



EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held at 10.00am on

Monday 23 March 2015

Council Chambers

11 Manning Street, KIAMA NSW 2533

Order of Business

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Acknowledgement of Traditional owners
- 3 Report of the General Manager
- 4 Closure

Members

His Worship the Mayor
Councillor B Petschler
Councillor W Steel
Deputy Mayor
Councillor M Honey
Councillor G McClure
Councillor N Reilly
Councillor K Rice
Councillor D Seage
Councillor A Sloan
Councillor M Way

COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KIAMA

Council Chambers
11 Manning Street
KIAMA NSW 2533

20 March 2015

To the Chairman & Councillors:

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

You are respectfully requested to attend an **Extraordinary Meeting** of the Council of Kiama, to be held in the **Council Chambers** on **Monday 23 March 2015** commencing at **10.00am** for the consideration of the undermentioned business.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm. Forsyth', written in a cursive style.

Michael Forsyth
General Manager

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**AGENDA FOR THE
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF KIAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MONDAY 23 MARCH 2015**

1 APOLOGIES

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

“On behalf of those present, I would like to show my respect and acknowledge the traditional owners of the Land, of Elders past and present, on which this meeting takes place, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present.”

3 REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

3.1 Flugelman Public Art Sculpture Acquisition

CSP Objective: 2 Well Planned and Managed Spaces, Places and Environment

CSP Strategy: 2.16 Ensure public spaces reflect the cultural and artistic diversity of the local community

Delivery Program: 2.16.1 Develop and implement policies and programs that support public artwork and artistic expression

Summary

This report informs Council of an opportunity for the purchase of a Bert Flugelman sculpture for Kiama's public art program of works.

Finance

Within existing 2014/15 budgets.

Policy

Community Services Cultural Plan (BERT 2013-2016)

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves:

1. The purchase of the Bert Flugelman wave sculpture.
2. A funding source for the sculpture.

BACKGROUND

This report is brought to Council as a matter of emergency due to the special circumstances and deadline to make a determination.

Across the weekend of 14 and 15 March 2015 the Flugelman family held a sale of the works of sculptor and painter Bert Flugelman, following his death two years ago and recent sale of his home.

Council's Community and Cultural Development Officer and two members of the Cultural Board were able to secure a site visit on the Friday prior to the sale, which resulted in the purchase of one of the artists paintings. Funds for this purchase have been taken from Council's art acquisition budget of \$3000.

Report of the General Manager

3.1 Flugelman Public Art Sculpture Acquisition (cont)

A further piece of sculpture for purchase was nominated for discussion with Council on Monday 16 March; however this piece was sold during the weekend sale.

On the afternoon of Monday 16 March Council's Community and Cultural Development Officer was contacted by Goulburn Council offering a Flugelman sculpture that they had previously committed to purchase from the sale.

During collection of Kiama's purchased painting on Wednesday 18 March photos were taken of the sculpture a brief meeting was held by the Mayor Cr Brian Petschler, General Manager Michael Forsyth, Manager Community and Cultural Development Nick Guggisberg and Community and Cultural Development Officer Louise Croker to discuss the purchase opportunity.

Councillors were contacted and informed via email of the opportunity that afternoon.

The Sculpture

The sculpture is one that represents water and waves. It is an original stainless steel work approximately 2.5m high and 2m wide, it has a 'scratched', highly polished finish.



Artwork Aesthetic and Cultural Board Consultation

Paula Gowans, contemporary visual artist, BFA Hons (painting) from the National Art School and member of the Kiama Cultural Board provides the following aesthetic view of the sculpture.

"...the style of manufacture and design are old-fashioned, harking back to a mid-century design aesthetic. The stability of the work is achieved at the expense of graceful, more wave-like proportions...While the motif is appropriate to Kiama, the sculpture is somewhat backward looking as an artistic statement. The work should

Report of the General Manager

3.1 Flugelman Public Art Sculpture Acquisition (cont)

best be understood and accepted as a work of its time rather than a forward-looking artistic statement.”

Consultation with the Cultural Board has advised that while this piece of public artwork is not of the more contemporary and innovative design that the Board would like to see commissioned for Kiama as part of a progressive public artwork program. It has been acknowledged that Bert Flugelman’s work is important to the Illawarra region, to Kiama and to Australia as a leading Australian sculptor of his time.

Bert Flugelman’s work is recognised and known throughout the Australian context and the opportunity to affordably purchase one of his works is unlikely to present itself again. Through discussion with the Kiama Cultural Board and exploration of the opportunities and challenges it is advised by Council’s Community and Cultural Development Officer that Council should purchase the Wave sculpture. This should be undertaken as a first step in a broader public artwork program linking the talent expressed from the past in this sculpture with the talent expressed in our present local artists and future generations to come.

The Artist

Bert Flugelman is one of Australia's most celebrated public sculptors with work displayed in central Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Rundle Mall Adelaide, the National Art Gallery in Canberra, and pieces at the University of Wollongong and Wollongong Regional Art Gallery.

Flugelman was awarded a membership of the Order of Australia and was one of one Hundred Living National Treasures.

He spent most of his life in the Sutherland and Illawarra regions and lived for many years on Jamberoo Mountain, regularly swimming at Kiama beaches.

The Flugelman family would like to see his work displayed in the public space rather than being locked away in private collections and are excited about the possibility of Kiama having one of his works due to his connection to the Kiama community.

Funding

Following it being identified that Goulburn Council were offered the sculpture at \$20 000 rather than the original \$22 000 quoted to Kiama, Kay Flugelman has agreed to Kiama purchasing the piece for \$20 000.

There are number of potential funding sources within Council’s existing 2014/15 budget, including funds within the broader Community and Cultural Development team budget.

In addition, Ms Flugelman has made the offer for Council to pay in two instalments across the 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years.

Delivery

Report of the General Manager

3.1 Flugelman Public Art Sculpture Acquisition (cont)

Due to the sale of the Flugelman family property, pick up of the sculpture, from the Southern Highlands, would need to be undertaken by Wednesday 25 March 2015.

Council's Manager Works has advised that a removal company will be required to transport the artwork as the Depot are not equipped for the delicate nature of this transportation. Quotes are currently being sought.

Once crated and delivered the sculpture could be stored safely at the Depot until ready for installation.

Location

Following discussion with Council's Manager Design and Development a number of locations and issues have been identified.

Site issues:

- Due to the design the sculpture may be easily climbed by children, therefore location away from nearby playgrounds would minimise this risk. This limits access to locations such as Kiama Harbour and Blowhole Point.
- The sculpture requires a concrete base to be bolted onto, due to the climbing risk the concrete would need to be turfed over or covered in soft fall.
- A garden bed around the base could also discourage children and serve as a visual cue to parents that the sculpture is not for climbing on.
- Risk signage may also be required.
- Some level of passive surveillance is required to minimise risk of vandalism

Potential locations include:

- Incorporated into the streetscape upgrade of Jamberoo
- Werri Beach Reserve
- Minnamurra Headland
- Storm Bay
- Rock shelves around Kiama's rock pools

Installation

Installation will require a concert slab on which the sculpture can be bolted. Installation by Depot staff, including a concrete slab and treatment for tea stain and anti graffiti has been costed at approximately \$1000.

Maintenance

The work is constructed of stainless steel and as such will be resistant to corrosion. However in the harsh salt air this will not render it completely immune from tea staining or tagging by graffiti artists.

Report of the General Manager

3.1 Flugelman Public Art Sculpture Acquisition (cont)

Council's Manager Works has advised that chemical coatings are available to reduce the risk of tea staining and ensure easier removal of graffiti.

Policy

While Council does not as yet have a public art policy the current draft policy and implementation guide have identified, through public consultation, the preferred purposes, themes and qualities for public artwork in Kiama.

An extract from the draft policy is as follows:

Purpose of public art: The most important purposes suggested, in priority order, are that public art:

- a. is an engaging, playful & accessible addition to public space that attracts locals and visitors
- b. gives visitors insights into local identity, distinctiveness and traditions,
- c. is the decoration of our living and working public areas to create a pleasant environment
- d. celebrates and showcases local talents
- e. interprets or reflects on its immediate natural environment, enhancing the viewer's appreciation of the area
- f. reflects contemporary local life experience in challenging, edgy ways,
- g. is an important marketing strategy to support local economic growth, employment and business opportunity

Unique qualities of local communities and environments: The four major qualities of the local area that were clearly identified by consultation respondents were:

- the connectedness of the ocean and coast with our unique history from first settlement through to tourism
- villages and rural residential areas within farming land and with the natural beauty of forest and escarpment backgrounds
- the scale of communities that encourages recognition and respect of locals, friendly community spirit and diverse community activities
- The potential for a future vision that encourages more diversity, including innovative architecture, creative industries and cultural tourism

Significant themes and localities that were identified through the community consultation represent opportunities for the development of relevant art works and urban design that may integrate with local understandings, goals and sense of place.

Theme	Expressed as
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Report of the General Manager

3.1 Flugelman Public Art Sculpture Acquisition (cont)

Land's Edge	Beaches, seaside, ocean, headlands, river mouth, harbours, Werri Beach, lighthouse, Black Beach, rock pools, rock platforms, coastal walk, blowholes
Heritage of Industries	Cedar-getting, quarrying, farming, shipping, Jamberoo Butter Factory, fishing history,
Aboriginal Significance	Meeting places, harvest sites, cultural places
Heritage of settlement	Iconic buildings – churches, cemeteries, post office, Saddleback Mountain, Hoddles Track,
Unspoilt nature	Mangroves, waterbirds, casuarina trees, black cockatoos, basalt cliffs, fish, rainforest, Bonaira Reserve, Minnamurra Swamp, escarpment
Today's meeting places	Parks, train stations, playgrounds, business precincts, town centres, tourist sites

4 CLOSURE