



Records Description List

Reference Number: **2014.0144**

Collection/Series Title: **VCA COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Creator**University of Melbourne Faculty of Victorian College of the Arts VCA and  
Melbourne Conservatorium of Music MCM**Creator's****Activity/Occupation****Creator's Historical Note**

Previous Control Number: UA591 The National Gallery of Victoria Art School, founded in 1867 to teach fine art, was the VCA's foundation school. The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) was established in 1972 by a government order under the Victorian Institute of Colleges Act 1955. Subsequently, in 1973 the VCA was affiliated as a college of advanced education with the Victorian Institute of Colleges. This was followed by the establishment of the School of Music in 1974, the School of Drama in 1976, the School of Dance in 1978 and Film and Television (1992). The VCA integrated into the University of Melbourne in 2007 as a separate faculty. In March 1981, the Minister for the Arts, Norman Lacy, had the Victorian College of the Arts Act passed through the Victorian Parliament. Lacy laid out a rationale for the re-constitution of the College under a VCA specific Act which was derived firstly "from the quite specific demands and circumstances of preparing young artists for professional practise." He asserted that "the basic concept upon which the college is built is that young artists intending to enter careers as practitioners in their various fields are best assisted to achieve their ambitions in a milieu of continuous artistic activity and endeavour of a fully professional nature. To the extent that artistic education is separated from normal professional practice it is so much less effective." Secondly, the rationale related to the adjacent location of the VCA campus to the National Gallery of Victoria and the Victorian Arts Centre. He said that this "Greater Arts Centre concept is central to the Government's decision to reconstitute the college by separate statute as well as to the development of the arts in general. It represents a simple, readily achievable and highly effective means of creating a substantial milieu of continuous professional activity of the highest standards. It also has ramifications which extend far beyond the college and its partner institutions. Its implementation will shape and invigorate the arts in many ways and lead to a dynamic, cultural and social facility without peer in Australia" and that it "afforded an unparalleled opportunity and challenge to present total programmes in the arts which should encourage creative exchanges between the art forms, give inspiration to students of the arts and provide for the public an experience which few places in the world can match." The Government therefore believed that the VCA's role was substantially different from other educational institutions. In 1988 the Federal Minister for Employment, Education and Training introduced a proposal to establish a unified national system of higher education with membership of the proposed system limited to institutions of a particular size. The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), which had been established by the Victorian Order in Council in 1972 and then reconstituted under The Victorian College of the Arts Act, 1981 (Vic) was not able to participate in the proposed national system in its own right. To enable it to participate in the unified national system, the VCA entered into an Affiliation Agreement with The University of Melbourne on 16 November 1988. With the Victorian College of the Arts (Amendment) Act 1991 (Vic), which established a more extensive relationship between the University and the VCA, the affiliation came to an end. A key feature of the relationship was that the University assumed responsibility for the academic programs of the VCA, and students at the VCA who were enrolled in degree programs became students of the University. On 1 January 1992 further expansion of the college took place when the fine arts programs of the former Faculty of Art and Design, Victoria College (formerly Prahran College of Advanced Education) were incorporated into the School of Art. At the same point in time in 1992 the Swinburne Film and Television School, established as Australia's first Film school in 1966, also transferred to the VCA. The VCA School of Film and Television remained at Hawthorn until 1 July 1994 when it moved into a purpose-built federally funded building on the VCA campus at Southbank. In 2003, under the Higher Education Support Act 2003, the Federal Government's reforms to higher education introduced a consistent funding model for the academic clusters, which came into effect in 2005. This resulted in the removal of the special funding support that the VCA had previously received, representing a 35% reduction in revenue. The University and the VCA commenced discussions in early 2005 about the possibility of full integration. In November 2005, the parties signed a heads of agreement which provided for integration with effect from 1 January 2007. This integration enabled the VCA to become a Faculty of the University. The integration of the VCA resulted in further music related programs being offered by the University, in addition to those already available in the Faculty of Music. In May 2008, the University Council resolved that the Faculty of Music and the Faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts would be amalgamated from 6 April 2009. Accordingly, the Faculty of Music was disestablished and the name of the Faculty of the Victorian

College of the Arts changed to the Faculty of the VCA and Music, within which three schools were established: the School of Art, School of Music and School of Performing Arts. In November 2009, former Telstra CEO Ziggy Switkowski was appointed to Chair a review. A number of his recommendations were adopted, resulting in the resignation of the inaugural Dean, abandonment of the previous push for full amalgamation, the creation of the present divisional structure with a more centralised administration and two relatively distinct teaching entities at the Parkville and Southbank campuses, and a change in the title of the head of the two divisions to Director. The appointment of a new Dean under this new structure occurred in 2011. On 1 January 2012 the Faculty's name was changed to reflect the two operating divisions and is now known as the Faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (Faculty of the VCA and MCM). Previous Control Number: UA591

**Date Range of  
Collection/Series**

1971-1989

**Size/Extent**

9 boxes (1.53 m)

**Access Conditions**

Access: Restricted

**Scope and Content of Collection/Series**

Previous Control Number: UM1167. This series includes minutes and papers for council spanning 1971-1989. The folders are arranged chronologically according to meeting date. There is also one folder from the 1970s that holds personal and biographical information on Council committee members, along with a note regarding the expiration of their on the committee. Information includes a "personal" section (name, address, phone number, marital status, qualifications and date of birth), "occupation" (position, firm, address, phone and business), "college", "committees", "other organizations" and "other interests". Committee members include prominent individuals, for instance, George Logie-Smith, Sidney Baillieu Myer, John Raymond Hopkins etc. For that reason, the folder may prove of interest to researchers as it includes summary information on prominent musicians and various other distinguished individuals. The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) was established in 1972 by a government order under the Victorian Institute of Colleges Act 1955, initiated by the Premier of Victoria and Minister for the Arts Rupert Hamer. In March 1981, the Minister for the Arts, Norman Lacy, had the Victorian College of the Arts Act passed through the Victorian Parliament. In the Explanatory Second Reading Speech by The Hon. Norman Lacy, M.P. it was noted that the purpose of the Act was the reconstitution of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) made necessary by the repeal in 1980 of the Victorian Institute of Colleges Act and to make it "better able to provide for the preparation of young people to enter upon careers as professional artists" (Legislative Assembly on 19 March 1981). Lacy went on to note that the adjacent location of the VCA campus to the National Gallery of Victoria and the Victorian Arts Centre was well suited to artists achieving "... their ambitions in a milieu of continuous artistic activity". Lacy further noted that "the college's students will be and feel themselves to be participants in the much wider artistic environment of the greater Arts Centre". Key aspects of the Victorian College of the Arts Act 1981, mentioning Council and its powers, are as follows: Clause 7 specifies the Constitution of the council, providing for 18 members as follows: (a) the President of the College; (b) the Director of the College; (c) the Chairperson of the Board of Studies of the College; (d) the Vice-Chancellor of the University; (e) 2 people elected by and from the staff of the College in accordance with the Statutes; (f) 2 people elected by and from the students of the College in accordance with the Statutes; (g) 1 person appointed by the Minister; (h) 1 person appointed by the Minister administering the Arts Victoria Act 1972; (i) 4 people appointed by the Governor in Council; (j) 4 people appointed by the Council. Clauses 8 to 13 are machinery provisions for the council (term of office; Removal of appointed members and vacation of office; elections; vacancies); Clauses 14, 15 and 16 relate to the election of the president and deputy president and their roles (Election of President by members of Council; Election of Deputy President; Chairman of meetings); Clause 17 covers the declaration of pecuniary interest by Council members and ineligibility to vote on related matters; Clause 18 covers Council meetings (frequency, quorum and voting); Clause 19 provides for the council to appoint a Director (and/or Acting Director) of the college on such terms and conditions as the council determines and outlines the role and responsibilities of the director; Clause 20 covers Staff of the College (appointment and termination); Clause 21 empowers the college to confer degrees, certificates or other awards etc. ; Clause 22 provides for Committees and delegations of power by the council, and; Clauses 23 and 24 are standard provisions regarding the validity of decisions of council and the liability of council members.

<b>Collection Category</b>	University, official
<b>This document dated</b>	29/05/2015

To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2014.0144 Unit 1	2014.0144.0001	Council Minutes	1972-1974	
2014.0144 Unit 1	2014.0144.0002	Council Papers	1974	
2014.0144 Unit 1	2014.0144.0003	Council Papers	1975	
2014.0144 Unit 2	2014.0144.0004	Council Minutes	1975-1976	
2014.0144 Unit 2	2014.0144.0005	Council Papers	1976	
2014.0144 Unit 2	2014.0144.0006	Council Minutes	1976-1978	
2014.0144 Unit 3	2014.0144.0007	Council Papers	1977	
2014.0144 Unit 3	2014.0144.0008	Council Papers	1978	
2014.0144 Unit 3	2014.0144.0009	Council Papers	1979	
2014.0144 Unit 4	2014.0144.0010	Council Minutes	1979-1981	
2014.0144 Unit 4	2014.0144.0011	Council Papers	1980	
2014.0144 Unit 4	2014.0144.0012	Council Papers	1981	
2014.0144 Unit 5	2014.0144.0013	Council Papers	1982	
2014.0144 Unit 5	2014.0144.0014	Council Papers	1983	
2014.0144 Unit 5	2014.0144.0015	Council Papers	1984	
2014.0144 Unit 6	2014.0144.0016	Council Papers - Part 1	1985	
2014.0144 Unit 6	2014.0144.0017	Council Papers - Part 2	1985	
2014.0144 Unit 6	2014.0144.0018	Council Papers	1986	
2014.0144 Unit 7	2014.0144.0019	Council Papers	1987	
2014.0144 Unit 7	2014.0144.0020	Council Papers - Part 1	1988	
2014.0144 Unit 7	2014.0144.0021	Council Papers - Part 2	1988	
2014.0144 Unit 8	2014.0144.0022	Council Papers - Part 1	1989	

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2014.0144 Unit 8	2014.0144.0023	Council Papers - Part 2	1989	
2014.0144 Unit 8	2014.0144.0024	Council Papers - Part 3	1989	
2014.0144 Unit 8	2014.0144.0025	Council Members Histories	Unknown	This folder appears to have been created circa 1970s and includes personal and biographical information on committee members, along with a note regarding the expiration of their term on various committees. Information includes a "personal" section (name, address, phone number, marital status, qualifications and date of birth), "occupation" (position, firm, address, phone and business), "college", "committees", "other organizations" and "other interests". Committee members include prominent individuals, for instance, George Logie-Smith, Sidney Baillieu Myer, John Raymond Hopkins etc. For that reason, the folder may prove of interest to researchers as it includes summary information on prominent musicians and various distinguished individuals.
2014.0144 Unit 9	2014.0144.0026	Council Minutes	1981-1983	
2014.0144 Unit 9	2014.0144.0027	Council Minutes	1984-1987	
2014.0144 Unit 9	2014.0144.0028	Council Minutes	1987-1989	
<div>End of List</div>				