queensland is still forth coming, as Christine Peacock awaits a call from their Development Officer to advise the status of the submitted outcome report. Cathy Hunt Positive Solutions advised due to lack of staff Arts Queensland will not reply immediately.

Funding from Arts Queensland remains very competitive since significant government cut backs to arts funding, so there is little chance of securing operating costs for the organisation. We are fortunate that Nguin Warrup allows Uniikup the use of its address 1/12 Merivale St South Brisbane

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and a small shared space for business activities. Christine Peacock continues to research funding sources in her position as voluntary media-artist and President of Uniikup. Any other assistance with funding applications from the circle of Directors would be beneficial.

CULTURAL ORGANISATION AND GIFT DEDUCTIBLE RECIPIENT STATUS (ON-GOING)

Changes to the constitution need to be addressed and submitted to a special general meeting (SGM) of Uniikup to meet the requirements to register the company as a cultural organisation, for tax deductible gift recipient status. We require assistance from QUT to make the application for GDRS status as they have a dedicated department for researching and locating philanthropic and other funding sources. Successfully gaining tax deductible gift recipient status will allow applications for a wider range of project funding, in particular philanthropic funds.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

An annual policy for not-for-profit organisations public and products liability insurance \$1116.77, was renewed with AON, Level 6, 175 Eagle St, Brisbane – Tel: 3223 7596, in April 2017. Funds for the insurance are still difficult to locate due to insufficient operational funding. This insurance is a legal requirement of running the organisation and is partially met by BCC small festivals grant for Colourise Festival.

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. There is a G5 MAC desktop which will be assessed for continued use. SVHS VHS Betacam and Mini DV editing equipment is used with the UOMC (refer below). Currently, editing has been outsourced or simple projects done on moviemaker on Christine Peacock's Toshiba laptop. Uniikup/Colourise equipment includes 3 Pico mini-projectors and accessories, a Pico Genie projector and accessories, mini and mobile amp and SLR camera, all used for Colourise Festival.

This facility is also used for maintaining the **Indigenousoverigntyaustralia**, *site\|sight\|cite* project and Colourise Festival websites. Uniikup/Colourise equipment currently consists of the mini-projectors and accessories and SLR camera used for Colourise Festival.

ORGANISATION MANAGEMENT

There were no new members to the organisation in the 2013-14 or 2015-16 periods. There needs to be an urgent assessment of the involvement of board members and consideration given to attracting more active members to these positions. Uniikup, a member of the SEQ Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, could approach Leesa Watego to request her assistance to inspire insight in regard to this matter.

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

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- **EYE TO EYE (ON-GOING)**

An idea for recording family history of Eva Peacock (nee Salam/Mingo). Christine Peacock has purchased an Epsom photographic scanner and will be scanning her Mother's and other family member's collection of family photographs for a project visualising the connection between and changes in places and families across generations and time. There is no time line yet, the scanning process providing the information needed to create an appropriate and suitable framework and outcome for the project.

- **PROPOSAL (ON-GOING)**

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 funding.

- **SITE/ SIGHT/ CITE LIVE-MEDIA-ART (ON-GOING)**

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 www.colourise.com.au but is not available for .../4.

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public viewing. Please seek user name and password details from Christine Peacock for access.

The project is now the subject of an ARC Discovery Indigenous application with QUT. Leah King-Smith, Keith Armstrong, Paul Carter and Christine Peacock are working to research the proposal in relation to being part of Colourise Festival. The project is no longer a website proposal and the research will determine ways to create an immersive experience using digital technologies at Colourise Festival.

- www.indigenousoverigntyaustralia.com.au (ON-GOING)

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 Word Press to construct the site. The site requires further attention for upgrading and making it more accessible.

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

Through successful negotiations with State Library Queensland organised by Cori Stewart at QUT, Uniikup is currently working with SLQ to ascertain the condition of the collection for suitability as an SLQ collection for public access. If it is deemed suitable a long and arduous project will ensue to digitise the collection and catalogue it to reveal the great relevance of its content to the Brisbane Aboriginal and Islander community and others interested in local histories. It is hoped a PhD student can be attached to the project if accepted by SLQ, who will research the content and curate the collection. Christine Peacock will co-ordinate the project on behalf of Uniikup Productions Ltd. who do not lose copyright of the Uniikup Optical Media Collection.

- **MARGATE TO MARGATE (ON-GOING)**

This project was 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. 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. It is very topical at present with the wave of migration across Europe, in response to resource wars and political upheaval in the middle east and across the globe.

- **COLOURISE FESTIVAL eARTH 2016 – pageant (ON-GOING)**

The festival was held on Friday 14th and Saturday 16th October. Details can be found at <http://colourise.com.au/2016-2/>. Usual support from Andrew Hill was not available this year and new people engaged with the event to make it happen. Evie Ryder assisted with the projections and preparing files for screening. Leah King-Smith and Maddie Hodge provided face painting and head and arm band workshops prior to the walk to create the festival theme, "Pageant"; as well as some magnificent images for projecting onto city surfaces. A public spectacle of Indigenous presence,

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with inherent shared history and continued connection to place and land. Karen Batten provided valuable support with publicity and venues, organising volunteers who generously gave time and made the event both enjoyable and functional. The Greens Woolloongabba offered space at their premises at Annerley for the Guerrilla Screen II screening of Indigenous films, in collaboration with CyberTribe, where there was a pre-screening discussion about living in the Indigenous community. The event enjoyed good attendances.

On-going funding for the event is not guaranteed and a concerted effort to attract funds is required.

OTHER MATTERS

VOLUNTEER WORK

Uniikup is registered with Centrelink as an organisation which accepts voluntary workers. Christine Peacock continues to do volunteer work for the organisation whilst on an aged pension. Janice Peacock is no longer a volunteer with the organisation as she is working at Nundah with another organisations employing her art, therapy and other skills.

SUCCESSION (ON-GOING)

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 other board members. Jenny Fraser and Tamara Whyte along with Christine Peacock, are signatories to the financial accounts with Bank of Queensland. We need to take action to ensure that the organisation can continue to operate effectively in the case of 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. All members are encouraged to provide details of their current projects/work.

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
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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 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.**