

COUNCIL OF AUSTRALASIAN MUSEUM DIRECTORS

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

South Australian Museum, Adelaide

7-8 October 2010

ATTENDEES

NAME	MUSEUM/ORGANISATION
Ms Margaret Anderson	Director, History SA
Mr Bill Bleathman	Director, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
Ms Kate Clark	Director, Historic Houses Trust of NSW
Ms Lorraine Neish	General Manager, Operations <i>deputising for Director, Questacon - National Science and Technology Centre</i>
Mr Martin George	Manager, Sciences and History, <i>deputising for Acting Director, Queen Victoria Museum and Gallery</i>
Mr Mark Goggin	General Manager, Marketing, Museum Experience and Commercial Services <i>deputising for Director, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences</i>
Major General Steve Gower AO AO MIL	Director, Australian War Memorial
Dr Patrick Greene OBE	Chief Executive Officer, Museum Victoria
Ms Michelle Hippolite	Kaihautu, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
Mr Frank Howarth	Director, Australian Museum
Mr Jeremy Johnson	Chief Executive Officer, Sovereign Hill Museums Association
Prof. Suzanne Miller	Director, South Australian Museum
Dr Graeme Potter	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Museum and Director of Queensland Museum at South Bank, <i>deputising for CEO, Queensland Museum</i>
Mr Andrew Sayers AM	Director, National Museum of Australia (<i>item 9 onwards</i>)
Mr Tony Sweeney	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Centre for the Moving Image (<i>day one only</i>)
Ms Mary-Louise Williams	Director, Australian National Maritime Museum
Mr Anthony Wright	Director, Canterbury Museum

APOLOGIES

NAME	MUSEUM/ORGANISATION
Mr Alan Brien	CEO, Scitech Discovery Centre, Perth
Dr Dawn Casey	Director, Powerhouse Museum
Mr Alec Coles OBE	Executive Director, Western Australian Museum

Prof. Graham Durant	Director, National Science and Technology Centre
Dr Ian Galloway	Director, Queensland Museum
Ms Darlene Lion	Acting Director, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
Mr Michael Houlihan	Chief Executive, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
Sir Don McKinnon	Interim Director, Auckland War Memorial Museum
Mr Shimrath Paul	Director, Otago Museum and Discovery World

IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	MUSEUM/ORGANISATION	Agenda item
Dr Meredith Foley	Executive Officer, CAMD	All
Ms Alexandra Reid	Executive Director, Arts SA	23

DAY ONE: Thursday 7 October 2010

I. WELCOME

CAMD Chair, Margaret Anderson (History SA), opened the meeting, welcomed all delegates to the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Council of Australasian Museum Directors (CAMD) and thanked Suzanne Miller and the South Australian Museum for hosting the meeting.

New Members

Margaret reported that CAMD had three new members: Alec Coles, Director of the Western Australian Museum; Michael Houlihan, Director of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and Andrew Sayers, Director, National Museum of Australia. Alec and Michael have apologised for this meeting but hope to attend future gatherings.

Deputies

Margaret also welcomed Martin George, Mark Goggin, Lorraine Neish and Graeme Potter, deputising for their respective Directors. She also welcomed back Michelle Hippolite, Kaihautu of Te Papa Tongarewa.

Departures and Transitions

Margaret reported on the resignation of Vanda Vitali from Auckland War Memorial Museum and her replacement by an Interim Director, Donald McKinnon; the resignation of Anna Malgorzewicz from the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) and the re-advertisement of this position; and the departure of Patrick Filmer-Sankey from the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.

Jeremy Johnson (Sovereign Hill Museums), while acknowledging that CAMD was not an industrial body, noted his concerns over the processes surrounding these departures. He moved that CAMD

write to the Launceston authorities supporting a full and independent enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the Director's dismissal. He emphasised that he did not know the full details of the dismissal but believed there should be a greater degree of transparency around disciplinary and/or dismissal proceedings relating to Directors.

Martin George (Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery) briefly outlined the actions leading to the dismissal and noted that the application period for the advertised position has now closed.

Kate Clark (Historic Houses Trust of NSW) said that the issue underlying the three departures was the need for Boards to show professionalism and nurture mutual respect. Steve Gower (Australian War Memorial) agreed that there appeared to be a failure in corporate governance.

After discussion, members agreed that a letter be sent to the Mayor, with a copy to the Premier, noting the importance of the museum and the need for the circumstances of Dr Filmer-Sankey's departure to be investigated properly and transparently if the museum was to encourage good candidates in the future. It was stressed that the letter should deal with the principle and not prejudice individual actions. It was noted that it was too late for this to be done in relation to the Director positions in Darwin and Auckland.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The meeting agreed:

Resolution:

That the minutes of the CAMD General Meeting held at Auckland War Memorial Museum on 4-5 March 2010 be accepted.

Carried

World Summit on Arts

Patrick Greene (Museum Victoria) provided an update on the *World Summit on Arts* planned for Melbourne, 3-6 October 2011 [see <http://www.artsummit.org/>]. He noted that the summit was essentially a conference of arts councils from around the world, which would not be directly relevant to museums, but which may provide an opportunity for museum content or collaboration. Patrick discussed the event with Australia Council Director, Kathy Keele, and encouraged her to consider involving museums and also to meet with him on a regular basis. Patrick and Tony Sweeney (Australian Centre for the Moving Image) agreed to maintain a watch on the summit development and opportunities for museum involvement. The possibility that the CAMD meeting be held alongside the summit was mooted.

Patrick also provided details of the Knowledge Cities Summit to be held in Melbourne on 16-19 November 2010 [see www.melbourneknowledge summit.com]. Patrick and Barbara Horne from Museum Victoria will be addressing the summit. Patrick offered to provide further information for members on the event.

Meredith Foley (CAMD Executive Officer) will circulate these details as part of a CAMD planning calendar for members.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Margaret Anderson reported that the Museum Metadata Exchange (MME) project, after some initial delays while a contract was produced by the Australian National Data Service (ANDS), was now well underway. She noted that, while the project itself is limited to collection descriptions from CAMD museums, it does present a 'foot in the door' and an opportunity for future development.

Margaret noted that there were increasing funding opportunities across the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences sector (HASS) sector and an increasing awareness of collections as research infrastructure by the Academies. Margaret will be chairing a session at the forthcoming Australian Academy for Humanities Annual Symposium (18-19 November) which will, for the first time, focus on collecting institutions.

Margaret also discussed the gap in collections management and advocacy which has arisen with the demise of the Collections Council of Australia (CCA). With a number of issues, such as the transfer of the *Visions for Australia* program to the Australia Council, the development of the *National Cultural Policy* and the Commonwealth's proposed mothballing of the Collections Australia Network (CAN), there was a need to review CAMD's position later in the meeting.

On matters digital, Margaret reported that there was a paper on web metrics coming from the CAMD Digitisation Working Party. *CultureBabble* has been put aside for the present as its proponent in the USA has moved to another institution and Tim Hart and Seb Chan are concentrating on ensuring the MME is successful.

Margaret heartily thanked the CAMD Executive for their support, Jeremy Johnson for being such an accommodating Treasurer and Ian Galloway (Queensland Museum) and Mary-Louise Williams (Australian National Maritime Museum), whose terms expire at this meeting. She noted Mary-Louise's generosity in hosting these meetings and for offering to continue doing this when she leaves the Executive. Margaret also noted the good working relationship forged with CAMD's Executive Officer and thanked her for her efforts.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Jeremy Johnson (CAMD Treasurer) presented the Treasurer's Report to the end of June 2010. He noted that a sizeable surplus had been built up.

Jeremy was thanked for his work and the following resolution passed:

Resolution:

That CAMD accepts the Treasurer's Financial Report for the calendar year to 30 June 2010.

Carried

5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Meredith Foley spoke to her written report noting that much of her work since the last meeting would be picked up under other items in the agenda. She asked for further input from members later in the meeting on CAMD positioning in relation to the new Australian federal government.

Meredith noted that she had spent much time on the development of the joint Museum Metadata Exchange (MME) Project across the year. Since its formal establishment she has been contracted separately by ANDS to provide support to the Steering Committee.

Meredith also reported on a recent meeting with Warren Bradey, CEO of the Smart Services Centres CRC (see <http://www.smartservicescra.com.au/>), which has a brief for the 'collaborative curating of digital collections' including 'policy directions in copyright, access and privilege for online collections'. Members agreed that an invitation should be extended to Mr Bradey to make a presentation at a CAMD meeting in 2011.

Meredith also noted that she, Margaret Anderson and Frank Howarth had met with the proponents of the Queensland University of Technology proposal for a CRC for the Gallery-Library-Archive-Museum (GLAM) sector. She was asked to maintain a watching brief on the developing project.

Meredith also thanked the secretariat and staff of the CAMD International Year of Biodiversity program and reminded members that 2011 will be the International Year of Chemistry and that Roger Stapleford, Director, Royal Australian Institute of Chemistry (RAIC), was interested in developing a program of events on possible themes such as art conservation and chemistry; indigenous bush medicine; and the history of chemistry in Australia.

6. CAMD SURVEYS

Meredith Foley noted that both Part I and 2 of the 2008-09 survey report were again delayed due to late responses. She reported that the 2009-10 Part I 'snap-shot survey' had been simplified and sent to members with a deadline of 20 October. It is anticipated that this data will be utilised in promotional material and briefing material to the new Minister. While awaiting the CAMD Digitisation Working Party paper on utilising web metrics in the survey, Meredith has asked survey respondents to use Google Analytics if possible when reporting on web visits.

Meredith noted that CAMD had been approached by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to check the extent to which the CAMD Survey lined up with the *ABS Guidelines for Cultural Statistics*. A response has gone to ABS and a paper is in preparation for members which will highlight where change may impact on the CAMD survey time-series.

A survey on the cultural diplomacy role of CAMD museums is in preparation and will go out to members shortly. The information to be gathered will be used to inform relevant Government departments of museum input in this area and argue for better support for, and coordination of, this function.

Meredith reported that she also planned to contact members for updated information and case studies about their regional activities. This information will be included in the briefing material for discussion with the new Minister for Arts (and Regional Development), Simon Crean.

7. NRIC UPDATE

Suzanne Miller (South Australian Museum), CAMD's member on the National Research Infrastructure Council (NRIC), noted that it was currently working on a framework/roadmap for 'major investment and infrastructure' (ie investments greater than \$10m and less than \$100m). Suzanne has been asked to draft, by mid-2011, the separate section of the roadmap dealing with natural science and Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) collections and their needs. Frank Howarth, Margaret Anderson and Patrick Greene volunteered to constitute a small CAMD working party from CAMD to assist in the development of a 10-20 year plan. Suzanne also noted that there would be a series of national consultations (ie a workshop was held today for early career researchers).

8. SCICOLL

Suzanne Miller also briefed members on the development of SciColl, an international development designed to pool natural science collections from around the world in order to answer 'big' policy issues. She noted there had been controversy over fee levels and who would pay for membership. The Australian Government has put aside \$50,000 for the first year of membership.

The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) has offered to host the next SciColl meeting in Melbourne (probably in February 2011). CAMD members will be invited to attend workshops during this visit.

9. ATLAS OF LIVING AUSTRALIA

As CAMD's representative on the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) Management Committee, Suzanne also provided an update on Atlas activities. She noted that ALA had been officially launched at the Melbourne Museum and that further tools for mapping, imaging and identification will be added to the site.

10. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

Frank Howarth (Australian Museum) gave a presentation on the activities of the CAMD International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) Program on behalf of the Steering Committee (see slides at attachment A). He noted that a total of \$300,000 had been received from the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research to fund the program of providing seeding grants across institutions and community organisations for IYB activities.

The CAMD IYB Program was officially launched in May, at which stage it had already disbursed a number of grants. To date, 31 widely diverse projects have been full or part funded and a large number are planned for the fourth quarter of the year. Frank noted that the Steering Committee (which was phone and Ning-based) has been very strong and the project has provided a great model for what could be done. Key milestones for the project have been met or exceeded.

A website has been set up as a hub for biodiversity projects; the site includes photographs lodged by participants and, more recently, a social media tool. The website gained an honourable mention from Duke University as one of the best biodiversity blogs. Niall Byrne from Science in Public has been engaged to publicise the site and projects. The Steering Committee would like to see 30,000 hits on the site by year's end. At Frank's suggestion, CAMD members agreed that they would include a link to the 'Monkey Me' social media tool somewhere on their own websites.

Major lessons learnt to date were to start the project and seek funding earlier, to utilise coordinators, establish a good website and gain commitment from key staff members and 2-3 committed museums to drive the program.

CAMD action for the Year of Chemistry was discussed. It was noted that Questacon was running the program through the Royal Australian Institute of Chemistry (RACI). Frank noted that the existing IYB website could be utilised as a framework for this area. Suzanne Miller (South Australian Museum), Patrick Greene (Museum Victoria), Graeme Potter (Queensland Museum), Lorraine Neish (Questacon) nominated for a Steering Committee and Tim Sullivan (Sovereign Hill Museums) was nominated by Jeremy Johnson as another member. It was suggested that Geoff Crane be approached to assist with the secretariat.

11. NATURAL SCIENCE ALLIANCE

Meredith reported on the difficulty in finding a date for the CAMD Natural Science Alliance to meet in the first part of 2010. However, she noted that there was a strong incentive to meet to provide input to Suzanne Miller for her 'roadmap' paper on museum collections and also to allow discussions with Joanne Daly (CSIRO Strategic Advisor Science, Strategy and People) who has asked to meet with CAMD members to investigate the future for CSIRO's biological collections but is also interested in the broader picture for science collections in the country.

In discussions, members identified 23 November 2010 as a potential date and the Australian Museum, Sydney as a venue for the Natural Science Alliance meeting.

Given Suzanne's interest in coverage of HASS collections under the NCRI Roadmap, it was decided that a back-to-back HASS Collections meeting would be held during the same week to allow further discussion.

12. NEW ZEALAND REPORT

Anthony Wright, Director, Canterbury Museum, provided an update on behalf of CAMD's New Zealand members. He noted that Shimrath Paul (Otago Museum and Discovery World) had taken his staff offsite recently to discuss moving from a 3 year to a five year planning cycle and that Otago was working with Shanghai Museum on the exchange of exhibitions. The Tropical Forest was doing extremely well and had been voted one of the top New Zealand attractions. Attendances had dropped slightly from last year's record high.

Michelle Hippolite reported on the situation in Auckland, noting that it was dealing with the merger of 7 regional councils into one large city council. The current Director of the Auckland War Memorial Museum, Sir Don McKinnon, is responsible not only for the museum but for all council cultural entities in the merger. The major museums have decided to increase their advocacy role and, as a step towards this, have decided to invite the art gallery directors to meet and find their commonalities. Overall, financial aspects are stable with no threat of reductions.

The Christchurch earthquake had a big physical and emotional impact with one museum destroyed; the larger museums such as Te Papa are attempting to provide service and support to the smaller museums. Anthony reported that only 200 items (out of 2m) at Canterbury Museum were damaged by the quake.

The four New Zealand museums were looking at going into the market for shared insurance products. Tourism has slowed with more New Zealanders taking their holidays abroad. A high number of Australians were travelling to New Zealand and Auckland in particular. There has been an increase in numbers from Asia (including China) indicating a recovery from the SARS-related decline. Michelle noted concern that Te Papa might be impacted when the effects of the Global Financial Crisis hits later this year. Te Papa is seeing a slow down in visitor numbers flowing on to its shop, parking and restaurant.

Michelle also noted that their current Minister for Arts is also Minister for Tourism which is strategically useful.

Jeremy Johnson asked about the impact of the rise in the GST rate from 12.5% to 15%. Michelle noted that there had been minimal impact to date as it was introduced only on 1 October 2010.

13. NAME AND TOURING EXHIBITIONS

No report was received from the Network of Australasian Museum Exhibitors (NAME).

14. TRANSFER OF VISIONS OF AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

Mary-Louise Williams (Australian National Maritime Museum), the Acting Chair of the *Visions of Australia* program, reported that an announcement was made during the election to transfer the Visions of Australia program from the Department to the Australia Council. She noted that the decision had been made without reference to the committee. She has written to the Minister to protest the decision, noting that the program has been well utilised and is doing well within the Department. It was noted that CAMD has also approached the Minister to protest against the transfer and will include the future of Visions as an issue on future agendas with the Minister. Mary-Louise urged CAMD members to continue to make applications under Visions to ensure that museum utilisation did not decrease.

15. **MEMBERS' REPORTS**

Members were asked to nominate their top concerns to allow the identification of issues shared across member institutions. The issues identified were as follows:

- *Australian Museum*: requested examples of impact on small institutions of shared institutional services;
- *Australian National Maritime Museum*: economic problems increasing for national institutions;
- *Australian Centre for the Moving Image*: straddles both arts and museums and is looking to improve linkages across these sectors;
- *Australian War Memorial*: integrating email, webs and electronic search management; keen to do collaborations with other museums for centenary of WWI and Gallipoli;
- *Canterbury Museum*: earthquake response; communication-led project to discuss options for new museum;
- *Historic Houses Trust NSW*: new education facility at Rouse Hill; shared services agenda; diversifying training for house and museum guides;
- *History SA*: rising costs and limited budgets; capacity for online development should be developed collaboratively at the national level;
- *Powerhouse Museum*: NSW has creative industry strategy within its business growth strategy; marked rise in approaches from private promoters with exclusive exhibitions;
- *Museum of NZ Te Papa Tongarewa*: new Director discussing values with staff and this will lead to discussions about mapping the future; discussing whether Te Papa is a national museum or museum of the nation; looking to cooperate more with number of our counterparts;
- *Museum Victoria*: has had three windfalls: Pompeii exhibition with excellent visitation; Avatar in IMAX sold out 100 sessions; good visitation for Star Wars from Powerhouse; notes culture clash between private promoters and museum; funding for renewal; building support for proposed collaborative collection storage (Treasurer House project);
- *National Museum of Australia*: engaged in discussion with staff on renewal of corporate plan for next five years; looking at capital plan for future; the 10th birthday of site in March 2011 will be used to talk about the next 10 years and to launch a new bold vision;
- *Queensland Museum*: depreciation funding ; have gained review of recurrent funding; re-visioning/reimagining museums; developing business case for two options for redevelopment; 150th anniversary in 2012;
- *Queen Victoria Museum and Gallery*: major redevelopment; one site to focus on arts and the other is a museum; Planetarium reopened in international year of astronomy; city signage;
- *Questacon*: Coping with fact that building designed for half the current number of visitors; have developed a digital studio; favours collaborating to ensure digital content available for schools; responsibility for Science Scope program challenging as requires Questacon to manage grants program.

- *South Australian Museum*: to cope with funding cuts the museum has decided to develop a business plan to reduce reliance on State government funding to 30% over the next few years through sponsorship and private philanthropy; developing Cultural Campus;
- *Sovereign Hill Museums*: 40th anniversary this year; competition intense but assisted by Melbourne's role as event capital; China market returning after Olympic diversion and will soon have direct flights coming into Melbourne; addressing rising costs eg for refit of buildings with solar equipment; new exhibition on trapped miners – 'Trapped';
- *Tasmanian Museum and Gallery*: record visitor numbers; budget cut over last few years; another review underway; relaunched building program.

Margaret Anderson noted that major issues included shared services; efficiency dividend; and increasing costs.

Costs

On the issue of costs, Jeremy Johnson suggested that CAMD members should be talking to the new Minister for the Environment about allocating some of the funds earmarked for the retrofitting of community buildings to museums.

Suzanne Miller offered to check a query about whether fire fighters had problems responding to fires in buildings where solar power was in use.

Shared Services

Kate Clark (Historic Houses Trust NSW) asked members to send her any evidence held on the impact of shared services on smaller institutions. A number of members indicated that they had information about the impact including statistics on error rates in pay and the difficulties which arose when there was no continuity in contacts.

16. ICOM AUSTRALIA REPORT

Frank Howarth (Chair, ICOM Australia) reported that ICOM Australia had a strong committee and increasing memberships. It is currently trying to determine where it adds most value and has a good but unresourced corporate plan. Frank noted that he is also standing for the international committee.

17. OBJECT SEIZURE LAWS

Frank Howarth reported that CAMD made a submission supporting the introduction of object seizure laws and is currently awaiting the release of a discussion paper by the Office for the Arts. Frank noted that ICOM Australia was checking whether object seizure laws could contravene any ICOM codes of ethics. To date this does not appear to be the case but such laws could cut across ethical areas if they inadvertently allowed trade in illegal objects or inhibited their return on ethical grounds.

Frank noted that there was some division on the committee about the likely impact of this legislation: the two major areas of concern related to objects looted by the Nazis and Australian

indigenous material. Frank suggested that whatever legislation was proclaimed, it would not absolve institutions from carrying out due diligence.

Andrew Sayers (National Museum of Australia) reported his understanding that the discussion paper was to be released within the next two weeks. He supported the need for the new legislation to fully acknowledge the issues surrounding indigenous objects.

Michelle Hippolite reported that New Zealand was watching outcomes in Australia in relation to this type of legislation as Te Papa intends to ask for the loan from Europe of Maori objects.

Frank noted CAAMD would be writing again to the new Minister and suggested that CAMD should do likewise. It was agreed that the Executive Officer should prepare a letter with input from Frank Howarth, Andrew Sayers and Patrick Greene.

DAY TWO: Friday 8 October 2010

18. HASS ISSUES

Margaret Anderson noted that the MME project has been the focus for much of the year. She opened the floor to members to provide feedback on any other HASS related issues.

Return of Indigenous Cultural Property

Suzanne Miller spoke about the Return of Indigenous Cultural Property (RACP) Program which was looking for projects to support. She noted that the South Australian Museum had been approached by indigenous communities which had no capacity to receive and keep returned objects. They have asked that objects be virtually repatriated. She suggested that CAMD might approach the RACP team in Canberra to seek funds to assist this process. Michelle Hippolite noted that one of the east coast tribal groups in New Zealand have digital repatriation with Cambridge. Suzanne noted that RACP was also interesting in capacity building with communities on conservation skills. Frank Howarth suggested that digital access would be a more appropriate expression than repatriation. Suzanne also noted that some communities have offered to pay for destructive DNA analysis to identify remains. There is also some interest in the potential of the Human Genome Project

Patrick Greene (Museum Victoria) noted that Museum Victoria had responsibility for the repatriation of all indigenous human remains in Victoria. While many remains have been linked back to communities through investigation, the remainder of unprovenanced remains would be buried later in the year in an indigenous cemetery.

Graeme Potter (Queensland Museum) reported on the museum's efforts to repatriate Japanese skulls sent to it during WWII. Suzanne Miller noted that similar remains were held at the South Australian Museum. Steve Gower (Australian War Memorial) offered assistance in liaising with the Japanese embassy in Canberra.

It was agreed that an Australasian sub-committee would be established to discuss the Return of Indigenous Cultural Property. The following members:

- Suzanne Miller
- Frank Howarth
- Michelle Hippolite
- Patrick Greene
- Graeme Potter
- Bill Bleathman and
- Andrew Sayers

indicated interest in involvement in a sub-committee. The Western Australian Museum and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory would also be approached about involvement. Suzanne and Frank will confer and convene the first meeting.

Social Impact of Museums

Members discussed the lack of research in Australia on the social impact of museums. Margaret Anderson referred to the recent Richard Sandell paper at the Museums Australia Conference. She also noted that History SA, the South Australian Museum and Adelaide University were undertaking research on the physical interaction between collections and health. Suzanne Miller reported that there had been a similar study in Dublin. Margaret noted that History SA had been receiving requests for reminiscence kits for Alzheimer's patients

Frank Howarth reported that the Australian Museum had run a pilot program through the juvenile justice system about reconnecting indigenous youth to their cultures. The museum is chasing funding to increase this program in order to do a long term attitudinal study. It was suggested that Alec Coles may have suggestions as work of this sort had been done at Tyne and Wear.

It was agreed that the EO should do a scan of work in this area, speak with Alec Coles and check to see which Cooperative Research Centres may be involved/interested in this type of work.

19. ANDS/MUSEUM METADATA EXCHANGE PROJECT

Margaret Anderson, who is Co-Chair of the joint CAMD/MA Museum Metadata Exchange (MME) Project, encouraged members to ensure that a Site Coordinator has been nominated for their institution, so that work could begin on identifying collection descriptions. Suzanne Miller noted that the MME project had been very well received within the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

Members had no concerns to date with the implementation of the project. Margaret urged them to consider how, and in what ways, the project could be used as a spring board to a HASS version of the *Atlas of Living Australia*. The MME project will have a Sustainable Advisory Group to explore

opportunities for the long term sustainability and potential extension of the project and would welcome members' suggestions on this point.

20. FEDERATED PACIFIC COLLECTIONS

Frank Howarth outlined the outcomes of two seminars on Pacific collections held in recent months at the Australian Museum. He noted that the following cultural challenges had emerged from the discussions about digitising indigenous collections:

- curatorial staff concerns that there are insufficient resources for this work. He noted that his response fails to take into account the additional information which might be gleaned as a result;
- the issue of consultation. Decisions need to be made about who represents particular (diaspora or creator) communities and how much consultation is undertaken. In the case of poorly provenanced material from the early 19th to early 20th century there is likely to be no individual remaining with relevant knowledge;
- some Pacific countries have strong indigenous Intellectual Property laws.

Frank indicated that the museum would continue consultations with the Pacific Islands Museum Association (PIMA) and representatives of Sydney diaspora communities. The Smart Services Centre plans further research on this area. Further funding will be sought from philanthropic foundations. In response to a suggestion from Michelle Hippolite, Frank agreed that it would be good to work on this project across the Tasman.

21. TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND COPYRIGHT

Meredith Foley reported on the outcomes of the Australian Museum *Casting the Net Symposium* which featured the research undertaken by Meredith Blake and Supriya Singh from RMIT on attitudes within Pacific diasporic communities to the digitisation of Pacific collections in Australian museums. The research revealed a keen desire for consultation prior to online publication. The Te Papa model, which utilises an advisory board, was noted as a good way of providing this consultation.

It was noted that Meredith Blake has offered to make a presentation on further aspects of research in this area at the first CAMD meeting next year. The traditional knowledge and copyright research was undertaken with funding provided by the Smart Services CRC which aims to support research projects which will assist in the creation of online communities and the collaborative curating of digital collections. It was agreed that Warren Brady, CEO and Director of the Smart Centres CRC would be invited to present at the next meeting.

22. AUSTRALIAN DRESS REGISTER

Rebecca Pinchin, Regional Services Coordinator, Powerhouse Museum apologized for this meeting due to ill-health. She will be invited to make her presentation at the forthcoming General Meeting.

23. AICC AND CMC

Alexandra Reid (Executive Director, Arts SA) spoke to members about the Cultural Ministers' Council (CMC) and the Australian International Cultural Council (AICC).

Alex noted that the CMC had been in a state of flux for some time and has not met since October 2009. A report from the review of Ministerial Councils by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Review has recommended the reduction of Councils to eleven; the CMC is not one of the eleven. It was to have been wound up by March 2011. However, it is not known whether the election and change in Ministers will alter this timetable. COAG may provide an alternative realm for discussion but it will be interested only in matters of national significance; the arts have not been active at COAG level in the past.

Collections Australia Network

Alex had no further news of the future for CAN. The review report has not been publicly released. It would appear that CAN is progressing towards being 'mothballed' at the Commonwealth level. It was pointed out by members that no attention has been given to the Intellectual Property held by museums in CAN. Andrew Sayers (National Museum of Australia) suggested that the Government was probably looking at different, possibly more efficient, frameworks.

Margaret Anderson asked how CAMD could be part of a national discussion when there is no national framework. Andrew Sayers noted that the Arts Minister was now a senior member of Cabinet and would presumably have a more influential voice. It was also suggested that the new Minister is interested in engagement across the portfolio. It was agreed that CAMD museums need to seize the opportunity to reshape the environment and also to highlight the relationship between CAMD museums and regional activity.

Australian International Cultural Council

Alex noted that Carol Mills from Communities NSW was now the member of AICC as the position rotates around the States. Mary-Louise Williams raised concern at the lack of coordination around international projects. She noted that at times the museum started projects only to find that the Australia Council or Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) was already in that space. Alex said that the AICC had not met since February 2009. Members noted that most of the funding seems to have been allocated to the Australia Council or DFAT projects outside of meetings.

Alex suggested that CAMD write to Dennis Richardson at DFAT about the coordination issue and raise this issue of the potential for museums to contribute to cultural diplomacy with the Minister.

24. TRANSFORMATIONS IN CULTURAL COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE 2011

Members discussed the invitation from Associate Professor, Angelina Russo (School of Media and Communication, RMIT University) to participate in a special session for Directors at the forthcoming Transformations in Cultural Communication Conference to be held in Melbourne 14-15 April 2011. Andrew Sayers noted that the speakers were interesting but that CAMD was being asked to fall in with an agenda which was not its own. Members agreed that they were interested in the conference but did not see any merit in a special session on the issues proposed in the attached flyer.

25. DISCOVERY GRANT – MUSEUMS AND ASEAN

Associate Professor Russo also asked CAMD members to consider whether they wished to be involved in a Discovery Grant proposal to be submitted in February 2011. The proposal is to explore issues in the ASEAN region which inform cultural understandings to enable future partnerships, projects and exchanges.

Members discussed the complexity of the project and suggested that they would like to see a more tightly focussed and developed proposal before involvement. The following members agreed to cooperate in looking more closely at the proposal:

- Margaret Anderson
- Mary-Louise Williams
- Jeremy Johnson
- Frank Howarth
- Bill Bleathman
- Patrick Greene

26. MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA

Meredith Foley noted that Dr Darryl McIntyre, National President Museums Australia and CEO National Film and Sound Archive has apologized for his inability to attend the meeting. The MA report will be circulated out of session.

27. COLLECTIONS ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

Margaret Anderson introduced the discussion, suggesting that, in response to the increasing lack of a national policy framework, CAMD should consider developing a consortium of collections and heritage organisations to raise the need for support and coordination in the area.

Andrew Sayers noted his concern about setting up a consortium which would have a fragmented range of agendas and traverse too many portfolios. He queried whether CAMD was an advocacy or sharing body. He suggested that the way forward would be to stay with the CAMD/MA collaboration.

Margaret noted that we already needed to focus on three Ministers (Arts, Heritage and Innovation) but agreed that we would continue to work with MA on large issues. Patrick Greene suggested that CAMD should focus on shifting alliances as needed on big issues.

Kate Clark noted that, for some years, the UK National Museum Directors Conference had been successful in its own right as had Heritage Link which provided a network for a huge cultural sector.

28. STRATEGIC PLAN

It was agreed that the issues canvassed during the meeting should be represented in the new Strategic Plan which will be further developed with the Executive.

29. NEW MEMBER PROPOSED

Steve Gower (Australian War Memorial) spoke to his proposal that CAMD invite Darryl McIntyre, the CEO of the National Film and Sound Archive, to be a member. He noted that the NFSA had a strong collection and public programs and its membership would complement that of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image.

Jeremy Johnson commented on the need for CAMD to consider how large it wishes to be. Margaret Anderson noted that the meeting was reaching its physical limits in terms of a round table discussion. It was agreed that, following the acceptance of the National Film and Sound Archive, membership should be closed pending a review of membership criteria.

Steve formally recommended:

Resolution:

That Darryl McIntyre, CEO National Film and Sound Archive be accepted as a CAMD member.

Carried

CSIRO

Members considered the application by Dr John La Salle, Head Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO Entomology to renew his attendance at CAMD meetings. CSIRO discontinued attendance in 2005 due to the CAMD emphasis on front of house museum issues. Given that CAMD still has this focus it was agreed that Dr La Salle be invited instead to attend CAMD's Science Alliance meetings of Directors and Heads of Collections.

30. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

After discussion, it was agreed that, rather than amend the constitution to reflect new memberships, a schedule should be added of new members.

31. ELECTIONS

Nominations were called prior to the meeting. It was noted that:

- Jeremy Johnson has been renominated for the position of Treasurer by Margaret Anderson;
- Dawn Casey has been nominated to fill a vacant Executive Member position by Mary-Louise Williams; and
- Bill Bleathman has been nominated to fill a vacant Executive Member position by Dawn Casey.

Resolution: The following members were declared elected to CAMD Executive position/s:

- Jeremy Johnson (Sovereign Hill Museums Association) was re-elected as Treasurer;
- Dawn Casey (Powerhouse Museum) was elected an Executive Member; and
- Bill Bleathman (Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery) was elected an Executive Member.

Carried

Margaret again thanked Mary-Louise and Ian for their 8 years of service as CAMD Executive Members.

32. GENERAL BUSINESS

2011 Meetings

It was suggested that CAMD's next meeting should be held in early April (during parliamentary sitting times) in Canberra. This would allow the new Minister to be invited to join the meeting for drinks between 6pm and 7pm. Members thanked Steve Gower for his offer to host the next meeting at the Australian War Memorial and Anthony Wright who has offered to host the Annual General Meeting at Canterbury Museum later in 2011.

Mary-Louise Williams has suggested that more time be made available at CAMD meetings for tours of local exhibitions. It was agreed that the meetings should be scheduled for two and a half days to accommodate exhibition viewing.

2012 Meetings

Meredith reported that a casual invitation was extended by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Museums Association to join PIMA Directors for a meeting during the next Pacific Arts Festival in April 2012. Following discussions members agreed that they were unable to take up this invitation. Jeremy Johnson flagged that he would be happy to host a CAMD meeting at Sovereign Hill in 2012.

City of Adelaide

Mary-Louise Williams raised her concerns over a proposal to transport a hulk in Scotland, which has been known as the City of Adelaide, to Adelaide at the cost of over \$25m. She indicated her understanding that the basis for the proposal was not supported historically and that it has the capacity to bring Australian heritage and maritime collections into disrepute. She urged that CAMD write to the SA Government. Andrew Sayers recommended that CAMD not weigh in on specific policies and that Mary-Louise would have more impact in this case by putting her case as head of the Australian National Maritime Museum.

Promoters

Patrick Greene noted that due to the increasing cost of imported exhibitions, private exhibition promoters were becoming a more prominent part of the business scene for museums. He advised members to seek legal advice if dealing with promoters and be aware that their approach is very different to that of museums sharing exhibitions.

The meeting closed at 3pm.