

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The Mint, Sydney Living Museums  
10 Macquarie Street, Sydney  
3 November 2014

### ATTENDEES

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	CEO, Scitech Discovery Centre, Perth
Mr Alec Coles OBE	Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Museum (CAMD Executive Member) (from item 3 onwards)
Mr Brett Dunlop	Director, Museums, deputising for Mr Jeremy Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Sovereign Hill Museums Association
Prof. Graham Durant AM	Director, Questacon - National Science and Technology Centre
Mr Mark Goggin	Director, Sydney Living Museums
Dr Patrick Greene OBE	Chief Executive Officer, Museum Victoria (Chair, CAMD)
Mr Michael Harvey	Assistant Director, Audience, Outreach and Exhibitions, deputising for Mr Kevin Sumption, Director, Australian National Maritime Museum
Ms Rose Hiscock	Director, Powerhouse Museum (CAMD Executive Member) (from item 3 onwards)
Ms Daryl Karp	Director, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
Ms Kim McKay AO	Director and Chief Executive Officer, Australian Museum
Ms Megan McSweeney	Director Business, External Affairs and Tourism, deputising for Mr Roy Clare, Director, Auckland War Memorial Museum
Mr Richard Mulvaney	Director, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery
Mr David Robinson	Associate Director, Museum Operations & Services deputising for Mr Arapata Hakiwai, A/Chief Executive and Kaihautū,

	Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
Ms Jennifer Storer	A/Director, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
Mr Tim Sullivan	Assistant Director, Branch Head National Collection deputising for Dr Brendan Nelson, Director, Australian War Memorial
Mr Tony Sweeney	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Centre for the Moving Image
Dr Mathew Trinca	Director, National Museum of Australia
Mr Anthony Wright	Director, Canterbury Museum (CAMD Executive Member)

## APOLOGIES

NAME	MUSEUM/ORGANISATION
Mr Roy Clare CBE	Director, Auckland War Memorial Museum
Dr Ian P. Griffin	Director, Otago Museum
Mr Arapata Hakiwai	A/Chief Executive and Kaihautū, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
Mr Jeremy Johnson	Chief Executive Officer, Sovereign Hill Museums Association (CAMD Treasurer)
Prof. Suzanne Miller	Chief Executive, Queensland Museum Network
Dr Brendan Nelson	Director, Australian War Memorial
Mr Brian Oldman	Director, South Australian Museum
Mr Kevin Sumption	Director, Australian National Maritime Museum

## IN ATTENDANCE/PRESENTERS

NAME	MUSEUM/ORGANISATION	Agenda item
Dr Meredith Foley	Executive Officer, CAMD	All
Mr Julian Bickersteth	Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM)	7
Mr Frank Howarth	National President, Museums Australia	8 & 9
Ms Sophie McCarthy	McCarthy Mentoring	10

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## **1. WELCOME**

CAMD Chair, Patrick Greene (CEO, Museum Victoria), opened the meeting, acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was being held and welcomed delegates to the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Council of Australasian Museum Directors (CAMD). Patrick thanked Mr Mark Goggin, Director, Sydney Living Museums and his staff for hosting the meeting. He also welcomed those who were deputising and noted the apologies listed above.

Patrick commented on the fact that this was Mr Tony Sweeney's last CAMD meeting as he would be stepping down as Director and CEO of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) at the end of the year. CAMD members thanked Tony for his contribution and wished him all the best in his post-ACMI career.

## **2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING**

### **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The last CAMD Meeting was held at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston on 15-16 May 2014 and draft minutes have been circulated.

A correction was noted to item 31 where 'spear' needed to be replaced by 'sphere'.

#### **Resolution:**

1. That the minutes of the CAMD General Meeting held at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery 15-16 May 2014, as corrected, be accepted.

*Goggin/Kamp* **Carried**

Graham Durant reported that the 'Science on a Sphere' exhibition was no longer coming to Australia.

## **3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Patrick Greene (CEO, Museum Victoria) reported on his activities as CAMD Chair since the last CAMD meeting.

### **Museums and Galleries Australia Alliance**

Patrick commented on the emergence of the new *Museums and Galleries Australia Alliance* (the *Alliance*) which brought together CAMD, the Council of Australasian Museum Directors (CAAMD), Museums Australia and ICOM Australia. The existence of the *Alliance*, which Meredith has been helping to coordinate, has increased the flow of information from the federal Ministry for the Arts and allowed a more collaborative relationship to emerge. This was shown in the recent invitation extended to Alliance members to [comment](#) on the draft

[Commonwealth Collecting Guidelines](#) which were eventually released in a much improved version. Patrick noted that the Ministry has provided highly positive feedback on the current relationship with the Alliance.

### **AGIEI**

Patrick reported that the Government's review of the [Australian Government International Exhibition Insurance](#) (AGIEI) has been released. CAMD made a submission to the review in 2013. The report strongly supported the scheme and also resolved to reduce the threshold to \$20 million to more accurately reflect the cost to museums.

### **NFSA**

A member referred to the proposal raised at an earlier meeting that the Director of the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) be invited to join CAMD. Patrick said that he had not yet spoken to Mr Michael Loebenstein about the proposal. Dr Mathew Trinca (Director, National Museum of Australia) noted that changes underway at the NFSA were seeing it move further away from public engagement. He offered to speak to Michael informally about the NFSA's new direction.

### **National Cultural Heritage Committee**

The Government has announced the composition of the [National Cultural Heritage Committee](#) (NCHC) with Patrick reappointed Chair. The delay in announcing new members has meant that the committee has been inquorate and unable to meet. Two other CAMD members: Mr Tim Sullivan (Assistant Director, Branch Head National Collection, Australian War Memorial) and Prof. Suzanne Miller (Chief Executive, Queensland Museum Network) are also on the committee.

The role of the NCHC is to advise on the operation of the [Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act](#), the [National Heritage Control List](#) and the [National Cultural Heritage Account](#). Patrick noted that \$500,000 was allocated a year to enable collecting bodies to acquire Australian protected objects. Applications could be made at any time until the fund for each year was exhausted. Patrick made a presentation on the committee and its work to last year's Museums Australia conference. The presentation was published in the Winter/Spring 2013 [Museums Australia magazine](#) (pp. 18-23).

The first meeting of the reconstituted NCHC is likely to be before Christmas 2014.

### **CSIRO Digitisation Report**

Patrick noted his concern at the disparaging tenor of the media release which accompanied the recent [CSIRO report on digitisation in the collecting sector](#). As he is now an author for [The Conversation](#) (which has over 2 million visits per month) Patrick used its platform to write an article, '[Visits to Australia's museums rise on the back of a digital experience](#)' to counter the misapprehensions left by the CSIRO report.

Patrick also reported that he met with Ms Angelita Teo (Director, National Museum of Singapore and a guest at CAMDs' Wellington meeting) on a recent trip. He noted that Angelita and the museum were very close to activities in Australia and New Zealand and a terrific partner in the region.

Mr Alec Coles (CEO, Western Australian Museum) joined the meeting and reported that the successful opening of the [National Anzac Centre](#) in Albany on the weekend had been very emotionally charged. The Centre provides a fitting tribute to all those who left from Albany for the battlefields of WWI.

[Ms Rose Hiscock (Director, Powerhouse Museum) also joined the meeting.]

#### **4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr Brett Dunlop (Director Museums, Sovereign Hill) tabled the auditor's report on behalf of CAMD Treasurer, Mr Jeremy Johnson (Chief Executive Officer, Sovereign Hill Museums). Brett noted that no matters were raised in the report. Members agreed to pass the following resolution and thanked Jeremy, in his absence, for the excellent work he did as CAMD Treasurer and in providing the infrastructure for the Executive Officer's continuing employment.

**Resolution:**

That CAMD accepts the Treasurer's report and the budget for 2014-15.  
*Greene/Hiscock* **Carried**

#### **5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

##### **Museums and Galleries Australia Alliance**

Dr Meredith Foley reported on work undertaken for the new *Museums and Galleries Australia Alliance* (the *Alliance*). Amongst other work, she has prepared two detailed submissions on the [Australian Best Practice Guide to Collecting Cultural Material](#), input on the guide to the implementation of the Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan legislation and, with the assistance of Jennifer Andre, Patrick's Executive Assistant, coordinated the nomination of delegates from the museum sector to the *Malraux Seminar*. Mechanisms for museums to report international engagement events have also been clarified with the Ministry. The positive outcomes included a greater sharing of information between the museum organisations within the *Alliance* and a more reciprocal exchange with the Ministry on a range of issues.

##### **Australian Government International Exhibitions Insurance Program**

Meredith reported further on the review of the [Australian Government International Exhibitions Insurance](#) (AGIEI) Program noting that revised program guidelines will be

introduced ahead of the 2015-16 funding round. Further information about this is expected in the coming months.

### **Australian Heritage Strategy**

In June CAMD provided further input to the draft [National Heritage Strategy](#) review and forwarded a copy of the CAMD response made in 2013. Meredith also attended a forum on the new Strategy in Sydney in late May and raised the issues included in the CAMD response. The consultation process closed in June and as yet there is no word on the outcome.

### **Sustainability**

Meredith attended the CAMD/AICCM workshop held at the University of Melbourne just prior to the ICOM Conservation Conference in September. She noted that the day long workshop, which featured Socratic dialogues between CAMD and AICCM representatives, had a marked success in encouraging flexibility on the issue of conservation standards.

### **Museums Data and Profile**

Meredith prepared a [submission](#) on CAMD's behalf for inclusion in the papers for the Meeting of Cultural Ministers on the lack of current museum sector statistics. She and Rose Hiscock also met with Ms Bridget Jones Director, Research & Strategic Analysis at the Australia Council to follow up alternative ways to collect sector statistics following the discontinuation of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) cultural statistics work.

### **Survey**

Meredith reported that the [CAMD Survey Report 2012-13](#) (which included some material from 2011-12) was circulated to members in June and is now available on the member's side of the CAMD website.

The report from the **Snapshot Survey** for 2013-14 has been completed (although there has been a last minute updating required). A report and Survey Highlights for public release is in preparation. Otago Museum is now participating in the survey, however, Auckland War Memorial Museum has withdrawn from the survey process. At Patrick's request, Ms Megan McSweeney (Director Business, External Affairs and Tourism, deputising for Roy Clare, Director, Auckland War Memorial Museum) agreed to consider whether Auckland could provide some of the statistics needed for CAMD advocacy work.

Part two of the survey for 2013-14 – which includes questions designed to provide further **benchmarking** information for CAMD members – is currently being completed by members (for return by 28 November).

Most recently, data from the draft 2013-14 survey report was utilised in Patrick Greene's [article](#) on museums and digitisation for *The Conversation*.

## **CAMD Website**

Meredith noted that she has employed a publications manager on a consulting basis to encourage greater traffic to the site and to free her up to write material and update other parts of the site.

## **WWI Commemorations**

Part of the web work has been to design a calendar for the site which details exhibitions and other events by CAMD museums commemorating the First World War. There have been a few teething problems but the site should be up and running by the AGM. I also assisted Tim Sullivan from the Australian War Memorial to update an article on CAMD member WWI events which appeared in the *Museums Australia Magazine* (Winter 2014).

Meredith thanked CAMD members, Patrick, the Executive Members and the members of CAMD's working parties for their generous assistance in the preceding period.

## **6. SECURITY IN MUSEUMS**

Mr Alec Coles (Director, Western Australian Museum) thanked members who responded to his recent request for feedback on security in museums noting that there were individual attacks in Perth and that the Army museum was locked down at one stage. The Albany opening also required special precautions. Alec emphasised that he was keen to strike the right balance between vigilance and over-reaction.

Members noted the following in the discussion which followed:

- the likelihood of security breaches is low but any impact would be very high
- contractors onsite should be closely managed
- extra attention should be given to bags and packages
- assessments from ASIO and the Australian Federal Police should be noted
- local police are best to deal with specific threat
- more general awareness required following UK and Ottawa episodes
- some members have reviewed security provisions across the museum
- consideration needs to be given to maintaining a single entry only, which is difficult for some institutions
- schools in particular want to feel confidence in museum security
- avoid coloured lights which impact on ctv
- consider removal of bins in some institutions.



Members asked that the issue of security and disaster management be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **7. SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION**

Mr Pierre Arpin, Director, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and Chair of the CAMD Sustainability Working Group updated members on the recent CAMD/Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM) workshop on sustainability and conservation standards and the new environmental guidance statement released by ICOM and the International Institute for Conservation (IIC).

The workshop event, which was based around a Socratic dialogue between representatives of different organisations prominent in the area, provided an excellent opportunity to canvass a wide range of issues impacting on the question of sustainability and conservation standards before approximately 50 conservators and facilities managers. Both Pierre and Patrick Greene played an active role as presenters as did representatives from the Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne, ICOM and several Southeast Asian museums.

Pierre also noted that a poll taken of members before and after the workshop saw the majority of participants move towards a more pragmatic position on risk in relation to conservation environmental standards after the workshop.

Pierre introduced Mr Julian Bickersteth, Managing Director, International Conservation Services and representative of the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM) to provide further comment. Julian outlined moves towards more flexible management at the international level and responses from various conservation and curatorial groups as well as institutions. Conflicting positions had led to some frustration in relation to international loans with differences appearing between the optimal conditions required by art as opposed to non-art museums. Many to date have regarded the science as inconclusive and too experimental.

Julian noted that the CAMD/AICCM workshop was very effective in that it allowed conservators to hear research reports on a range of flexible approaches to conservation within different types of buildings and environments.

Following the ICOM conference in Melbourne and the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC) Congress in Hong Kong in September, a new declaration on environmental guidelines has been released which has moved the debate forward. The loans area will continue to be challenging; Julian noted that conservators were not only factoring in the museum environment to which objects were being loaned but also the fact that they may have been bounced from one loan to another at many other venues in recent times. The National Gallery is not supportive of micro-environments for collection items.



The Doerner Institute opposes the position taken by the Bizot Group and believes that only stable/tight parameters are safe.

Julian suggested that there would still be differences between loans and items in permanent collections and between management in galleries and museums but noted that there was an increasing trend towards more pragmatic risk management. He encouraged members to utilise the new Museums and Galleries Queensland document which imbued this pragmatic approach ([\*A Practical Guide for Sustainable Climate Control and Lighting in Museums and Galleries\*](#)).

Pierre thanked Julian for his contribution to the success of the workshop and for speaking to CAMD today. He suggested that Directors need to start conversations with their own building managers and others to see what could be achieved within the constraints of their own environments.

Patrick suggested that consideration be given by CAMD to doing a joint statement with AICCM to endorse the more pragmatic response.

## **8. CSIRO GLAM DIGITISATION REPORT**

Mr Frank Howarth (National President, Museums Australia) joined the meeting to speak to members about the outcomes of the recently released CSIRO GLAM digitisation report: [\*An Innovation Study: Challenges and Opportunities for Australia's Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums\*](#).

Patrick Greene noted his concern at the slightly sensational media report accompanying the release of the report and feelings that CSIRO had not listened carefully enough to museums in the preparation of the report.

Frank noted that the drive for the report was coming from those within CSIRO who are keen to build capacity in the sector. The report does note that positive activities are being undertaken in the larger museums but was concerned at the smaller level of activity at the regional level and the lack of interaction between collecting domains. He noted that the report emphasised that researchers want to 'deep data mine' collections and open them up further to creative reuse.

One of the recommendations of the report was for a National Digital Forum (as seen in New Zealand) as an important cross-domain event bringing museums, galleries, libraries and archives together and providing leadership in this area. Frank suggested the federal Government could provide a role in facilitating this and that consideration could be given to making the forum cross-Tasman. He also recommended that museums abandon waiting for informed consent as intellectual property would continue to be an important sticking point.

Frank suggested that the potential for a National Digital Forum be canvassed at the next meeting of the *Museums and Galleries Australia Alliance* in May 2015.

## **9. MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA REPORT**

As the National President of Museums Australia (MA), Frank Howarth also provided members with an update on its activities and planned initiatives. He noted that CAMD members Pierre Arpin and Mat Trinca were on the MA National Board. The Board has spent the last 12 months getting the MA house in order; regularising its activities and dealing with financial exposures. Frank noted that not all branches were equally strong. A new strategic plan has been developed which deals with:

- equity of access to MA services from a geographic perspective;
- the need to actively represent the art museum sector which is at present somewhat alienated particularly in relation to the professionally-staffed mid-size regional gallery;
- the financial base; and
- a reconciliation action plan for MA.

Frank also noted that Ms Bernice Murphy was stepping down and a new National Director would be sought over the coming months.

Ms Daryl Karp (Director, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House) suggested that there was a need for MA to move away from academic presentations at its conference towards more robust policy discussions.

Meredith reported that *CAMD will be holding its next General Meeting just prior to the MA National Conference to encourage interaction between the two organisations.*

## **10. MENTORING AND LEADERSHIP PROPOSAL**

Ms Kim McKay (Director and CEO, Australian Museum) introduced Ms Sophie McCarthy of McCarthy Mentoring. Kim noted that Sophie's company had been asked to provide a proposal for a women's mentoring program in the museum sector following discussions at earlier CAMD meetings.

Sophie noted that she had worked at the National Museum of Australia and Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory many years ago. She outlined recent trends in relation to leadership and the unrepresentative proportion of women in leadership positions. She noted that research tells us women are less likely to ask for a mentor/sponsor and that they assume diligent effort/performance alone will advance their careers.

Sophie said that mentoring was one of the areas shown to be particularly effective in addressing issues of leadership and in particular encouraging the transition into leadership roles. Generally, the mentoring program involves formal meetings across 6-12 months

between an experienced mentor and the mentored and then informal contact to discuss significant decisions.

Mentoring offers:

- a trusted, confidential advisor
- someone who has a focus on the workplace and leadership demands
- support and guidance
- insight into the executive role
- assistance to think more strategically about work.

Outcomes included:

- broader networks; often outside the museum sector
- more assertiveness about mapping a career
- encouragement to seek assistance when necessary
- confidence to take more risks eg to move to other states or countries to advance career opportunities
- improved performance
- courage to take the next step.

Sophie characterised mentoring as a relatively cheap but significant investment in people that employers want to keep and a way of increasing communication between leaders and senior staff. Her work with Qantas Global Mentoring had led to 50-60% of mentored women leaders experiencing an expanded role and/or promotion. She also noted that the company had worked with the Australia Council where mentors were in remote 'top end' places and Skype was utilised.

Sophie outlined a proposal whereby the McCarthy team's role would be to bring experience and coordinating skills to interviewing and connecting people and training the mentors via workshops and the provision of other resources. Mentors could be from CAMD or from outside the sector.

Sophie proposed that each of CAMD'S institutions would nominate a person to be mentored and they would receive initial training and then monthly mentoring sessions.

Members thanked Sophie for her presentation and she left the meeting.

In the discussion which followed, some members asked whether the scheme should be directed at women only or should extend to all aspiring leaders. Kim noted that the scheme had been proposed because women were underrepresented at the leadership level. Other comments included the following:

- the need to discuss the mentoring initiative with the Gordon Darling Foundation program and look at ways to align the two programs

- Creative NZ would be unlikely to support this initiative in addition to existing programs
- the fact that the contribution required could be out of the reach of smaller institutions
- whether there was a possibility to trial the program
- whether corporate sponsors could be sought due to the cost
- whether board members or trustees could be co-opted to do pro bono mentoring
- could CAMD cover half the cost.

It was agreed that Rose Hiscock, Kim McKay and Alec Coles would act as a small group to take the proposal forward. David Robinson agreed to act as New Zealand liaison on this issue.

## **11. NEW ZEALAND REPORT**

New Zealand members commented on the following issues arising from the NZ museum sector:

- Anthony Wright mentioned that there was a new Minister for the Arts with a seat in Cabinet and a good relationship with the Prime Minister which would be good to re-energise the portfolio;
- Megan McSweeney said that Auckland was now a 'super city' and that facilities including sports stadiums and museums had been grouped together;
- Te Papa would shortly announce its new Director; and
- Museums Aotearoa and Museums Australia will be holding a joint conference in April/May 2016 in Auckland.

In discussion, Megan McSweeney was asked why Auckland would no longer be contributing to the CAMD Annual Survey. Megan noted that resources were a problem but she did offer to see whether Auckland could provide data in response to those questions most important for advocacy.

Patrick Greene congratulated Mr Anthony Wright (Director, Canterbury Museum) on the museum achieving *the Investment in People* Gold Standard.

## **12. MUSEUMS' DATA & PROFILE WORKING PARTY**

Rose Hiscock (Director, Powerhouse Museum) opened the discussion noting that she and Meredith had met with Bridget Jones, Director, Research and Strategic Analysis at the Australia Council and also a member of the Cultural Ministers Statistic Working Group. Bridget confirmed that the ABS was willing to collect statistics but wanted funding to do this.

Discussions with Bridget considered a release of aggregate data with them. Members agreed that they were more willing to release some of the collected data. It was agreed that Meredith prepare a summary of further data which might be released.

### **13. COLLECTION LEGISLATION, REGULATION AND GUIDELINES**

Meredith Foley recapped recent work (undertaken on behalf of the *Museums and Galleries Australia Alliance*) to address draft collection legislation, regulations and guidelines in Australia at the request of the federal Ministry for the Arts. Submissions and comments provided by CAMD and the *Alliance* can be found on the CAMD members' website. There are ongoing concerns, voiced particularly by CAAMD, with the lack of a cut-off date (usually 1970) in the Australian legislation.

The Ministry for the Arts has indicated that it would like to discuss this and other associated issues further at the forthcoming *Alliance* meeting [to be held 21 May 2015].

### **14. SCIENCE RESEARCH REPORT**

Suzanne Miller (CEO, Queensland Museum) apologized for her inability to attend the meeting. She provided the following points to update members:

**Atlas of Australian Life (ALA):** funding continues through to 2015 but uncertainty about long term support remains. The larger NCRIS review will be looking at funding models for all NCRIS facilities. The ALA is going from strength to strength and has achieved over 2.5 billion downloads of data - demonstrating a quite extraordinary, exponential use of ALA data in the last 10 months. Most data is downloaded for research purposes, followed by environmental planning.

**Scientific Collections International (SciColl):** work is progressing across all the programs. The Human Migration program (ancient DNA, etc) is moving ahead. There is a European initiative to attract significant EU funding for global research infrastructure and Suzanne is working with that group to see if there are any leverage opportunities for us. There are two ARC Linkage grants up and running in this space - one with the South Australian Museum and Adelaide University and the other at Griffith University with Queensland Museum involvement. Suzanne noted that Australia has signed up for a further two years with SciColl and that she is currently talking with the federal government to secure funding for future SciColl participation.

**Federal Indigenous Repatriation program:** this requires further discussion and I will try to set up a conference call of all the relevant Directors/CEOs or maybe this could be part of a meeting of the relevant natural science museums.

**Australian Research Council (ARC):** has now fully adopted the 20/80% employment rule for ARC Discovery eligibility (this now applies as a base rule for ARC across all institutions).

Our ARC Linkage eligibility remains the same as before ie Museums can be industry partners.

Suzanne indicated that she would have the list of ARC - museum active projects updated so that we can keep an eye on progress and continue to lobby at a federal level.

**World Science Festival (WSF):** Suzanne noted that Brisbane will be the new Asia Pacific venue for the WSF in 2016. It will involve a high end, high profile series of events with the great and the good of science plus major performing and visual arts components, built around major STEM engagement. CAMD members with an interest in the program are encouraged to contact Suzanne. An official announcement will be made shortly and members were asked to keep this information confidential until it is made public.

## **15. SCIENCE PROJECTS**

Graham Durant (Director, Questacon – National Science and Technology Centre) also provided an update on various science projects. Graham noted the continuing success of the ALA, the Australian Virtual Herbarium and Ozcam in uploading data and providing it to researchers.

Kim McKay noted similar success with the Australian Museum's DigiVol program where volunteers working onsite and from home have registered over 100,000 transcriptions in collections. The Smithsonian has now adopted the DigiVol model.

Graham provided advice on the National Environmental Science Program which focusses on six research themes and hubs:

- Threatened Species Recovery - supporting the management of threats and improving recovery of threatened species.
- Tropical Water Quality - researching coastal water quality and coastal management focused on the Great Barrier Reef and other tropical waters.
- Clean Air and Urban Landscapes - supporting environmental quality in urban areas.
- Earth Systems - furthering our understanding of the drivers of Australia's climate, focusing on coastal systems and protections.
- Marine Biodiversity - researching Australia's oceans and marine environments, including temperate coastal water quality and marine species.
- Northern Australia Environmental Resources - supporting the sustainable development of our unique northern landscapes.

Graham advised that the new **Commonwealth Science Council** included a range of scientists and industrialists with good linkages to CAMD members. Chief Scientist Ian Chubb recently launched the [Mapping the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences in](#)

[Australia](#) report. It was noted that the HASS sector was not represented on the new council.

A review is to be undertaken of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) with a discussion paper released later this month. Question 11 will have most relevance for non-Commonwealth entities.

*Inspiring Australia* did not receive all the funding it had anticipated; while there is funding for projects this does not extend to staff in all situations. The funding round for next year has just closed.

There has been a great deal of interest in the [Citizen Science Network Australia](#) which has potential to assist research and researchers particularly in relation to biodiversity and taxonomy.

Graham was congratulated on his success in creating the new technology learning centre with the assistance of the Ian Potter Foundation. The centre was recently launched by the Prime Minister.

## **16. CAAMD ISSUES**

Pierre Arpin (Director, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory) and Ms Jennifer Storer (A/Director, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery) updated members on current issues for the Council of Australian Art Museum Directors (CAAMD) on behalf of the CAAMD Chair, Stefano Carboni (Director, Art Gallery of Western Australia). They noted that the last meeting had been a farewell for Ron Radford who was leaving his role as National Gallery of Australia Director.

CAAMD had also met with Sally Bassier (Executive Director, Ministry for the Arts) to discuss the Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan legislation. Jennifer noted that there had been some moves towards sharing the ownership of acquisitions eg a Glover painting which is part-owned by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery with the National Gallery of Australia.

## **17. NAME REPORT**

Members acknowledged the detailed update provided by members of the Network of Australasian Museum Exhibitors (NAME) and noted that its next meeting would be at the Queensland Museum on 24-25 November 2014.

## **18. CHALLENGES AHEAD/CAMD PLANNING**

Patrick Greene introduced a group discussion on the challenges ahead for museums and the sector and commented on the role which might be played by CAMD in addressing



these challenges. He noted that the sharing of information about security had already been identified at this meeting as an important and ongoing issue.

### **Museum Victoria**

Patrick also commented on the declining value of public funding as the result of efficiency dividends. He noted that there has been little change in Museum Victoria funding over the last 8 years. The reduction has been disguised by commercial successes such as that accorded by the appointment of a professional operator to run the carpark. However, this had recently been undercut by the introduction of a congestion levy. The cinema and exhibition spaces are profitable but further work will need to be done to deal with day to day costs and ensure there was no deterioration in facilities and buildings.

### **ACMI**

Tony Sweeney noted that ACMI was faced with similar problems which were only partly offset by the success of the Winter Masterpieces program.

### **Te Papa**

David Robinson also noted the impact of efficiency dividends. The ageing building and the need for upgrades was challenging as was the competition to the museum's conferencing wing from a new conference centre setting up across the road.

### **Auckland War Memorial Museum**

Megan McSweeney noted that the heritage building housing the museum made a large call on funds. In part to address this drain the museum has made its events model more proactive and reorganised its retail model.

### **Canterbury Museum**

Anthony Wright reported that the museum was relatively stable because of circumstance and great numbers. A major focus was in obtaining central government investment in the \$150m project to upgrade and earthquake-proof the museum.

### **Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House**

Daryl Karp noted that she was keen to understand more about the museum's visitors and what they wanted from a visit. She noted that she is obliged to charge \$2 per visit but is concerned that admission fees create inequities. Daryl suggested that we might want to explore as a group the message that admission fees send.

### **Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery**

Jennifer Storer noted that the museum was running at a deficit and that staff positions were being lost. Financial stability was a major challenge.

### **Powerhouse Museum**

Rose Hiscock noted that despite the loss of 77 staff overall the museum had opened five internally generated exhibitions since July.

While the Powerhouse has been trying to integrate its site into the Darling Harbour master plan, pressure has continued for it to be moved to the western suburbs of Sydney. She noted that the Powerhouse was part of an existing digital creative precinct in which the Government had invested heavily; a new museum in the west could be focussed on science.

### **Sovereign Hill**

Brett Dunlop noted that the Sovereign Hill Museums gets only 3% of its funds from Government. It has focussed on growing visitor numbers and developing other commercial activities including running its own farm, a sweets factory and accommodation. The Museums Association will have its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020 at which time it aims to have a new hotel and redeveloped evening show. They are exploring exclusive products to attract different levels of tourist. New markets (eg Indonesia and Malaysia) are constantly under development and Sovereign Hill now has an office in China and an agency in India.

### **Australian War Memorial**

Tim Sullivan noted that the War Memorial was facing similar efficiency dividends plus depreciation funding, previously indexed but now capped and cut. The proposed travelling exhibitions had been cut back; those with sponsors can go ahead. Tim prepared an article on the commemorations for Museums Australia which included the CAMD museums. He noted that some of the best activity has come from grants to local communities.

### **National Museum of Australia**

Mathew Trinca reported that NMA has lost 20% of its staff which will have a big impact on future planning. Noting that so many of the institutions reporting have the same story and that this funding paucity is unlikely to change soon, he suggested that CAMD museums think further about what might be done collaboratively.

Members agreed that museums as a sector need:

- greater capacity to argue public value;
- further ways to leverage social and community capital;
- a way to collaborate around online work. More collaborative examples which are game changers such as the *Atlas of Living Australia*;
- a big heritage hookup online making the best use of public funds;
- partnerships with TROVE.

### **Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery**

Richard Mulvaney suggested that museums needed to sell themselves better; we need to access the silent majority which supports museums. He reported that QVMAG is interested in using the site more creatively eg opening late and utilising local professional networks.

## **History SA**

Margaret Anderson noted that HSA had received additional recurrent funding in the 2013-14 budget but still had to raise further funds for exhibitions.

## **Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory**

Pierre Arpin reported that the new act making MAGNT a statutory body and a new board were now in place. The museum had to close its retail shop due to the cost of weekend public service salaries. Under-resourcing continues to be a real issue. The territory contribution to the wildlife app is up for a Premier's award.

## **Australian Museum**

Kim McKay noted that the museum was going through a major period of transformation. Additional funds had been acquired for a new William Street entrance. This work will create a new functions space and crystal hall. A new gallery 'The Great Walk' will open at the end of May 2015. Kim commented on the greater opportunities available to collaborate in Sydney which had the effect of keeping the costs of exhibitions down.

## **Australian National Maritime Museum**

Michael Harvey noted that the museum has had a voluntary redundancy process. Attendances were down but revenue was increasing. Significant capital reserves are now being applied to the new naval pavilion with the overall goal of reorienting the entrance to the harbour. The museum was also concentrating on increasing cultural engagement with other countries such as Indonesia.

## **Western Australian Museum**

Alec Coles noted that the Government has continued its commitment of \$428.3m towards the construction of the new museum and an architectural team will be sought in the next month. Alec noted that staff costs were high in Western Australia and institutions are obliged to pay salary of those made redundant until they are re-employed. Legal changes are being sought to the museum's act to allow it to lease buildings and mixed uses around site will be considered.

Alec agreed to the earlier discussion that a new model of museum funding and activity was needed as Government funding declined across the country. It was agreed that new thinking was required to rework the current business model and drive growth.

## **Sydney Living Museums**

Mark Goggin mentioned that the theme for the forthcoming CTM14 conference was 'Optimism' and that it would undoubtedly dwell on different ways of doing things and collaboration as highlighted today.

Mark noted the development by SLM of closer ties with developers and architects which has led it to become expert at property rehabilitation and long term lease.

## **19. ELECTION**

Two positions were open for election on the CAMD Executive. A call for nominations was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

**Resolution:** That the following members are declared elected to the CAMD Executive position/s: Anthony Wright and Pierre Arpin.

*Carried*

## **20. MEMBER'S BUSINESS**

- Patrick Greene commented on the imminent departure from ACMI of Tony Sweeney. Tony was praised for his achievements and his contribution to CAMD. Members wished him well in his future activities.
- Patrick also noted that [Museums and the Web Asia](#) will be held next year in Melbourne [October 5-8, 2015].

## **21. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Next General Meeting**

The next meeting will be in Sydney again as we have committed to hold it alongside the Museums Australia Conference (21-25 May). Kevin Sumption has kindly volunteered to hold the meeting at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

### **Next Annual General Meeting**

Members were also asked to consider hosting the next AGM which will be held mid to late November 2015.