

Presidents Report

In the past year increased funding from Arts Victoria has resulted in the appointment of an Operations Manager and the finalisation of the lease document with Parks Victoria. The Strategic Review process continued with implementing a number of the recommendations from that study.

The ongoing expansion of the Resource Centre and the two grants attracted for conservation, preservation and now digitisation indicate the importance of this valuable store of books, maps, videos, audio tapes, and files. This is all unique material that has resulted from a number of projects that ended with published works. The Heritage Studies about the regional local governments in the West are a valuable primary source material that provide valuable information about heritage sites and buildings in the region.

The Anniversary celebrations meant that people who had been associated with the vision and the implementation of a Living Museum could come together and celebrate 21 years of successful work in the field of history research and undertaking the original aims of recording information about the people, industry and workplaces of people from the West.

The exhibition about that 21 years was due to the dedicated work of Olwen Ford and Peter Somerville. They were responsible with others from the management committee to result in a very successful day of celebration. This day of tribute in November 2005 coincided with the launch of 'Pobblebonk' a panorama of flora and fauna of the Maribyrnong River. Highpoint Shopping Centre had sponsored the anniversary celebrations and an exhibition followed in March 2006 about the history of the Highpoint site.

All of this work is undertaken by talented and enthusiastic staff, associates, and management committee members. They have all contributed so much to this museum and the site of Pipemakers Park. Subcommittees of Finance, Buildings and Maintenance, Sponsorship and Projects dealt with a range of business and responsibilities. This all reflects commitment and thousands of hours of honorary work by devoted people who believe so strongly in this museum.

Parks Victoria, Libby Jude and Doug Vallance, Auditor Ron Angwin, Operations Manager Janine Hill, Associates Libby McKinnon, Brett Hosie, Kerrie Poliness,

Gavin Somerville, and a hearty thanks to the Director Peter Haffenden. Management Committee members who give so much of their time in attending meetings and contributing to the business activities of the museum, thank you very much.

I especially thank Roger, Marie, Margaret, Peter, Elaine, Colin and Olwen who have worked so many many years for this museum. They have all lived the dream of a museum for the West.

They are all champions and advocates of community involvement and participation.

Susan Jennison OAM
President
April 2006

Staffing

Museum Director:
Peter Haffenden

Office Manager:
Janine Hill

Associates:
Libby McKinnon, Kerrie Poliness, Brett Hosie,
Gavin Somerville, Colleen Marion, Karen Woo,
Kevin Wood, Steven Tregonning, Dario VaCirca,
berni m janssen, Jason Cross

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

Student Placements:
Minh Le, Melanie Castleman, Stephanie Cvetko,
Chris Melle and Francis Taylor

Main Funding Sources

Arts Victoria, Parks Victoria, City of Maribyrnong, EPA, VicHealth, Delfin LendLease, National Library, Envirofund (Natural Heritage Trust), Rotary, Highpoint City.

Committee of Management

President:
Susan Jennison

Senior Vice-President:
Roger Holloway

Junior Vice-President:
Marie Earle

Hon. Secretary:
Olwen Ford

Hon. Treasurer:
Peter Somerville / Colin Thorpe

Community Representatives:
Libby McKinnon, Margaret Rice
John Jennison

Co-opted Members:
Mark Armstrong-Roper (Victoria University),
Doug Vallance/Libby Jude (Parks Victoria),
Karen Woo (Delfin/LendLease),
William Garrigos (regional tourism),
Michelle McDonald (City of Maribyrnong),
Gill Savage (Cultural Officer City of Maribyrnong)

Representative from Western Regional Group of Historical Societies:
Elaine Brogan

Ex-officio:
Peter Haffenden



ARTS VICTORIA

Victoria
The Place To Be

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West

Visitor Centre: Pipemakers Park, Van Ness Avenue,
Maribyrnong. Melway Map 28 B10
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www.livingmuseum.org.au



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 2005.

Yours Faithfully

R.T.Angwin, FCPA
25 / 03 / 2006

Statement of Financial Position

2004		2005
	Current Assets	
80909	Cash	39986
14380	Debtors / Prepayments	72129
30603	Investments	
125892	Total Current Assets	112115
	Non-Current Assets	
114900	Plant & Equipment	119757
13525	Stock	8824
128426	Total Non-Current Assets	128581
254318	Total Assets	240697
	Current Liabilities	
13784	Creditors	9012
9372	ATO - GST Payable	9333
72409	Grants in Advance	
	Other	
95568	Total Current Liabilities	18344
	Long Term Liabilities	
43175	Funds in Advance - Project/Consult'y	99851
7000	Other Grants in Advance	
27313	Employee Provisions - LSL	32556
77489	Total Long Term Liabilities	132407
173054	Total Liabilities	150752
81263	Net Assets	89945
	Equity	
58686	Reserves	60671
20592	Capital Grant	28000
1986	Current Earnings	1274
81263	Total Equity	89945

Profit + Loss

2004	Income	2005
3390	Admin. Service Charge	5042
1342	Donations	5557
85000	Grants - Arts Victoria	100000
10000	- City of Maribyrnong	11500
548	Interest - Bank	356
860	Interest - Term Deposits	2140
375	Membership	865
1811	Sales - Publications	1168
400	Other Professional Services	1560
1022	Seminars/Tours	473
17	Expense Reimbursement	5025
52448	Project Grants	45303
	Consultancy - Fees for Service	1675
	Venue Hire	2361
157212	Total income	183025
	Expenditure	
3000	Accounting & Audit Fee	3000
87	Advertising & Promotions	221
	Bad Debts	
330	Bank Charges - General	200
	Bank Charges - Investments	23
245	Casual Work	
1560	Cleaning	1691
1042	Computer Aids	425
2259	COS - Books	4700
0	Depreciation	2273
2513	Electricity	3037
2128	Equipment	648
405	Equipment - Hire	287
220	Exhibition Materials	8055
1066	Freight/Delivery	52
3166	Gas	3338
5521	Insurance - General	4900
720	Insurance - Other	
768	Internet Charges	729
	Job Cost Overruns	
3004	Legal Fees	186
	Materials	6370
	Photographic - Materials	32
654	- Services	591
586	Postage	845
924	Printing - General	570
2741	Photocopier	3887
53405	Professional Services	36033
815	Publications	484
2055	Refreshments/Entertainment	6577
196	Repairs & Maintenance	796
671	Staff Amenities	960
1227	Stationery/Office Supplies	3760
1486	Subscriptions/Registrations	1758
549	Security	563
1131	Seminars	1574
49	Sundry Expenses	172
5542	Telephone	5400
240	Training	269
879	Travel/Accommodation	2539
80	Venue Maintenance	60
3619	Provision - Annual Leave	4556
1809	Provision - Sick Leave	2391
770	Provision - Long Service Leave	1024
456	Insurance - Workcover	705
4098	Super'n Guarantee Contrib'ns	5681
43211	Wages & Salaries - Gross	60389
155227	Total Expenditure	181751
1985	Surplus/Deficit	1274

Cover: Wildlife on the Maribyrnong River estuary.



Annual Report

2005



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Chisholms Homes - The Museum was approached by local artist, Flossie Peitsch, with an ambitious project in mind about Caroline Chisholm and a shortage of resources to realise the project. Several discussions later, the enlistment of Dellini/Lendlease, support from Big West and the Living Museum brought this incredible cultural interpretation of one of Australia's pioneering heroes to fruition. After a colourful launch the exhibition was on display for a month at Pipemakers Park and is now on the Museum's website.



From left, Community Organiser from Dellini/Lendlease, Karen Woo; Museum Director, Peter Haffenden; artist and producer, Flossie Peitsch.

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.

2005 In May 2005 I delivered a paper at the National Museum's Conference in Sydney about a Living Museum project that dealt with current issues in the western region of Melbourne. The project, called 'Custodians Welcome' involved the local Aboriginal community in a cultural exchange with a newly arrived migrant group, the Karen people from Burma.

This project and others like it carried out at the Living Museum, usually in partnership with other organisations, attract a lot of interest from the museum world because engagement with the community is becoming a big issue in the museum world and other sectors in society.

A central aim of the Living museum has always been to involve the broader community in the research and presentation of local history and heritage and most of our projects have considerable input from a wide variety of local organisations, groups and individuals. This is because our Museum founders declared that local history should be written by those who owned it, the local community.

Furthermore they believed that current issues can be better informed and addressed with a background knowledge of local history and heritage. That local research could be a dynamic tool for local debate.

The Museum has consistently combined thorough research with local input to produce quite a number of what are seen as innovative projects but which we see as flowing naturally from the founder's philosophy.

It has been fascinating and rewarding to see the growing interest in the Living Museum's work with its local community over the past 22 years. Organisations and individuals looking for models of 'community building' and 'a sense of place' are approaching the Museum more often these days.

Meanwhile the work goes on. You can see a few examples of this philosophy in action in 2005 on these pages. Projects have involved working with local historians, researchers, students, teachers, artists, environmentalists, politicians and many community organisations.

Working in partnership is the key to the success of most Living Museum projects and we must also give credit to the many partners we work with who have also embraced the idea of a dynamic community that draws on its own sense of history, heritage and place.

Together we are still creating this unique ecomuseum and exploring the future potential of the relationships between museums and their communities.

Peter Haffenden



Westside Circus - Following encouragement from Art Victoria Westside Circus contacted the Living Museum with an idea they had for developing circus with newly arrived ethnic youth, particularly from the African community. The idea was already well developed and it was a natural partnership with the Museum's history of embracing newly arrived migrants as part of the western region's ongoing heritage.



The Great Wall of Books -

As part of the Museum's support for the Big West Festival for the City of Maribymong we housed the Big Book Project in the bluestone building in November. The project, run by Dario VaCirca and Meika Audet, is both a theatrical prop and a collection house for local stories which are written at the Book while it is on display. Dario de Well Theatre performed with the Book for the Museum as part of the Anniversary event (above).



Poetry Festival -

An exciting development during the year was an approach by the Committee of the Overload Poetry Festival to use the bluestone building as a venue for a special western suburbs program. This broad reaching poetry festival was working from several venues, mostly in the inner city.



The Fabric Project - encouraged several ethnic groups and the local Aboriginal community to share some of the traditional women's craft from different cultures. The project, initiated by Maribymong City Council, evolved over three years with consistent input from the Living Museum.



Pobblebonk - The exhibition 'Pobblebonk', produced in 2005, is about the animals of the Maribymong River estuary. 'Pobblebonk' is made up of ten panels, each two metres high by one metre across which make a panorama of the estuary habitat when placed alongside each other. The exhibition also brings in information about local Aboriginal language and addresses water quality issues. 'Pobblebonk' features more than 70 different species of local animals and will become a central marketing feature for 2006.

Education Program - Several schools this year wanted to change the way the Museum engaged with students. Chisolm College wanted a more hands on experience with Aboriginal culture so we developed a new program with the school. A tour and talk followed by art classes with Aboriginal artist Paola Morabito-Tang.



The Boardwalk Mosaic Project - Boardwalk Primary School, at Point Cook, were involved in the design of a mosaic that was produced by Libby McKinnon in association with Vic Urban for a housing estate at Point Cook, the 'Boardwalk Estate'.



Cub Badge Project - Following on from earlier work with local scout groups Gavin Somerville developed a project for environmental cub badges based on the plants and animals in Pipemakers Park.



Kindergarten Fundraiser - Through the local community networks the Little Lonkeets Kindergarten Committee has become familiar with the Living Museum and has chosen to have its annual fundraising events at the bluestone building.



The Welcome Project - Indigenous Ranger, Steve Tregonning, explains Aboriginal Culture to a group of African immigrants in a project organised by the Living Museum with AMES as part of a welcome to the country for new arrivals.



Gathering Place Christmas Party - In December we host the Christmas party for local Aboriginal kids, organised in partnership with the Gathering Place which has become an annual event.



Work Experience Students - The Museum makes a point of taking work experience students each year to engage young people with new ways of being involved with history and heritage. One aim is to try and make sure that students complete a presentable project during their placement at the museum. Staff and Associates assist work experience students to 'discover' a project that will mean something to them using the museum's resources, they then assist the students to research, complete and publish their project.



Left - R right above: Minh Le from Braybrook Secondary College produced a brochure about Buddhism for the Quang Minh temple in Braybrook, which he attends. Melanie Castleman and Stephanie Cvetko, from Copperfield College in Sydenham made a website for the Friends of the Black Powder Mill. Chris Melle, from Kealba Secondary College, made a powerpoint presentation about meeting Aboriginal people and coming into contact with their history. Francis Taylor, from Niddrie College and 'Bob', the tree, who features in Francis' website project 'Park Characterisation'. These website projects can be seen on the museum's site, www.livingmuseum.org.au

History Fair - Maintaining our networks with the world of history societies is very important for the Museum and so we participated in the West Burke Heritage History Fair held at Overmerton Castle in Keilor (below). History societies display their work and products and catch up with what is happening in the other societies.



From left to right, Committee member, Marie Earle; Phoebe; Committee member Elaine Brogan; Museum Director, Peter Haffenden at the History Fair.



Friends of the Black Powder Mill - The Friends of the Black Powder Mill (above left) received a grant to restore the machinery of the Mill to working order and asked the Living Museum to help with a flyer and display for the launch of the restored machinery. Museum work placement students Melanie and Stephanie live nearby to the Mill and worked with some of the 'Friends' to make a website about the Mill and the explosives factory where Melanie discovered her great-grandfather once worked.



Farewell to Peter Somerville - Also this year one of the Museum's founders and long standing Committee Members, Peter Somerville (above), resigned from the Committee. A special goodbye dinner in honour of his outstanding contribution was held at the Anglers Hotel, attended by many friends and local dignitaries.



Community Day - The Gathering Place holds various events at Pipemakers Park with the support of the Living Museum as the Park has an indigenous vegetation context and ambience that makes the community comfortable at the Park. This particular event in November was addressing domestic violence.



Pipemakers Park - The Living Museum has had a long-standing relationship with Parks Victoria in managing and shaping the vision for Pipemakers Park as a destination for tourism and education about the western region of Melbourne. This has meant a hands-on involvement in the development of environmental projects and other forms of improvement and maintenance. This work was continued most effectively in 2005 by Museum Associate, Brett Hosie.



Work for the Dole - Garden maintenance and mosaic projects in Pipemaker's Park, are supervised by Brett Hosie. Brett is also developing an indigenous plant nursery in the park.

21st Anniversary - A significant event for the year was the celebration of the Museum's 21st Anniversary. The Museum began operations in 1984 after considerable planning by local historians and politicians. A special exhibition about the Museum's history was produced for the event and the crowd included old friends and new. A cake was made with an image of the West Gate Bridge, where incidentally the Living Museum was launched in 1984, and lunch was funded by Highpoint City.

Left: Peter Somerville, Charlie and Phoebe cut the cake at the Anniversary.



For more information see: www.livingmuseum.org.au

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