

Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island

MEDIA RELEASE

First Meeting of the Kangaroo Island Arts Committee

3 July 2017

A group of Kangaroo Island artists and arts organisations came together last month for the inaugural meeting of the KI Arts Committee. The Committee was established by the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island, Wendy Campana, following recent work with the Island's visual arts community.

A survey was conducted in February this year, followed by a workshop in May to determine key priorities for the Island's visual arts community. Some of the priorities included opportunities for a shared studio / exhibition space, professional development and training, increasing the promotion of KI art and artists, and engaging young people in creative pursuits.

It was determined through this work that a Committee could assist in developing strategies to address these priorities. The Commissioner sought nominations for the Committee seeking representation from KI's key arts organisations and events committees and a cross section of artists.

The Committee is comprised of:

- Pat Austin (KI Council)
- Kylie Bamfield – (Tourism KI)
- Ginny Grant (Artist)
- Nick Hannaford (Kangaroo Island Industry and Brand Alliance)
- Roger Hansen (KI Arts Collective)
- Michele Lane (Artist)
- Robyn Molsher (KI Arts Society)
- Fleur Peters (Commercial Gallery owner)
- Peggy Rismiller (Easter Art Exhibition)
- Dean Wiles (Arts Festival)
- Wendy Campana (Commissioner for KI)
- Cate Stanford (OCKI - Executive Officer)

At the inaugural meeting, the Committee was fortunate to be joined by representatives from Country Arts SA. Arts Programs Director, Anthony Peluso and Creative Programs Manager, Marilyn de Nys provided information on Country Arts SA's mission and projects, in addition to the resources available to support artists in regional South Australia.

“Country Arts SA vision is to support and grow arts across regional South Australia. Art has the power to transform lives and can help to build prosperous and resilient regional communities. We look forward to continuing our work with Kangaroo Island artists; building on their strong creative culture and history of art making,” Anthony Peluso said.

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The Committee also heard from the Kangaroo Island Council about its Arts and Culture Policy and its support of arts on the Island. Grants for arts projects will be possible through the Community Capital Infrastructure Program and the Community Partnerships Grant Program.

The Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island will develop an 'Arts Action Plan' in consultation with the Committee to consider methods of achieving agreed objectives. A workshop will be held with the visual arts community later in the year to ensure that the plan aligns with the community's aspirations.

"Through the Kangaroo Island Transformation Project, my office has been working with the Island's key industry groups to support their growth. I am glad that we are now having this conversation with the KI visual arts community. Kangaroo Island has a vibrant arts community and I recognise the social and economic contribution of art, particularly in regional areas," Wendy Campana said.

The Commissioner is focussing on the visual arts as a pilot sector and intends to expand the scope of this work to other arts sectors in the future.

For more information on the Arts Committee and consultation with the visual arts community visit www.kangarooislandcommissioner.sa.gov.au



Back row: Roger Hansen, Pat Austin, Robyn Molsher, Peggy Rismiller, Michele Lane, Nick Hannaford, Ginny Grant, Fleur Peters. **Front row:** Wendy Campana, Merilyn de Nys, Anthony Peluso, Dean Wiles.