



Mt Barker & District Residents' Association Inc

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For the Community

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Culture & Arts Policy

Recently the third and final International Sculpture Symposium concluded with the result that a remarkable twenty six stone sculptures will be installed throughout ours and adjoining districts. What a wonderful achievement and congratulations to all the community groups, businesses and councils who contributed to make this happen. Many people will love these art works and others judging by some letters to the papers will loath them. But how exciting it is that art can still cause such controversy.

For some time this Association has recognized that the Mount Barker District Council has no Arts Policy. To help with this the Association has created a draft policy and has given it as a gift to the Council as a firm basis for them to devise an effective policy for the district. In 2008 to model this draft the Association held a series of public meetings with over forty artists, creatives, historians and civic leaders from the district and sought their knowledge and input. A big thank you also to James Sexton for donating the use of his company's office for these meetings. This draft was then sent to the Council along with a petition containing 232 signatures requesting a policy.

Five years later nothing had been forthcoming from the Council and so on 25 July 2013 the Association called another public meeting to refine and update the 2008 draft document. Consequently, this draft which again reflected the wishes of the people was given to Council.

The Association also recognized that not all is just art and paintings and so deliberately created the draft as a Culture & Arts Policy as the culture of the district is so important. In the 21st century, culture should never be narrowly defined. Thus, the draft policy provides equal opportunities for all - including (and not limited to) popular culture as well as the traditional arts, the culture of youth as well as of the mature, the aged, and the disabled.

We hope that it is now not too long before the Council acts on this generous and magnanimous gift from the denizens of its district. With the hard work having been done it will only take a little effort to turn the draft into an actual Council Culture & Arts Policy which will serve the district well into the future.