

DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Australian National Maritime Museum
2 Murray Street,
Darling Harbour, Sydney

20 May 2015

ATTENDEES

NAME	MUSEUM/ORGANISATION
Ms Janet Carding	Director, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery
Mr Alec Coles OBE	Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Museum (CAMD Executive Member)
Prof. Graham Durant AM	Director, Questacon - National Science and Technology Centre
Mr Rick Ellis	Chief Executive, Museum of New Zealand - Te Papa Tongarewa
Mr Mark Goggin	Executive Director, Sydney Living Museums
Dr Patrick Greene OBE	Chief Executive Officer, Museum Victoria (Chair, CAMD)
Ms Rose Hiscock	Director, Powerhouse Museum (CAMD Executive Member) joined the meeting from agenda item 7
Mr Jeremy Johnson	Chief Executive Officer, Sovereign Hill Museums Association (CAMD Treasurer)
Ms Daryl Karp	Director, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
Ms Kim McKay AO	Director and Chief Executive Officer, Australian Museum
Ms Sally Manuireva	Director, Programmes and Capital Projects deputising for Roy Clare, Director, Auckland War Memorial Museum
Ms Jillian Marsh	Director, Public Engagement deputising for Prof. Suzanne Miller, CEO, Queensland Museum Network
Mr Richard Mulvaney	Director, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery
Mr Brian Oldman	Director, South Australian Museum
Ms Katrina Sedgwick	Director and Chief Executive Officer, Australian Centre for the Moving Image

Mr Kevin Sumption	Director, Australian National Maritime Museum
Dr Mathew Trinca	Director, National Museum of Australia

APOLOGIES

NAME	MUSEUM/ORGANISATION
Ms Margaret Anderson	Director, History South Australia
Mr Pierre Arpin	Director, Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory (CAMD Executive Member)
Mr Alan Brien	Chief Executive Officer, Scitech Discovery Centre, Perth
Mr Roy Clare CBE	Director, Auckland War Memorial Museum
Dr Ian P. Griffin	Director, Otago Museum
Prof. Suzanne Miller	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Museum Network. [<i>Joined the meeting by Skype for items 14-17</i>]
Mr Anthony Wright	Director, Canterbury Museum (CAMD Executive Member)

IN ATTENDANCE/PRESENTERS

NAME	MUSEUM/ORGANISATION	Agenda item
Dr Meredith Foley	Executive Officer, CAMD	All
Dr Robin Hirst	National Chair, ICOM - Australia and Director, Collections Research and Exhibitions, Museum Victoria	13
Mr Frank Howarth	National President, Museums Australia	22
Ms Alex Marsden	National Director, Museums Australia	22
Mr Sanjiv Mittal	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture (India) and Director General, National Museum, New Delhi	1 - 2

1 WELCOME

CAMD Chair, Patrick Greene (CEO, Museum Victoria) opened the meeting, made an acknowledgment of country and welcomed delegates to the 2015 General Meeting of the Council of Australasian Museum Directors (CAMD). He also welcomed Sanjiv Mittal, Joint

Secretary, Ministry of Culture (India) and newly-appointed Director General of the [National Museum, New Delhi](#) who was joining the meeting for the morning.

Patrick further welcomed Rick Ellis (Chief Executive, Museum of New Zealand – Te Papa Tongarewa), Katrina Sedgwick (Chief Executive Officer, Australian Centre for the Moving Image) and Janet Carding (Director, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery) to their first meeting of CAMD. Sally Manuireva (Director, Programmes and Capital Projects Auckland War Memorial Museum) and Jillian Marsh (Director, Public Engagement, Queensland Museum Network), who were deputising for their respective Directors, were also welcomed to the meeting. The apologies were accepted as recorded above.

Pierre Arpin

Patrick reported that Pierre Arpin, former Director, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), has not been reappointed to that position. It was agreed that Pierre should be thanked for his strong contribution to CAMD particularly in successfully progressing the issue of flexibility in environmental conditions.

Executive Vacancy

As Pierre was not reappointed, his membership of CAMD and the CAMD Executive lapses. Members were asked to consider whether they would like to nominate for the casual vacancy created. [*Daryl Karp (Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House) subsequently nominated and has been accepted by the Executive to fill the casual vacancy.*]

The new Director of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory is Marcus Schutenko, the former Chief Executive Officer of the Museum of Chinese Australian History in Melbourne. Meredith Foley (CAMD Executive Officer) noted that an invitation to continue MAGNT's membership of CAMD would be sent to Mr Schutenko when he commences.

Kevin Sumption (Director, Australian National Maritime Museum) was thanked for hosting the meeting and assisting in its organisation.

Alliance meeting

Patrick reminded members that a meeting of the *Museums and Galleries Australia Alliance* (CAMD, the Council of Australasian Art Museum Directors, Museums Australia and ICOM-Australia) would take place the next day (Thursday 21 May). Mark Goggin (Executive Director, Sydney Living Museums) was thanked for hosting the Alliance meeting.

2 GUEST PRESENTATION

Mr Sanjiv Mittal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture (India) and Director General, [National Museum, New Delhi](#) was invited to speak to the meeting.

Mr Mittal thanked members for their invitation and noted that he was in Australia to open [The Story of Rama – Indian miniatures from the National Museum, New Delhi](#) at the National Gallery of Australia.

Mr Mittal explained that India has about 1,000, mostly public, museums. The National Museum in New Delhi is one of the largest in the country with over 200,000 objects from prehistoric art to partition history; covering 5,000 years of art, terracotta, miniatures, textiles, armour, sculpture and other artefacts. The original museum was housed in the President's Palace (1949) but moved to its current building in 1960. He noted that the role of the museum had changed over the last decade with a stronger movement towards education and increased digitisation of objects. Mr Mittal noted that a national digital portal and digital repository has been established [see [Museums of India – National Portal and Digital Repository](#)] by the Ministry of Culture with over 12,000 objects digitised.

While the National Museum has around 27 galleries, not all are open at present although efforts are underway to improve these galleries and provide access. The museum also supervises the [Archaeological Survey of India](#) which covers over 3,000 monuments of national significance. Tax effective donations are utilised to allow the museum to enter into partnerships to ensure protection of the monuments.

Mr Mittal noted that the National Museum had developed many relationships with museums in other countries. He was looking forward to discussing staff exchanges with the Australian National Maritime Museum to improve in-house maritime history expertise. He commented on the usefulness of the Government level MoU between India and Australia and hoped that it would lead to many more collaborations. Mr Mittal's contact details are as follows: Mr Sanjiv Mittal, Director General, National Museum, New Delhi sanmit123@gmail.com.

Patrick agreed that there were many good reasons for Australian and New Zealand museums to collaborate with Sanjiv, not least the growing number of tourists visiting Australia from India and the increasing Indian community residing here. Rick Ellis (CEO, National Museum of New Zealand - Te Papa Tongarewa) noted that his wife had visited the National Museum, New Delhi and had been greatly impressed by the collections and levels of service in the museum.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

After discussion and one amendment, it was agreed:

Resolution: That the minutes of the CAMD Annual General Meeting held at The Mint, Sydney Living Museums on 3 November 2014, as amended, be accepted.

Carried Johnson/Greene

4 CHAIRS REPORT

[Richard Mulvaney and Mat Trinca apologized and left the meeting to attend sessions of a parallel Museums Australia meeting.]

European museums and exhibitions

Patrick Greene (CAMD Chair and CEO, Museum Victoria) reported that he had taken part in a conference of the European Museum Academy in Italy at which the 2015 Micheletti Award was presented. He also attended the Milan Expo themed 'food energy for life' which was worth seeing not only because of its spectacular exhibitions but also the excellent food on hand. He noted that Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and other countries from our region were represented; Australia was not, which seems unusual given that Tourism Australia is promoting Australian food and good restaurants.

National Cultural Heritage Committee

Patrick also commented on his work as Chair of the National Cultural Heritage Committee. The Committee also includes Tim Sullivan (Assistant Director and Branch Head, National Collections, Australian War Memorial) and Suzanne Miller (CEO, Queensland Museum Network). It was noted that the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act* (1986) was under [review](#) by Mr Shane Simpson, who will be a speaker at tomorrow's *Alliance* meeting. Mr Simpson has indicated that he seeks to simplify and clarify the Act.

Tourism and Museums

Patrick reported that, at the end of the week, he would be a member of a panel on cultural tourism organised by the [Tourism and Transport Forum](#) (TTF). He noted that the TTF, which is currently run by Margie Osmond, is doing a lot on behalf of cultural institutions. A recent submission by the TTF noted the budgetary impact of indexation on museums.

Kim McKay (Chief Executive Officer and Director, Australian Museum) commented on the negative impact of competition between States over exhibitions which was driving up prices and inhibiting activity. She urged Patrick to raise the problem of exclusivity clauses with the panel. Patrick agreed there were grounds for seeking funding on a non-exclusive basis but there would always be exclusive blockbusters. Kim suggested that the competition for exhibitions, particularly between NSW and Victoria, was impacting on Australia's reputation and cultural tourism generally. Rick Ellis noted that little seemed to have changed in relation to tourism since he worked with Ansett in the 1980s; Tourism Australia has no marketing remit for the States and the States themselves compete. Members suggested trying to develop actions in this area. Meredith Foley (CAMD Executive Officer) noted that the new National Programme for Excellence in the Arts (NPEA) might provide an opportunity to affect change in this area.

Patrick noted that George Brandis, the Minister for the Arts, would be attending a Board lunch at Melbourne Museum in early June and that he would speak to him about these issues and also note the gap in funding which exists for State and Territory museums wishing to exhibit overseas.

Patrick also noted with deep regret that Andrew Sayers (former National Museum of Australia Director) was seriously ill. He encouraged members to send their personal messages of support to Andrew.

Patrick thanked Meredith and the Executive for their contribution in the preceding period.

5 FINANCIAL REPORT

CAMD Treasurer, Jeremy Johnson (Chief Executive Officer, Sovereign Hill Museums) commented on the most recent financial statement (28 February 2015) and the CAMD Budget 2015-2016, both of which were circulated with the meeting papers. He explained to new members that Sovereign Hill (as a non-Government enterprise) was able to more easily provide payroll and other employment services for CAMD's Executive Officer. He noted that CAMD funds were healthy and that there was sufficient for CAMD to use for projects. There would be a minor deficit next year. It was agreed:

Resolution:

That CAMD accepts the Treasurer's report and the budget for 2015-16.

Carried

Jeremy was thanked by members for his sterling work as Treasurer.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Meredith Foley (CAMD Executive Officer) noted that the appointment of a new National Director by Museums Australia and the continuing collaboration with other peak organisations in the *Museums and Galleries Australia Alliance* was proving to be beneficial. Her provision of an unofficial secretariat for the Alliance could now be shared with Alex Marsden.

Website

Meredith reported that the home page for the website has been updated and that the CAMD [WWI calendar](#) of events and activities pages is up and running with over 60 events captured. Members were encouraged to provide updates and additional events as they arose. Subscribers to the weekly CAMD ONLINE news email were growing in number and attracting staff and advisors at federal and State arts agencies.

Meredith noted that she was working on a 'Museums Count – statistics from the Sector' page which will feature key facts about CAMD museums and the museum sector drawn from the CAMD survey and other sources and presented via infographics, maps and tables. The material published will provide Australian and New Zealand data sets.

Survey

Meredith reported that the CAMD [Survey Report and Tables for 2013-14](#) had been delayed by late responses but had now been circulated. The highlights would be released as part of the 'Museums Count' web section with a media release to accompany its publication online.

ACTION: Members agreed that tourism would be the basis for a media release which linked back to the 'Museums Count' pages.

The timetable for this year's survey process will be as follows:

Part 1: the '*Snapshot Survey*' designed to gather data quickly to assist CAMD in its advocacy work for major museums and the sector [Released online on 1 July 2015 for return by **21 August 2015**] and

Part 2: further questions designed to provide benchmarking information for CAMD members [Online 21 Sept 2015 for return by **30 November 2015**].

At the last meeting, members discussed whether more of the data collected should be released online on a comparative, institutional basis rather than only in the aggregated format. It was noted that some of this data was available already in member's annual reports (although it should be noted that collection methods and definitions used in reports vary widely). Meredith encouraged members to consider the data released and indicate whether they would be amenable to releasing it in a non-aggregated form which compared individual museums.

Sharing Highs and Lows

Daryl Karp (Director, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House) suggested that each CAMD meeting include a regular session on what had worked for Directors in the last six months and what had failed. An offshoot of this would be the highlighting of case studies for Meredith to utilise.

International Engagement

Meredith has been liaising with the Ministry for the Arts and also with the Science portfolio about their regular sweeps to pick up international engagements. Most members were receiving the requisite form. Janet Carding asked that the form be sent to Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Federal Budget

Members indicated that the recent summary of Budget measures prepared by Meredith was useful. Details of the new *National Programme for Excellence in the Arts* (NPEA) would be circulated as received.

Meredith noted that this was her 21st general meeting of CAMD members. She thanked Patrick, Jeremy, Pierre and the Executive for their continuing support and advice.

7 NEW ZEALAND REPORT

Sally Manuireva (Director, Programmes and Capital Projects, Auckland War Memorial Museum) and Rick Ellis (Chief Executive, Museum of New Zealand - Te Papa Tongarewa) commented on New Zealand issues and events.

Rick reported on the official opening in April of Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington. It commemorated the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli and the park itself contains a memorial commissioned by the Australian Government to pay tribute to the Anzac military relationship. It was followed by the opening of [Gallipoli The Scale of War](#) exhibition, a collaboration between Te Papa and Weta Workshop. The exhibition combines movies, model-making and museum collections. Peter Jackson also opened the [Great War Exhibition](#) at the old Dominion Museum which may be continued as a permanent museum.

Sally noted that a record 35,000 attended the dawn service at Auckland War Memorial Museum. Auckland has relaunched its [Online Cenotaph](#) which was encouraging amazing engagement online and would be toured around the regions. Auckland had an extensive program of Anzac-related events and activities.

Museums Aotearoa's national conference has just finished and members are looking forward to the joint conference in Auckland next year with Museums Australia. Museums Aotearoa has surveyed over 10,000 visitors about their museum experiences. A new flag project was to begin a road show which will culminate early next year in a referendum.

[Rose Hiscock joined the meeting.]

Rick commented on the need for repair and maintenance at Te Papa particularly in relation to mitigating seismic risk. Te Papa has funding of \$10m per year for the next 4 year for significant upgrading and repairs. It also plans to refresh all permanent exhibitions. The museum has the opportunity to basically create the museum of the future which will be a collaboration of digital and physical experiences. The museum, in collaboration with [Network for Learning](#), will be seeking proposals internationally to establish a digital education hub – to create, incubate and then sell programs.

8. SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY AND CONSERVATION STANDARDS

Meredith Foley outlined the activities of the CAMD Sustainability Working Party under Pierre Arpin as Chair. She noted that the Working Party had achieved its major aim of working with the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM) and the Centre for Cultural Materials at the University of Melbourne to encourage a more flexible position on conservation environmental standards.

Members noted the success of the Working Party, thanked all participants and agreed that it should be in abeyance until needed. Meredith will continue to liaise with Julian Bickersteth and other members of the AICCM on advances in this area.

9 MUSEUMS' DATA AND PROFILE WORKING GROUP

Meredith and Rose provided an update on the work of the Museums' Data and Profile Working Group. Discussions with Australia Council staff demonstrated that they were not resourced to assist with museum data collection. Further information is being sought about the museum data commissioned from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) by the Meeting of Cultural Minister's Statistical Working Group. Meredith also referred to the new section of the CAMD website called 'Museums Count – statistics from the sector' which she is developing. She also suggested that members consider ways in which CAMD might support quantitative data collection for the sector and gather attitudinal data through existing or newly commissioned studies.

Kim McKay (CEO & Director, Australian Museum) emphasised the importance of the museum sector inserting itself into the narrative about the knowledge economy and showing its effectiveness in the arena of soft diplomacy. Daryl Karp (Director, Museum of Australian Democracy) recommended that the community's trust in museums be highlighted in campaigns. It was also noted that the US Institute of Museum and Library Services had undertaken a great study and campaign of this sort.

ACTION: Members agreed with Rose Hiscock's suggestion that Bridget Jones, formerly in the Australia Council statistical research section, be approached about utilising CAMD survey data and to undertake a behavioural study.

10 NAME REPORT

Meredith Foley noted that *Network of Australasian Museum Exhibitors (NAME)* members had expressed concern at an apparent bias in the awarding of *Visions of Australia* grants. It was agreed that the program, which has been moved back to the Ministry for the Arts, will be observed and discussions held with Ministry staff if necessary.

Members accepted the circulated report on the work of NAME. NAME is meeting today (20 May 2015) in Sydney.

11 CTM REPORT

Mark Goggin (Executive Director, Sydney Living Museums) reported on the outcomes of the *Communicating the Museum (CTM)* conference held in Sydney 4 – 8 November 2014. The conference attracted 265 delegates from 23 countries and 79 expert speakers. Eighty delegates went on to Melbourne and 30 to Tasmania. Feedback from delegates was excellent. Mark acknowledged the support of all partners, particularly institutional Partners: the Art Gallery of NSW, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Australian Museum, Museum Victoria, Australian National Maritime Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, Australian Centre for the Moving Image and the Sydney Opera House.

The 2015 CTM conference will be in Istanbul; in 2016, Singapore and in 2017 possibly Montreal.

Patrick Greene advised members that the [Museum and the Web Asia conference](#), which connects an international network of leading museum innovators, would be coming to Melbourne in October this year.

12. MENTORING AND LEADERSHIP PROPOSAL

Rose Hiscock and Kim McKay presented a final proposal for the CAMD Mentoring and Leadership program. The program will be for women only in its first year to address the imbalance of women in leadership positions in the museum sector.

Rose thanked Mathew Trinca (Director, National Museum Australia) who has offered to underwrite the program for \$10,000. This will enable a tiered structure for small and large organisations to participate. Larger institutions will be charged \$2,000 and smaller \$1,500. Mathew encouraged other museums to participate and to see the action as part of their corporate responsibility in contributing to a national and global network of leaders.

A show of hands indicated that the necessary 15 institutions were prepared to participate. Members were encouraged to identify female participants who had the capacity and interest to be future leaders. Rose suggested that the initial meeting of participants and mentors be held in one, central location.

Katrina Sedgwick (Chief Executive Officer, Australian Centre for the Moving Image) noted that ACMI was in the process of developing a similar internal mentoring program for its staff and that links should be made between the two programs.

Members discussed sourcing mentors both from within the museum sector, including from Boards, and from outside industries. Some concerns were expressed that there might be potential conflicts of interest between mentors and mentees. Patrick Greene noted that a similar mentoring scheme had been operating in the United Kingdom for some years with no noticeable problems of this sort.

Rick Ellis noted that there was a similar program in New Zealand. He emphasised the need for the target group to be considered in its second year in terms of diversity. Sally Manuvera reported that she had established an Auckland cultural leadership network for women which meets every couple of months to hear speakers talk about their leadership journeys. Sally is happy to share details if this is of interest to others.

ACTION:

- (i) an email will be circulated to members with further information about criteria for selection of participants and calling for formal indications of interest; and
- (ii) Rose Hiscock will liaise with the Gordon Darling Foundation which runs the current Museum Leadership program.

13 ICOM-AUSTRALIA REPORT

Dr Robin Hirst (Director, Collections, Research and Exhibitions, Museum Victoria; Chair of the International Committee of Museums) (ICOM – Australia) provided an overview of [ICOM-Australia's](#) activities in providing advocacy and membership services with an international perspective. He noted that ICOM involves over 33,000 museum professionals across the globe and embraces 31 international committees plus 5 regional alliances. In Australia there were 495 individual and 27 institutional members; a number he is keen to grow.

Robin noted that applications for membership had been received from members of boards and foundations. Unfortunately, they are not eligible for full membership but can be supporting members (\$400 per year) which provides great benefits concerning access and fast queues to museums like the Louvre. Rick Ellis noted that the card was extremely useful in both Europe and India.

ICOM is particularly active in relation to the illicit traffic in cultural goods and maintains an [International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods](#). It also has an [International Training Centre for Museum Studies](#) in the Palace Museum in Beijing which promotes professional exchanges and sharing of expertise. Conservation staff comprise one of the strongest groups within ICOM; they recently attracted 800 national and international delegates to their Melbourne conference.

ICOM-Australia:

- has a formal MoU with Museums Australia; the two organisations share an office and some administrative support;
- is a keen supporter and participant in the *Museums and Galleries Australia Alliance* which it sees as a big step forward for peak collecting organisations;
- is a member of Blue Shield which assists in case of disaster; and
- supports the Pacific Islands Museum Association (PIMA) by sharing expertise and coordinating projects which bring Australian and Pacific professionals together.

Annual ICOM-Australia awards are made each year to individual and institutions for international work; in 2014 they went to Prof Robyn Sloggett for cultural material conservation in South East Asia and the Western Australian Museum for maritime archaeology work with South Korea.

In response to an enquiry concerning the recent destruction of cultural sites in Nepal, Robin reported that ICOM International would be coordinating assistance; updates could be found on their Facebook site. He also noted that ICOM was centred in Paris and that all of its work was done in three languages. INTERCOM, the international committee on leadership and management would be holding a conference this year *[28 to 31 October 2015 in Washington DC]*.

Patrick Greene thanked Robin for speaking to the meeting.

14 DIGITISATION INITIATIVES

Prof. Suzanne Miller (Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Museum Network) joined the meeting via Skype to discuss separate meetings planned over the next weeks by the CSIRO and CAMD natural history museums and Museums Australia to look at the coordination of museum digitisation efforts.

The natural history initiative is being driven by Prof Andrew Young (Director, National Research Collections Australia, CSIRO) with the aim of developing a major national bid to make science collections truly accessible through existing tools such as the [Atlas of Living Australia](#) and [Australia's Virtual Herbarium](#).

The Museums Australia GLAM workshop (12 June) has come out of the recommendations of the CSIRO GLAM digitisation report: [An Innovation Study: Challenges and Opportunities for Australia's Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums](#) (2014) which called for a National Digital Forum to unlock the digital potential of Australia's cultural collections.

Suzanne also noted that she had recently attended a meeting of the Australian Academy of the Humanities which was also dealing with the issue of digitisation. She suggested that there was a need to combine these conversations, given that the tools and networks were the same, to bring a single message and product to Government.

ACTION: Suzanne offered to encourage collaboration between the different groups.

15 AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH POLICY

ARC Discovery & Linkage Grants

Suzanne reported that the Australian Research Council (ARC) has fully adopted the 20/80% employment rule for ARC Discovery eligibility (this now applies as a base rule for ARC across all institutions). The eligibility of museums for ARC Linkage grants remains the same as before ie Museums can be industry partners.

ACTION: Suzanne Miller is to seek updates from CAMD members about their involvement in ARC-museum projects to aid the continued lobby on behalf of museum research.

Following the review, the ARC Council on which Suzanne represented CAMD has been disbanded which leaves CAMD without a direct voice on the new science councils.

CRC Review

The Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) review was released yesterday (19 May). The Australian Government is to accept all 18 recommendations. The thrust of the reforms will be to make the CRC more industry-focused and to dilute any previous focus on social issues.

Museums and the Science Agenda

Suzanne noted that there is a strong view within the science sector that museums are firmly part of the arts and that any science role they might play is limited to engagement and education. The advances made in recent years to increase the profile of museums in science and research generally appeared to have been lost with the turnover of Government and staff.

In discussion, it was agreed that there was a need for CAMD to rebuild the case for the role of museums in research.

ACTION: that CAMD write to both the science academies and to the Ministers for Education, Science and Arts to emphasise the role of museums in science research as well as science engagement.

STEM

Graham Durant noted that the Government was giving more focus to science: a parliamentary secretary has been appointed (Ms Karen Andrews) and Science included in the Minister's title. Brian Oldman (Director, South Australian Museum) said that Ms Andrews had visited the museum in Adelaide and Kim McKay had hosted her at the recent launch of the Australian Museum Citizen Science Centre. Work is well underway on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) agenda. The Commonwealth Science Council and the Commonwealth State and Territory Advisory Council on Innovation will include working groups dealing with science engagement.

A consultation paper on STEM is due out on 23 June with responses due within 4-5 weeks. Graham also stressed the need to ensure museum research is acknowledged to science planning. CAMD museums need to come together to tell the story of museums as research institutions.

ACTION: that CAMD prepare a response to the STEM paper to be released on 23 June.

Members discussed the need for new advocates or champions to be found within the science sector. It was also noted that Prof. Aidan Byrne (CEO, ARC) was still an advocate for museums. Graham suggested that CAMD members start by lobbying their State Chief Scientist and invite them to see their research facilities.

ACTION:

- (i) that the EO prepare bullet points on the importance of museums in science for circulation; and
- (ii) that CAMD members raise the issue with their respective Chief Scientists.

16 SCIENCE CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS

Members noted the written reports on Science Centre developments provided by Alan Brien (Director, Scitech, Perth) and Professor Graham Durant (Director, Questacon – National Science and Technology Centre).

Graham reported that he is working towards having the Australian Government support a proposal to the United Nations to designate 2019 as the *International Year of Science Centres*. He has also been asked to look at how science centres across Australia are faring. Some, such as the Monash Science Centre, had already gone to the wall while others such as Wollongong are under review. Discussions about the development of science centres are underway at the University of Adelaide, the University of Melbourne, on the Gold Coast and in Western Sydney.

Rose Hiscock commented on the Western Sydney Science Centre. The University of Western Sydney has space at Penrith but no funding is available to support further development and operation. A feasibility study would be refined over the next 6 months.

17 SCIENCE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

SciColl international

Suzanne Miller said that SciColl was awaiting a Ministerial decision about who would pay the necessary membership fees. She also encouraged members to think of nominations for a food security working group. An international registry of collections is in its beta stage.

World Science Festival

Suzanne also noted that invitations would be forthcoming for next year's World Science Festival in Queensland with the launch taking place in August/September. A media release was sent out in association with Minister MacFarlane and the Premier. The festival will provide another much-needed opportunity to publicise museum research efforts.

Atlas of Living Australia (ALA)

The ALA has received a further \$4.63m funding which will allow its core activities to continue. The CSIRO is to be commended for absorbing the shortfall until these funds came through.

Citizen Science

Questacon has provided some funding for the citizen science movement through the *Inspiring Australia* budget measure. Suzanne Miller is acting Chair of the new [Australian Citizen Science Association](#) and the Australian Museum is acting as host. An [ACSA conference](#) is being held in Canberra 23-24 July 2015.

Kim MacKay provided an overview of the [Australian Museum's Centre for Citizen Science](#). She noted that the museum had a long involvement in citizen science activities through its management of *StreamWatch*, *DigiVol* (the Smithsonian has now adopted this Australian Museum model), *BugWise* and *BushBlitz*. The Citizen Science Centre has been created to bring these projects together and foster the emerging interest in citizen science in the community. Kim noted that she is working with Questacon to find seeding money to develop a citizen science hub; in subsequent years the support of CAMD museums may be sought if the project hub goes national. The centre also plans to release original research papers each year.

Patrick Greene noted that much of the material used in the CAMD museums' *Field Guides to Australian Fauna* App had come through citizen science. He also reported that the Fauna App had been recognized recently as best app of the year at the international [Museum Best of the Web contest](#).

18. ANNIVERSARY OF COOK'S 1ST PACIFIC VOYAGE

Kevin Sumption, Director, Australian National Maritime Museum and Dr Mathew Trinca, Director, National Museum of Australia, outlined plans for a program of exhibitions and events in 2020 to commemorate Cook's first voyage. The New Zealand anniversary will be 2019. Given that many institutions in Australia and New Zealand will be marking the anniversary in some way, Kevin and Matthew suggested cooperation in a coordinated approach to the commemorations.

The following comments were made in discussion:

- CAMD might play a role in coordinating a response;
- preliminary polling indicated that there was low awareness of the anniversary but that, when prompted, over 50% thought it as important or more important than the ANZAC centenary;
- it may be risky to try to make the anniversary a reconciliation opportunity;
- the approach to Darwin commemorations and branding provides a good model for success;
- it would be a contested history, related closely to Indigenous recognition programs and this aspect should be confronted up front.

Kevin Sumption noted that the replica Endeavour would be sailing to New Zealand as part of the commemorations. The Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) plans to use the Tall Ships Festival in 2020 to launch its program. A new interpretive centre will be open at the museum by then and work will be underway with Newport Rhode Island to locate the remains of the original Endeavour.

Kevin and Mat suggested that a Cook 250 secretariat coordinate the approach and brand for the anniversary. Partner and advisory groups would operate parallel to the secretariat and include Indigenous communities. Mat advised that he would begin by speaking with the Indigenous council at the NMA about how this might best be done.

In discussion members indicated interest and stressed that an overarching philosophy to bring exhibitions together should be identified early in the process. Members were asked about their level of interest:

- Janet Carding indicated that the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery would be interested in involvement.
- Daryl Karp was keen to ensure that the commemorations be multi-faceted in approach.

- Brian Oldman said that the South Australian Museum would need to think how it could be meshed into its program.
- Jillian Marsh said that she was not aware of Queensland plans in this area.
- Sally Manuireva said that Auckland War Memorial Museum would run a broad programme and wishes to highlight the role of Tupaia, the Polynesian navigator who sailed with Cook.
- Mark Goggin suggested that Sydney Living Museums would reframe the anniversary around its heritage houses.
- Rose Hiscock thought that it would fit in well with the redevelopment of the Sydney Observatory.
- Kim McKay noted that the Australian Museum has already done a lot of work towards the anniversary, meeting with the Premier and uniting public and private collections to tell the Cook story. It also manages Lizard Island where Cook alighted. She agreed on the importance of involving Indigenous people early in the process.
- Rick Ellis said that the anniversary would be a reasonably big focus for Te Papa. The replica Endeavour would be visiting Wellington in 2019 and the Government has a Cook committee already established in the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. The museum would be looking more to the Maori settlement process and planned to work with the Cook Islanders and people from Hawaii. Te Papa will be designing an exhibition which it hopes to tour to the USA.
- Alec Coles said that the Cook anniversary would resonate less with the western coast. The Western Australian Museum will be commemorating Dirk Hartog in 2016 but would look to do something on Cook.
- Patrick Greene said that he intended talking with the Museum Victoria Planetarium about developing a show.

Members agreed that there should be collaboration at the CAMD level although it was also commented that they would prefer a light touch rather than over-engineering. The importance of involving Indigenous people early in the process was also agreed.

ACTION: Kevin Sumption and Mathew Trinca to contact members with further information about the proposed collaboration.

19 NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

Review of PMCH Act

Patrick Greene reported that he had met with Shane Simpson who was rewriting the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act* (1986). A review of the legislation had been undertaken six years ago but none of the recommendations had been acted upon. Mr

Simpson was finding the 160 submissions to be extremely valuable and was using them as a basis for a forthcoming discussion paper which CAMD will be asked to comment on.

National Cultural Heritage Committee

Patrick noted that there was a long period when the [National Cultural Heritage Committee](#) was inquorate. He emphasised to CAMD members that it was vital to utilise the [National Cultural Heritage Account](#) which provided \$500,000 per year for acquisitions. He noted that there may be an opportunity for CAMD to push for an increase of this amount to \$1m.

20 SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In response to a member's query, the meeting agreed that they regularly carried out criminal checks on people applying for senior positions.

21 CAMD PLANNING AND ALLIANCE MEETING

Members discussed the recent movement of funds from the Australia Council to the newly established National Programme for Excellence in the Arts (NPEA). Rose Hiscock reminded members that all museums benefit from the creative output of art and artists. She was concerned that because much of the Australia Council's money was tied up in contracts, the movement of funds will impact on smaller artists and groups. Katrina Sedgwick suggested that CAMD make a response pointing out that the principle of arms-length decision-making was being eroded.

In response, Mat Trinca suggested that CAMD members wait to hear Sally Basser (Executive Director, Ministry for the Arts) who would be outlining the proposed uses of the NPEA funding tomorrow at the *Alliance* meeting. Patrick Greene concurred, noting that very little funding is dispensed under Government without limitations. It was noted that the funds in question were previously inaccessible to museums. It was also noted that the *Visions of Australia* program was being shifted back to the Ministry. Some recent concerns had arisen about the breadth of the successful applicants for Visions grants and it was agreed that future rounds would be monitored.

22 MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA UPDATE

Frank Howarth, the National President, *Museums Australia* (MA) joined the meeting and introduced Ms Alex Marsden, the new National Director for MA. Frank noted that the MA National Board had been in a planning meeting all day at the ANMM. A range of priorities had emerged from their discussions including:

- transforming the MA website and member site and making far greater use of social media;

- a re-evaluation of the MA structure which currently has State/Territory branches of varying strength and other committees based on thematic representation. The national office is considering how to strengthen the less economically viable sections;
- considering who MA represents in the sector. This has been triggered in part by the *Public Galleries Association of Victoria* which has questioned whether galleries are adequately represented by MA. MA intends to better define and target its services;
- an updating of the code of ethics;
- consideration of standards although accreditation had proven to be highly contentious; and
- advocacy for the sector at all three level of Government.

Members discussed the forthcoming MA GLAM meeting on digitisation. Frank noted that he had limited invitations to chairs of peak collections organisations to kick off discussions.

23 GENERAL BUSINESS/NEXT MEETING

Next meeting 2015

Katrina Sedgwick's offered to host the next CAMD AGM at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) in November 2015 at a date to be determined.

2016 Meeting

Members were reminded that the meeting after that would be held alongside the joint conference of *Museums Australia* and *Museum Aotearoa* in Auckland (15 – 19 May 2016). Meredith noted that Roy Clare has offered to host the meeting at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Members will be advised of the exact date shortly.

The meeting closed.