

CAMD MEMBER'S REPORT to ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PERIOD: 2013/14

NAME OF INSTITUTION: Queensland Museum

NAME OF CEO & DIRECTOR: Professor Suzanne Miller

1. ACCESS AND VISITATION [eg building collections; exhibitions & visitor trends (locals & tourists); use of websites & enquiry service)

The Queensland Museum Network (QMN) attracted nearly 1.2 million visitors to our museums across the network over the past twelve months, and over 1.1 million online visitors.

The Discovery Centre team based at QM & Sciencentre, South Bank, supported 24,180 visitor inquiries on a range of museum related themes.

One of the highlights of the year was the launch of a new permanent gallery at QM & Sciencentre in December 2013 – *Lost Creatures: Stories from Ancient Queensland*. The new gallery features dinosaurs, giant marine reptiles and megafauna, alongside our famous *Muttaburrasaurus* reconstruction and new 3D modelling of Queensland dinosaurs.

More than 52,000 people saw the *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul* exhibition and related activities during its 21 week run at QM & Sciencentre

The *Deep Oceans* exhibition at QM& Sciencentre achieved visitation of more than 58,000 in its first three months alone. This touring exhibition from the Australian Museum and Questacon has been used as an opportunity to showcase a range of significant QM objects from the State Collection including a real specimen of a giant squid, baby great white shark and diamond back squid, alongside rare diving helmets from the Langley Diving Collection.

54,083 physical items and 10,854 digital images were added to the State Collection, increasing its value to over \$466 million.

A record 221 new species were described QMN experts in 2013.

More than three quarters of a million natural history specimen records and nearly 60,000 images were contributed to the Atlas of Living Australia.

2. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: *(eg building community capacity to manage collections (internships; training; conservation workshops); indigenous collaborations; volunteer members; cultural & other affiliated societies & partnerships)*

In 2013-14, activity included

787,098 people across the state accessed QM collections and knowledge in their schools, early learning centres and communities via the QM Schools and Outreach service.

125 new QM loans kits were produced in 2013-14 with QM specimens and artefacts to connect museum research and collections to the Australian curriculum.

The Workshops Rail Museum, North Ipswich established a club for past and present workers of the Ipswich Railway Workshops with 621 workers joining since it started in November 2013. Four trade specific reunions and morning teas were held in the year for past workmates of the Ipswich Railway Workshops to catch up, reminisce and provide an opportunity for story capture by the Curatorial and Collection team.

Cobb+Co Museum, Toowoomba hosted several exhibitions during the year involving the local community –

- *Artisans' Challenge* exhibition showcased the skills of local artisans.
- *Icons on Icons* photographic exhibition featured five internationally renowned local photographers.
- *Red + Grass Staines* exhibition featured inspirational sports people from the region, as selected by members of the Toowoomba community.
- *Welcome to Australia ... which one am I talking to?* exhibition on The Beatles' 1964 Australian tour, in conjunction with local collector and researcher Jeff Black, unearthed a previously. As a result of the exhibition a previously unknown photo of Paul McCartney and George Harrison at Mt Tamborine was discovered.

QMN played a lead role in the development of *Memories from a Forgotten People*. This program for the Australian South Sea Islander 150th Commemorative event was a cross precinct collaboration between the State Library of Queensland, Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, and QMN. The program featured exhibitions and events across the precinct and throughout South East Queensland. Representation on the South East Queensland Australian South Sea Islander Steering Group Committee ASSI 150 Project – including membership of the steering committee alongside representatives from six regional councils, two community organisations and two institutions. This enabled QM to have a central role and increased profile with the South Sea Islander community.

Nearly 260 volunteers contributed more than 17,000 hours across the QMN in 2013-14.

The Museum Development Officer program is a partnership between Arts Queensland, the QMN and local government, which provides support and services to cultural heritage organisations throughout Queensland. Officers are based in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Ipswich and Toowoomba and together they provide grassroots support to more than 450 collecting organisations across all parts of the State.

3. MANAGEMENT & FUNDING: *[eg trends in financial support; organisational change; capital works.]*

In March 2014 the Queensland Government announced \$7.6 million funding for QM to develop the *Queensland Remembers Gallery* at the QM & Sciencentre. Opening in 2018 the centrepiece of the Gallery will be the A7V Sturmpanzerwagen armoured assault vehicle *Mephisto*.

Lost Creatures: Stories from Ancient Queensland opened at QM & Sciencentre in December 2013. Developed as part of the award-winning Megafauna in Queensland partnership with BHP Billiton Mitsui Coal.

Colour: Secret Language of the Reef opened at the Museum of Tropical Queensland, Townsville in May 2014 – supported by BHP Billiton Cannington.

During the 2013-14 financial year, the QM Foundation distributed more than \$1 million to the QMN and secured more than \$1.23 million in new pledges and donations.

QM initiated a workforce planning initiative looking at workforce capacity and capability over the next five years.

4. EDUCATION & RESEARCH *[eg education & research programs; partnerships; publications; regional outreach; talks, workshops, lectures; education via website]*

The Great Barrier Reef: a Queensland Museum Discovery Guide, a 440 page full colour publication containing stunning imagery and stories about the life-forms, diverse habitats and history of the Reef was developed with support from BHP Billiton Cannington and launched in July 2013.

5. MAJOR CHALLENGES AHEAD: *Please list the three – four major challenges for your museum for the year ahead (or further) which might be addressed by CAMD.*

Development of a business case determining sustainable future funding and investment levels across the QMN.

Increasing focus on targeted visitors from interstate, intrastate and international markets, through –

- Collaborating with Tourism and Events Queensland to achieve the state target of \$30billion in annual overnight visitor expenditure through delivering exclusive, international museum products.
- Establishing an international science congress/festival in Brisbane
- Undertaking a progressive permanent gallery renewal program with strong Queensland content at QM&S

To grow QMN's position as the pre-eminent leader of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths engagement in Queensland and in Australia.