

Auditors Report

6 Tenterden Street,
Yarraville, Vic 3013.

The President
Melbourne's Living Museum of the West

Dear Madam,

I have examined the books of account and records of Melbourne's Living Museum of the West and in my opinion the accompanying financial statements have been constructed in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of Melbourne's Living Museum of the West as at 31st December 2004.

Yours Faithfully

R.T.Angwin, FCPA
25 / 03 / 2005

Statement of Financial Position

2003		2004
	Current Assets	
11638	Cash	80909
4901	Debtors / Prepayments	14380
	Investments	30603
16539	Total Current Assets	125892
	Non-Current Assets	
90222	Plant & Equipment	114900
15783	Stock	13525
106005	Total Non-Current Assets	128426
122544	Total Assets	254318
	Current Liabilities	
7903	Creditors	13784
1151	ATO - GST Payable	9372
6000	Grants in Advance	72409
523	Other	
15577	Total Current Liabilities	95568
	Long Term Liabilities	
18336	Funds in Advance - Project/Consult'y	43175
5000	Other Grants in Advance	7000
24946	Employee Provisions - LSL	27313
48282	Total Long Term Liabilities	77489
63858	Total Liabilities	173054
58686	Net Assets	81263
	Equity	
57516	Reserves	58686
	Capital Grant	20592
1170	Current Earnings	1986
58686	Total Equity	81263

Profit + Loss

2003	Income	2004
3500	Admin. Service Charge	3390
1613	Donations	1342
80000	Grants - Arts Victoria	85000
10000	- City of Maribyrnong	10000
47	Interest - Bank	548
707	Interest - Term Deposits	860
340	Membership	375
3405	Sales - Publications	1811
810	Other Professional Services	400
1760	Seminars/Tours	1022
2370	Expense Reimbursement	17
114547	Project Grants	52448
65	Consultancy - Fees for Service	
219164	Total income	157212

2003	Expenditure	2004
2700	Accounting & Audit Fee	3000
1595.55	Advertising & Promotions	87
0	Bad Debts	
402	Bank Charges - General	330
46	Bank Charges - Investments	
678	Casual Work	245
1393	Cleaning	1560
3390	Computer Aids	1042
2270	COS - Books	2259
0	Depreciation	0
2851	Electricity	2513
1494	Equipment	2128
2100	Equipment - Hire	405
2191	Exhibition Materials	220
583	Freight/Delivery	1066
2406	Gas	3166
6046	Insurance - General	5521
	Insurance - Other	720
420	Internet Charges	768
766	Job Cost Overruns	
1439	Materials	3004
33	Photographic - Materials	
1722	- Services	654
1110	Postage	586
984	Printing - General	924
3014	Photocopier	2741
91166	Professional Services	53405
384	Publications	815
3228	Refreshments/Entertainment	2055
8705	Repairs & Maintenance	196
1713	Staff Amenities	671
3403	Stationery/Office Supplies	1227
818	Subscriptions/Registrations	1486
960	Security	549
0	Seminars	1131
56	Sundry Expenses	49
5702	Telephone	5542
0	Training	240
5159	Travel/Accommodation	879
3525	Provision - Annual Leave	3619
997	Provision - Sick Leave	1809
897	Provision - Long Service Leave	770
471	Insurance - Workcover	456
4610	Super'n Guarantee Contrib'n's	4098
46566	Wages & Salaries - Gross	43211
	Venue Maintenance	80
217994	Total Expenditure	155227
1170	Surplus/Deficit	1985

Cover: The wonder of microscopic life in the Maribyrnong mud is discovered as part of a special microscope survey carried out for an exhibition being developed about animals in and about the Maribyrnong River.

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West Incorporated



Annual Report

2004



Presidents Report

The twenty-first birthday is celebrated this year for Melbourne's Living Museum of the West. It was established back in 1984 as the first Ecomuseum in Australia. The museum and its staff and volunteers have worked closely in partnership over those years with Arts Victoria and Parks Victoria.

It is a museum without walls in concept and the work is so closely interwoven with the people and organisation's of the western region. A lot of our work is not evident in showcases or artefacts but there are numerous examples of heritage and conservation studies, exhibitions and seminars that are part of our experience.

As an Ecomuseum 'innovation' is a word that is closely aligned with the work and projects that are undertaken in a professional and resourceful manner. This year of 2005 is our year of transition in the eyes of Arts Victoria.

They attributed an additional \$40,000 grant to permit a consultant to review the workings of the museum last year. This was completed and now we are putting all of those recommendations into our working role.

Financial template reviews, working capital discussions, rules of governance, the challenges of working with a diverse range of stakeholders, business models, and the philosophical underpinning of the Museum have all been part of the strategic intervention discussions with Arts Victoria. The steering committee members from the museum have given many hours to all of this and I thank them. I would like to thank Victoria Jones and Stuart Koop from Arts Victoria in assisting us throughout this intense review process.

The outcome was positive and in December 2004 the museum was advised that an additional \$20,000 would be granted under the Creative Companies Program. This extra funding has permitted us to employ an Operations Assistant to work part-time for 2005.

Reaccreditation was confirmed for the museum and this warranted a rigorous process of documentation, assessment and a site visit by the Museum Accreditation Panel. The Committee of Management was involved with upgrading some of our written plans, procedures and policies. Olwen Ford's contribution to this project and others is exemplary.

Olwen Ford, Peter Somerville and Peter Haffenden create a formidable force of creative and administrative activity. They are the team who along with other Committee of Management members, Roger Holloway, Marie Earle, Doug Vallance, Elaine Brogan, Mark Armstrong-Roper, Margaret Rice, Colin Thorpe, Libby McKinnon and Raelene Marshall play an integral role in the workings of the museum. We were very proud of Peter Haffenden's Lifetime Achievement Award granted to him last year from Museums Australia.

Staff, Associates, Aboriginal Cultural Consultants, and Volunteers are all part of the web that strengthen and enforce the aims of this museum. I thank them all most sincerely for the unique functions they all play.

This is a community museum, which actively involves the people of Melbourne's west and others in documenting, preserving and interpreting the richness and depth of the region's social, industrial and environmental history. Community engagement and cultural participation have been part of the neon light principles and guidelines of this museum. We live up to the title of an Ecomuseum, where a slice of the real world becomes a 'museum'.

Susan Jennison

Staffing

Museum Director:
Peter Haffenden

Office Manager:
Janine Hill

Cataloguing:
Tom Nemeth

Associates:
Libby McKinnon, Raelene Marshall, Kerrie Poliness, Brett Hosie, Colleen Marion, Gavin Somerville, Steven Tregonning, Bronwen Gray, Bernie Jansen, Kevin Wood, Karen Woo.

Volunteers:
Marie Earle, Geoffrey Dent, Mark Allen, Lorraine Ratcliffe, Mark Armstrong-Roper, Elaine Brogan, Frank Ford, Raelene Marshall, Olwen Ford, John Jennison, Susan Jennison, Peter Somerville, Colin Thorpe, Margaret Rice and many others.

Student Placements:
Melissa Manlapid, Joseph Patrolla, Pece, Dobbie

Committee of Management

President:
Susan Jennison

Senior Vice-President:
Roger Holloway

Junior Vice-President:
Marie Earle

Hon. Secretary:
Olwen Ford

Hon. Treasurer:
Peter Somerville

Community representatives:
Libby McKinnon, Margaret Rice
Colin Thorpe, Raelene Marshall

Co-opted members:
Mark Armstrong-Roper (Victoria University),
Doug Vallance (Parks Victoria)

Nominated representative from Western Regional Group of Historical Societies:
Elaine Brogan

Ex-officio:
Peter Haffenden

Main Funding Sources

Arts Victoria, Parks Victoria, City of Maribyrnong, Visions of Australia, Ian Potter Foundation, Funding via the EPA, Natural Heritage Trust, Delfin Lend Lease, Besen Family Foundation.

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West

Visitor Centre: Pipemakers Park, Van Ness Avenue,
Maribyrnong. Melway Map 28 B10

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A party of students from Deakin University come the museum on the Blackbird for a workshop on how a community museum operates.



Janine Hill is part of a team that spent a good deal of the year barcoding the museum's documents for the Resource Centre.



Member for Essendon, Judy Madigan and Raelene Marshall launching 'Stone Upon a Stone' at The Incinerator Arts Complex in Moonee Valley.

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Parks Victoria Aboriginal Ranger, Steve Tregonning, shows recent immigrants some features of Aboriginal traditions as part of a welcoming program organised by the Living Museum in partnership with AMES.



Aboriginal Santa arrives for the Gathering Place Christmas party at Pipemakers Park organised in partnership with The Gathering Place and Living Museum.



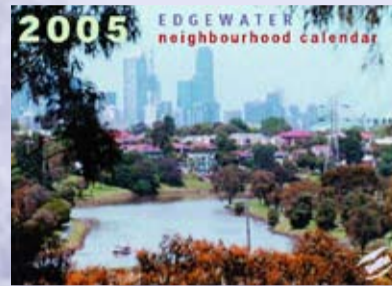
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City of Maribymong Mayor, Joe Cutri lends a hand in the museum garden during a special community service day.



Poet, Patricia Campbell, flanked by friends at the annual reunion of Newmarket Saleyards supported by the Living Museum with an exhibition and video.



A calendar containing pictures and information about local history and heritage especially designed for new residents in the neighboring Edgewater housing estate funded by Deelin Lend Lease.

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Melbourne Water upgrades the banks of the Maribymong as part of an environmental project running from the escarpment to the river organised by the Living Museum and funded by Envirofund.



The wonder of microscopic life in the Maribymong mud is discovered as part of a special microscope survey carried out by WSL Laboratories for an exhibition being developed about animals in and about the Maribymong River.



Community event organised at Pipemakers Park in conjunction with the Living Museum.



Dee Dee and Phoebe try the didgeridoos at the NAIDOC Art event at the Incinerator in Moonee Valley.



Libby McKinnon and Chairperson of the Gathering Place, Colleen Marion at the Western Region NAIDOC Art event organised in partnership with City of Moonee Valley, The Gathering Place and the Living Museum.



Launch of the Western Region NAIDOC Art event at the Incinerator in Moonee Valley.



Local artist, Pol McMahon launches his book of paintings about the Yarraville Village produced with assistance from the Living Museum.



A family group enjoys the History of the Land Garden.



Walking



Dutch international exchange student, Peter Faber who did a placement at the Museum in 1995 returns nearly 10 years later to say hi.



A forum on the future management of the Maribymong River organised by Maribymong City Council and hosted by the Museum.



Joseph Patrolia work experience secondary student.



Work experience student from Copperfield College, Melissa Manlapid created the website for the exhibition, 'Our River' - the Maribymong.



The Federal Member for Geilbrand, Nicola Roxon hands out prizes at the exhibition of writing, drawings and paintings about the Maribymong River called 'Our River'



Brett Hosie has been running a number of projects at Pipemakers Park to improve the environment and maintain the garden and other Museum highlights in the park.



A group of men on 'Work for the Dole' project carrying-out garden maintenance.



Image from a multi-media interpretation of oral history stories about Allona's explosive reserve organised by project worker, Bronwen Gray and auspiced by the Museum.



Tourism trainee placement Gavin Somerville takes a group of secondary students on a tour of the History of the Land Garden.



Gavin Somerville.



Museum Director, Peter Haffenden explaining local history at Pipemakers Park to a visiting school group.



Disabled group participating in the development of an indigenous plant nursery at Pipemakers Park.



More visitors.



Visiting primary students enjoying their experience of local history and heritage at Pipemakers Park.

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West is a community museum which actively involves the people of Melbourne's west and others in documenting, preserving and interpreting the richness and depth of the region's social, industrial and environmental history.

2004 The most significant factor in the museum operations of 2004 was the 'strategic' review or intervention initiated by Arts Victoria. The analysis was essentially about consolidating the Living Museum's operations with the aid of an independent point of view. It was also partly about clarifying the definition of an 'ecomuseum', a concept constantly under review and discussion.

Such a review is always stressful, pre-occupying and time consuming but the outcome has been very positive and has made a very effective contribution to the Museum's ability to better follow its ideal as an 'ecomuseum' second to none.

The thousands of daily conversations, meetings, workshops, talks, tours, that are behind the larger projects, programs and other events, all contain the elements of community engagement and participation with recording and interpretation of our own heritage and history in the western region of Melbourne. It is this personal engagement which partly marks the Living Museum as an 'ecomuseum'.

The review made important practical recommendations to strengthen the infrastructure of the Museum to facilitate this important 'ecomuseum' activity. It recommended that we develop a more sophisticated Resource Centre and make greater use of the bluestone building in Pipemakers Park as an exhibition space and venue for events.

With a grant from the Ian Potter Foundation, barcoding of the Museum's collection began this year. Also a Capital Grant from Arts Victoria has provided funds for display boards, furniture for the Resource Centre and extra IT equipment to upgrade infrastructure.

Meanwhile the daily activity of projects, exhibitions, touring, publications, enquiries, workshops and lectures continued at a heady pace. The Museum did not have as many major projects going as it has in former years, which is reflected in a lower financial turnover, but work with a wide range of partners was more intense.

In a way 2004 has been the year when more than ever before a range of client communities has taken on a more familiar ownership of its own local, yet international, 'ecomuseum'. As a director it never ceases to amaze me how many people value participation in the never ending quest to understand their relationship with the place they find themselves in. It is a pleasure to be in a position to facilitate that quest.

Peter Haffenden
Director



Plaque commemorating the bicentennial of the exploration of the maribymong river by Europeans in 1803 was placed in Pipemakers Park near the River.



Living Museum Director, Peter Haffenden receives an award for lifetime achievement in the Victorian museums sector at the Museums Australia National Conference.

ARTS VICTORIA