

**Museums Australia NSW BRANCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011
Campus Hub, Macquarie University 18 April 2011, 14.00 pm**

Present: Paul Bentley (MANSW); Bill Storer (MA); Vicki Northey (Australian National Maritime Museum); Suzanne Bravery (MANSW); Terrie Beckhouse (Coffs Harbour Regional Museum); Leigh Summers (Coffs Harbour Regional Museums & Gallery); Robert Wells (Department of Education and Training); Rosemary Fitzgerald (MAWA); Robyn Rogers (NENW Chapter); Geoff Foley (Richmond River Historical Society); Betti Punnett (Lachlan Chapter); Bob McKillop (Willoughby Museum); Ian Stephenson (University of New England Heritage Centre); Wal Pilz (Central Tablelands Chapter); Jane Gardiner (Far North Coast Chapter); Marea Buist (Far North Coast Chapter); Debbie Sommers (Mid North Coast Chapter); Liz Gillroy (Mid North Coast Chapter); Graham Hinton (Lady Denman Maritime Museum); Julie Baird (Hunter Chapter); Karen O'Donnell (Sydney Chapter); Kreenah Yelds (Gosford City Heritage Advisory Committee), Glenn Wallis (Macquarie University / Royal NSW Lancers); Karen Player (Australian Museum); Lyn Hall (Berrima District Museum); Tamara Hynd (SH&I Chapter), David Bruderline (Parramatta Heritage Centre); Andrea Fernandez (Powerhouse Museum); Julei Taylor (Sydney University Museums); Bronwyn Coulston (Historic Houses Trust); Gay Hendriksen (MANSW); Rebecca Pinchin (MANSW). **Apologies:** Judith Cornell AM; Michael Van Tiel; Maree Clutterbuck; Erica Barwell; Samantha Friend.

1. Minutes of the 2010 AGM

Andrew Simpson gave an outline of the 2010 AGM minutes (available on the MNSW website). Rebecca Pinchin moved that the minutes be adopted. This was seconded by Gay Hendriksen. The motion was carried.

2. Annual report

Andrew Simpson outlined branch activities and achievements during the past 12 months, as outlined in the MANSW annual report and finances 2010-2011, available on the MANSW website:

- **Financial position.** The branch experienced an improved financial position, mainly as a result of increased revenue of nearly 30% from membership fees, cost savings in a number of areas and increased voluntary effort from branch committee and executive officer.
- **Branch programs** revolved around bursaries to the national conference, presentation of the IMAGInE awards in partnership with Museums and Galleries NSW, Public and Regional Galleries NSW and Museums Australia ACT Branch, production and distribution of *Museum Matters*, and the presentation of tours and talks in Sydney.
- **Advocacy.** In the past 12 months, it has stepped up advocacy efforts, particularly through dialogue with the Minister of the Arts and Arts NSW and preparation of associated material. We continue to seek funds for a comprehensive survey of community and regional museum needs - or one limited to ICT and digitisation needs - as a guide to future association strategy.
- **Branch symposium.** The presentation of the symposium, *Place, Space & Identity: New Directions for NSW Museums* and chapter representatives' meeting, aligned with development of strategic plan for the visual arts and museum sectors by Arts NSW, called upon a significant effort by the branch & symposium committees, particularly during the past three months.

- **Chapter activities.** Also noteworthy has been the strong activity in a number of chapters, largely as a result of the commitment of chapter coordinators and office bearers in the regions. We note, with sadness, the death of Lachlan Chapter coordinator, Glen Johns, whose annual *Working Spaces* workshops for volunteers made such a significant contribution to the association and the sector at large.

Andrew also acknowledged the support received from the branch committee over the past 12 months, particularly the vice president, Rebecca Pinchin, and the executive officer, Paul Bentley, and the support of his colleagues at Macquarie University in organising the symposium.

Bill Storer moved that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Graham Hinton. The motion was carried.

3 NSW Committee 2011-2013

Paul Bentley, as returning officer, reported that, following a call for nominations, the committee seeking endorsement at the AGM comprised:

Branch executive

Andrew Simpson, Macquarie University (President)

Vicki Northey, Australian National Maritime Museum (Vice President)

Rebecca Pinchin, Powerhouse Museum (Treasurer)

Geoff Barker, Powerhouse Museum (Secretary)

Ordinary committee members

Suzanne Bravery, Museums and Galleries NSW

Bronwyn Coulston, Historic Houses Trust

Maree Clutterbuck, Sydney University Museums

Andrea Fernandes, Powerhouse Museum

Gina Hammond, Macquarie University

Gay Hendriksen, Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre

As the number of nominations matched the by-law requirements, no voting was required. The meeting acknowledged the election of the committee.

4 Other business

Chapter officer bearer guidelines

Robyn Rogers raised the need for office-bearer guidelines to assist the work of chapters. Paul Bentley flagged the fact that this topic was on the agenda for the chapter representatives' meeting following the AGM and that Lee Scott from the national office would be distributing relevant material for further discussion with the chapters.

National cultural policy & NSW strategic plan for visual arts and museum sectors

Vicki Northey raised questions about efforts in relation to the national cultural policy and the Strategic Plan for the Visual Arts and Museum Sectors in NSW. Paul Bentley reported that the National President and National Director had been in touch with the Federal Minister for the Arts about the national cultural policy. On the NSW front, Deborah Ely would be providing further information in the second session of the symposium on 19 April and the NSW branch would be making a submission to the consultants.

The meeting closed at 14.30 pm.