

**UNIIKUP PRODUCTIONS LTD.
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT 2014 - 2015
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27/02/16**

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. Kitty Carra was unable to continue as bookkeeper and was replaced by Ruth Springer - Ruth's Books & Administration Rescue Agency - Established 1985.

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 2014-15 have been completed by Ruth Springer. Uniikup Productions Ltd. is auspice organisation for Cybertribe funding from Australia Council and requires an income and expenditure statement for Jenny Fraser to submit with her acquittal report.

GRANT FUNDING

The outstanding grant acquittal for ArtsQ of \$5000 which was used to set up a business plan for Colourise Festival will be finalised before the end of this financial year. Christine Peacock is responsible for this project and will be assisted by Brian Arley. This will allow for funding to be sought from ArtsQ.

Funding is remains very competitive since significant government cut backs to arts funding so there is not much chance of securing operating costs of the organisation. We are fortunate that Nguin Warrup allows Uniikup the use of its address 1/12 Merivale St South Brisbane and a small shared space for business activities. Christine Peacock continues to research funding sources in her position as voluntary media-artist. Any other assistance with funding applications from the circle of Directors would be beneficial.

CULTURAL ORGANISATION AND GIFT DEDUCTIBLE RECIPIENT STATUS (status unchanged)

Changes to the constitution need to be addressed and submitted to a special general meeting of Uniikup to meet 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 as she made a successful application for another organisation recently. Janice Peacock who is a voluntary arts support person with Uniikup will assist Christine Peacock with this project. Successfully gaining tax deductible gift recipient status will allow applications for a wider range of project funding, in particular philanthropic funds; however applications for this type for funding requires particular knowledge and approach which can be accessed through Leah King-Smith and Sandra Phillips at QUT.

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, out again in April 2015. 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 with the BCC small festivals grant for Colourise Festival not available in 2016 it will be a problem locating funds to cover this cost.

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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 in the projects tab on the website www.colourise.com.au). Negotiations with Australian Cultural Library were abandoned and other avenues are being pursued for a more suitable storage and accessible work place. 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 simple projects 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. 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 is now a member of the SEQ Indigenous Chamber of Commerce and it suggested Leesa Watego and Sandra Phillips be approached for involvement in Uniikup for their valuable experience and insights.

UNIIKUP WEBSITE WWW.COLOURISE.COM.AU

The organisation website has been totally upgraded. Karen Batten of Create Together generously donated her time to the construction of the upgraded site in Word Press in exchange for Christine Peacock's input into some Create Together projects. Andrew Hill also generously gave time on various aspects of the site's construction. Christine Peacock directed the design and provided content. Uniikup circle of directors comments on the upgraded site are yet to be received. The website 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). A text tab allows access to PhD and other writings by Indigenous people. Christine Peacock has also created a [colouriseblog](#) for increasing the potential of engagement with others.

The www.indigenousovereigntyaustralia.com.au site is also with Net Registry.

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

• **EYE TO EYE - now CHRONOTOPE PROJECT**

Formerly an idea for recording family history of Eva Salam, the idea of an ebook project, came from a link provided by Jenny Fraser to an ebook project. It has now been extended to include photographs and stories from across the Brisbane Indigenous community. 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. An application has been submitted for funding to the Gaming Community Benefit Fund for the cost of equipment to purchase equipment to scan photographs, video document family short stories about photos, and edit the material for public exhibition by way of both a situated interactive kiosk, arts installation projects and Colourise Festival mobile-live-media-art event. It will encourage interest and cross fertilisation of information about families and their stories. This project can serve as a prototype for others who may be interested in recording family histories. The projects funded will be advised in April 2016. This project will be the Colourise Festival program for 2016. Details of this application are available from Christine Peacock.

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Uniikup Productions Ltd. 2014-15 Director's Statement continued ...

- **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 funding.

- **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 website www.colourise.com.au but is not available for public viewing. Please seek user name 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 Traditional Owners have since had their submissions for recognition of custodianship rejected.

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 details of the project have been posted to the on-line Uniikup Projects Forum, link available in the Projects tab of www.colourise.com.au.

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Uniikup Productions Ltd. 2014-15 Director's Statement continued ...

Current Status:

An application for creative development funding for this project will be submitted to the June 2016 round of Australia Council Organisation Project Funding. It is extremely competitive given the cuts to Arts funding but the project is worthy of persistent efforts to find funds for its production.

- **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 Word Press 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\site 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**

An application for funding to digitise the collection will be made to the Commonwealth Govt Catalyst program in 2016. Dates for submission of applications are open all year. Research on other funding programs will be done by Christine Peacock and the best approach to digitisation with Rene Bailey of ProCam who have a video studio in Albion, Brisbane.

- **MARGATE TO MARGATE**

This project was rolled into the *site\site* 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 and being blocked by Australia, in response to resource wars in the middle east.

- **COLOURISE FESTIVAL 2015**

The 2015 festival was affected by wet weather and had to be rescheduled from 27-29 October to 12-13 November. It featured a clay and spiral workshop, conducted by Janice Peacock, relative to the River Story by Ross Watson which was made available to participants at points along Kurilpa Bridge and River Bicentennial Walkway via fm receivers on mobile phones and mini-amplifier. Andrew Hill lead the incorporation of this technology into the event. Short films relative to the River Story were also screened as well as community documentary videos and photographs from the Uniikup Optical Media Collection, celebrating 30 years of creActivity. A more concerted effort to publicise the event was led by Karen Batten of Create Together which proved very successful. .../5.

Uniikup Productions Ltd. 2014-15 Director's Statement continued ...

The screening part of the Festival program held in the South Bank Cultural Precinct using an exterior wall of The Edge with participants seated on the grass and a good view of river and city, had to be rescheduled to 27 February 2016 due to wet weather. The event is recorded in photos, programs and material on the www.colourise.com.au site in the events tab.

The 2014-15 BCC grant will be acquitted in May 2016. The \$7000 a year for three years expired in 2015. Colourise Festival will consist of Uniikup projects, with the walk element applied to various projects. The application of more effective marketing increased interest and participation in 2015 and will continue to be prioritised. Refer other projects listed herewith for information regarding planning for Colourise 2016.

OTHER MATTERS

VOLUNTEER WORK

Uniikup is registered with Centrelink as an organisation which accepts volunteers.

Christine Peacock is working as a voluntary administrator and media artist for Uniikup/Colourise. 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. Janice Peacock became a Uniikup volunteer arts support worker in June 2015 and is assisting Christine with completion of business plan and tax deductible gift recipient status as well as Colourise Festival.

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 Murrimage) has devolved from a community of people who up-held this belief in the establishment of many essential services – legal,

.../6.

Uniikup Productions Ltd. 2014-15 Director's Statement continued ...

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.**