

AMISA Newsletter

Association of Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts, Inc

Volume 2, Issue 1: 22 June 2014

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Seminar: Schools of Arts / Crown Lands Legislation White Paper 16 June 2014

Thirty-eight people attended the seminar. While the majority were from the Sydney area, delegates attended from Victoria and Queensland, Narooma, Bowring, Cambewarra, Woonona and Bateau Bay.

We received apologies for non-attendance from representatives of 12 schools.

Dr. Roger Morris AM chaired the session.



Dr Roger Morris AM opens the session

The Panel from the NSW Government, Trade & Investment Crown Lands were:

- Lindsey Paget-Cooke, Project Manager for the Legislation Reforms
- Ilana Crudden, assisting with legal issues
- Belinda Boyce, the contact for Schools of Arts in the Crown Lands Division



Lindsey Paget-Cooke

Ms Paget-Cooke noted, with regard to Schools of Arts:

- There were about 800 schools
- Currently 139 remain
 - 71 private land
 - 68 public land
 - The 139 total includes 29 parcels of vacant land (no active trust, or land with no building)

We attach these items from Ms Paget-Cooke:

1. The PowerPoint presentation.
2. A document titled: "Private Trusts – comparison between current provisions and relevant provisions of the Trusts Act 1925 that will apply"



Lindsey Paget-Cook and Ilana Crudden



Belinda Boyce and Dr Roger Morris AM

Issues raised during discussion:

- A number of representatives advised they had not been consulted
- Ms Paget-Cooke advised there had been a genuine effort to contact all Schools. There had also been advertising
- Dr Morris noted the prospect that contact details for a school may have changed
- The Department will review and analyse all submissions received
- While the close date is 20 June 2014, they will accept submissions up to 30 June 2014
- They will not respond to individual submissions. Schools should review the Public Consultation Outcomes Report, which will be available on-line in due course.
- The new legislation will not be prepared until submissions have been analysed and any resulting changes approved by Government
- Ultimately the position is:
 - Where a public trust, the trust will be converted to a Crown Land Manager incorporated entity and will continue to run, and trust board members will become company board members
 - Insurance will be paid by the Government
 - Where a private trust, the existing trust will continue to run
 - There will be transitional arrangements to assist trusts to update constitutions
 - Trusts will arrange their own insurance and the Government will not pay insurance on private land. This is the same as for other not for profit organisations that provide a public benefit
 - The property is not under State control
 - The trust can deal with assets without ministerial control
 - Noted, some councils gave grants for some or all insurance premiums

- A school noted they have limited funds to manage their schools. They felt, if transferred to Council, that Council may not pay to bring it up to their standards
 - The legislation will not force schools to transfer to councils
 - Schools would be given autonomy
 - There will be a transition period. There will be an opportunity to come to them regarding new trustees.
 - The schools need to decide what they want to do
 - Noted, the majority of schools at the Seminar were on private land

- It was felt a number of schools would need to look at their Constitutions

- Paying Council rates
 - Noted the issue of rates rested with the local council. At least one council subsidised rates for a school

- Noted, Land Titles will not recognise a trust without an ACN (Australian Company Number)

Ms Paget-Cooke invited submissions from Schools no matter how short they might be.



A portion of the seminar attendees

Have Your Say

Online:

At the Crown Lands website (where all material is available):

www.crownland.nsw.gov.au

By Post

Crown Lands Review
 NSW Trade & Investment
 PO Box 2185
 DANGAR NSW 2309

By Email:

crownlands.whitepaper@trade.nsw.gov.au

Closing Date:

30 June 2014, no further extensions will be given

Sharing your Email Address

You can assist the Government in their efforts to contact you. We recommend you contact the Department on the email address above and give them your current contact detail (post and email).

We also suggest you update the School's contact detail when there is a change.

Please note, from 1 July 2014, the contact details are via Belinda Boyce:

Email: belinda.boyce@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Telephone: 4920 5000

Insurance

The cost of insurance is an ongoing issue for Schools. It formed a large part of the discussion on 16 June.

We recommend that periodically (or annually) you may wish to seek two quotes for your insurance coverage.

Here are two intermediaries you may wish to contact prior to the next renewal of your insurance:

1. CRISP Insurance. This is a Community Underwriting Agency who help provide insurance for around 700 Not for Profit organisations.
 - a. Here is a link to their web page: <http://www.crispinsurance.com.au/> (Alternately, 'Google' Crisp Insurance.)
2. Aon Risk Services. This is an insurance broker who has a 'not for profit' Division. We attach this material from them:
 - a. AON Financial Services Guide
 - b. Vitalpack Summary 2013-14
 - c. VP New Business Quotation Declaration Form

They advised:

“Our Non Profit division within Aon has developed packages of insurance specific to charitable, not for profit and volunteer organisations/agencies including work for volunteers. Our insurers are familiar with the types of activities Non for profit organisations regularly get involved in therefore our cover is different compared to an off-shelf market product.”

“Premiums start at \$750.00 excluding Government charges for \$10million Public Liability. Also, it is an automatic exclusion on all of our Public Liability policies to cover participation in sporting events.”

Invitation to join AMISA

If you are not a member of AMISA we invite you to join. Please complete the form on the next page of this newsletter and return it to us with your payment.

As an alternative you can transfer funds to us by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Please note:

1. You need to clearly identify yourself/School in the transfer document
 - a. We'd appreciate an email advising us when payment is made
2. You need to send us the membership form either by post or by email

AMISA is an organisation founded to:

1. Foster the preservation and restoration of the social, cultural, educational and physical heritage of active Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts in NSW
2. Encourage and facilitate the recognition and preservation of Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts
3. Encourage the revival of inactive Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts in NSW

We will:

1. Develop and maintain a contact network
2. Gather and provide information on Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts in NSW
3. Hold conferences, seminars and workshops that deal with such organisations
4. Publish a regular newsletter
5. Seek contact with and co-operation from relevant governmental agencies
6. Establish and maintain linkages with other organisations with similar objectives
7. Set up and maintain an AMISA website

We invite you to join us:

(Please complete the Membership Application form below and send it to us)

1. Organisational membership is open to any organisation which is currently or formerly recognized as a Mechanics' Institute or School of Arts in NSW or which has an identifiable linkage to such an institution
2. Individual membership is open to any person who is connected with or has an interest in Mechanics' Institutes and / or Schools of Arts

Membership Application

(Please print)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Incorporated Organisation	(\$20 per year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	(\$10 per year)

Title _____ Name _____
Position _____
Organisation _____
Address (Street) _____
Address (Postal) _____
Post Code _____
Phone (primary) _____ Phone (alternate) _____
Email ** _____
Website _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Method of payment

Cheque / money order

Please make it payable to AMISA
and send to:
c/- Sydney Mechanics School of Arts
Level 3, 280 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

EFT

Please transfer funds to:

Bank Account **158225**
BSB **032101**

Please ensure your name / organisation name appears in the
reference field

In either case, ***please email us*** to confirm the dispatch of funds. ***Email to:*** phil.reed@bigpond.com

We will accept a 'pdf' copy of the Membership Registration via email in lieu of an original sent by post.

Please provide your comments and/or an outline of your interests, e.g. community development, heritage conservation, education, libraries, architecture, local government, history, etc

For AMISA Use. Receipt No. _____ Date ___/___/____
