

Australian Museum

Summary 2006/2007

nature culture **discover**



Australian Museum

Annual Report 2006–07 Summary Report



Introduction

The Australian Museum is a leader in natural history and cultural research, community programs and exhibitions and collection management.

Founded in 1827, the Australian Museum is the oldest museum and second-oldest scientific research institution in Australia. It moved to its present home at College and William streets in 1846, and opened to the public in May 1857.


Constructed in Pyrmont sandstone, the Museum occupies a commanding prospect on the eastern side of Hyde Park and belongs to the precinct of heritage buildings stretching along Macquarie and College streets. It comprises five major wings, the work of various government architects.

This annual report is published in three parts: a summary report, a detailed report and the financial statements. All of the Museum's annual reports since 1998–99 are available at www.australianmuseum.net.au/about/report/.



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building on the past

The Australian Museum
is Australia's first
museum – 180 years
young in 2007 and
more relevant than ever.

Governance

The Australian Museum is a statutory body established under the *Australian Museum Trust Act 1975* and operates under the Australian Museum Trust Regulation 2003. It is funded principally by the NSW Government through the Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation.

Minister

The Hon. Frank Ernest Sartor MP
Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, and Minister for the Arts


Australian Museum Trust

The Museum is governed by a Trust of nine members who are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister for the Arts.

Mr Brian Sherman AM (President)
Mr Brian Schwartz AM (Deputy President)
Ms Cate Blanchett (from May 2007)
Mr David Handley
Dr Ronnie Harding
Ms Sam Mostyn
Dr Cindy Pan
Mr Michael Seyffer
Assoc Prof Stephen Schnierer (to December 2006)
Ms Julie Walton OAM

Director

Mr Frank Howarth



We see a world of
diverse cultures
thriving in a healthy
environment.

Our organisation

Charter

The objectives of the Australian Museum Trust Act are to propagate knowledge about the natural environment of Australia and to increase that knowledge, particularly in the natural sciences of biology, anthropology and geology.

Customers and stakeholders

The Australian Museum's main customers are:

- the community of NSW, which benefits from our public programs and research, and seeks knowledge and understanding of our cultural and natural worlds
- NSW Government agencies which rely on our knowledge of our cultural and natural worlds.

In collaboration with other museums, the Museum reaches audiences across Australia and New Zealand with touring exhibitions. In collaboration with other scientific research institutions in Australia and internationally, the Museum contributes to our knowledge of the world's natural history and cultural diversity.

Our key stakeholders are the NSW Government and organisations engaged in natural resource management or working with indigenous cultures.

Our other important stakeholders include:

- visitors from Australia and overseas
- donors, sponsors and partners and Australian Museum Members
- our volunteers and our staff.

Purpose

To inspire the exploration of nature and cultures.

Vision

A beautiful and sustainable natural world with vibrant and diverse cultures.



looking to the future

Our exhibitions and learning services are helping to shape the minds of future generations.

Goals

The Museum's goals are defined in the Corporate Strategic Plan 2005–08 as:

- 1 to build a 'time series' of objects defining our natural and cultural world
- 2 to unlock and share the knowledge in our natural and cultural collections
- 3 to ignite enthusiasm for the skills that explorers and collectors use
- 4 to find new connections across nature, culture and our lives
- 5 to capture the imagination of the young, old and all those in between.

The Museum's Corporate Strategic Plan 2005–08 is available at:
www.australianmuseum.net.au/about/corporate_overview.htm
 along with progress in its achievement.

The Year in Review sets out the Museum's strategic achievements (see page 8).

What we do

Collection management

Public programs

Scientific research

How customers and stakeholders benefit in the short term

Collections and data are accessed

Real and virtual programs, onsite and offsite are accessed by the community

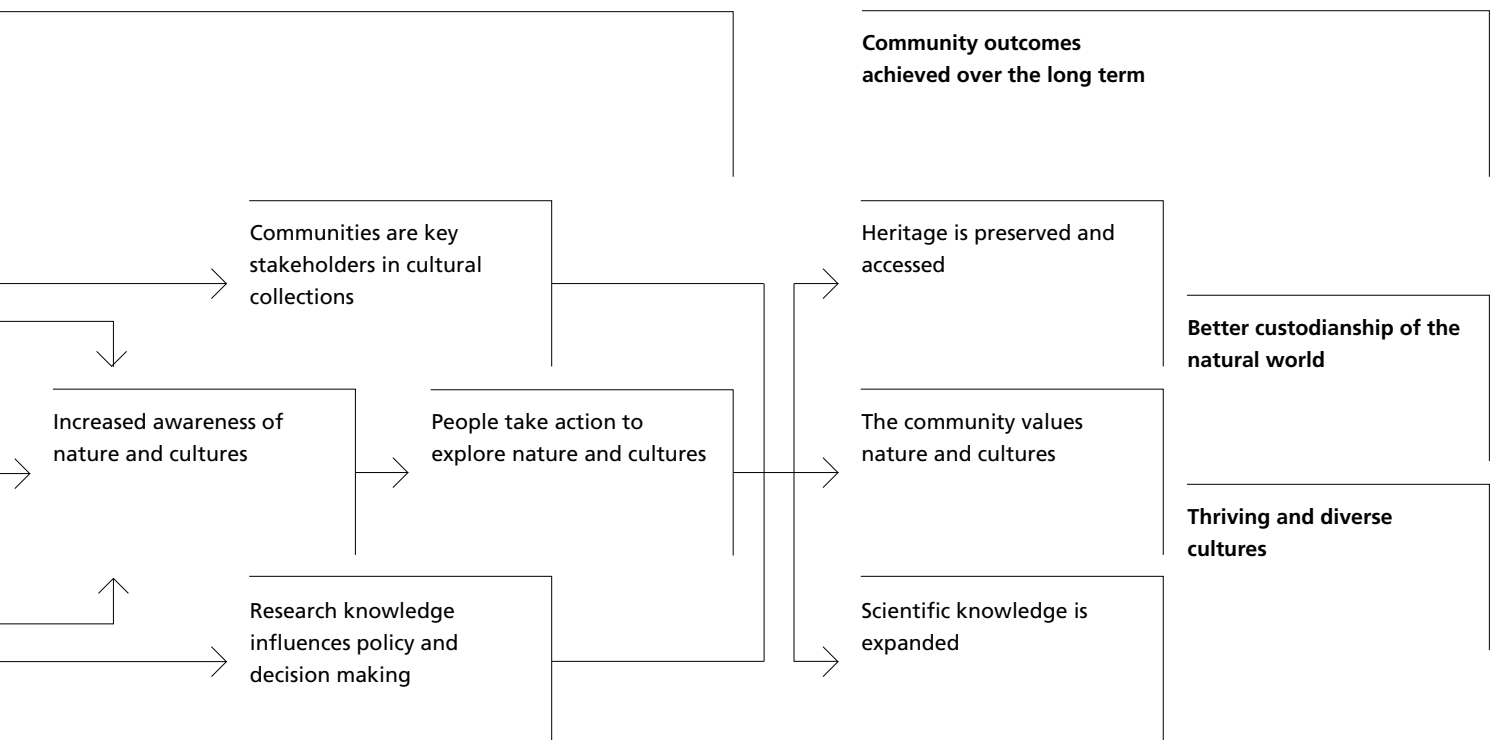
Research knowledge about nature and cultures is accessed

responding to new challenges

Our research underpins solutions to today's most pressing environmental problems – from conserving biodiversity to climate change

Services, results and outcomes

The diagram below shows how our *services* (collection management, public programs and scientific research) produce *results* for our customers in the short term and contribute to community *outcomes* over the long term and in collaboration with other organisations. The Museum is accountable to the New South Wales Government each year for delivering its services and achieving results. Community outcomes can only be measured over time and at a whole-of-government level.



The year in review

The year 2006–07 has been characterised by revitalisation, rebranding and renewal – a staged program that began in 2004–05. In Stage 1 of the program, the Museum has:

- developed a new corporate strategic plan for 2005–08
- developed a site Master Plan
- completed a corporate restructure and other administrative reforms.

The NSW Government allocated \$40.9 million for Stage 1 of the program to:

- construct a new Collections and Research building
- refurbish two heritage galleries
- develop two new long-term exhibitions for these galleries.

In 2006–07, Stage 1 of the Revitalisation Project achieved several milestones:

- constructing the Collections and Research building to be 50% complete
- completing the refurbishment of the level 2 gallery in the Vernon Wing
- commencing the refurbishment of the level 2 gallery in the Barnett Wing
- finalising designs for two new exhibitions, *Surviving Australia* and *Dinosaurs*.

These works are due for completion in 2008. The Museum's Master Plan envisages further stages of revitalisation to meet evolving community needs.



revealing, inspiring and making connections

The Museum hosted more than 315,000 visitors in 2006–07 and reached many more through our website and travelling exhibitions.

The Museum also implemented and completed several strategies and actions under its Corporate Strategic Plan 2005–08:

- articulated site use and developed plans for exhibitions, public spaces and staff accommodation for Stage 1 of the Master Plan
- developed a Trust-endorsed science research strategy for the Museum
- consolidated the Museum's research fellowship and award schemes and finalised an annual round of applications
- opened new facilities (including an aquarium room, office, library and seminar room) at the Museum's Lizard Island Research Station
- signed a memorandum of understanding with the Pacific Islands Museum Association
- developed an Executive-endorsed collections management policy for the Museum's Research Library
- developed a five-year financial plan for the period commencing April 2006
- developed policy and guidelines for the strategic use of digital stories in new galleries, public areas and websites
- articulated the role of the Museum in the climate change debate
- reviewed existing outreach programs and services
- trialled a new personal performance program for staff.

The Museum once again hosted the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes, which saw 20 winners receive over \$200,000. Media coverage of the event reached an estimated audience of around 16 million.

Media coverage of the 17th Australian Museum Eureka Prizes reached an estimated audience of around 16 million.



Performance indicators

Services

Service	Service Measure	Target	Actual
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Collections Management

Collections integrity	Collections integrity index	71	72
Databasing	Records on electronic database	1.43 million	1.43 million
Repatriation	Collections identified for repatriation	53%	76%

Scientific Research

Knowledge generation	Research expenditure	\$7.5 million	\$8.5 million
	Average value of grants	\$40,000	\$44,192
Knowledge communication	Number of publications	130	160

Public Programs

Exhibitions and programs	Sydney exhibitions	17	17
Learning programs	Students served	30,000	43,231
	Other programs	5	5
Online services	User sessions	24.5 million	23.3 million
Eureka Prizes	Audience reach of media coverage	16 million	16 million
Outreach programs:			
• Museum in a Box	Students served	60,000	59,865
• Indigenous community outreach	Communities assisted	10	17

Notes

1 Some services and results will be affected by the Museum's Revitalisation Project from 2006–07 to 2008–09 inclusive.



Results

Result	Results Indicator		Target	Actual
Communities are key stakeholders in collections management	Indigenous communities satisfied with access to collections		25%	68%
Collections and data are accessed	Users of online collection information		684,000	732,830
	External researchers accessing collections and data		1,200	1,476
Research knowledge influences policy and decision making	Government stakeholders satisfied with Museum input and advice on policy and decision making		60%	90%
Research knowledge about nature and cultures is accessed				
People take action to explore nature and cultures	Australian Museum Members		6,000	6,000
People demonstrate increased awareness of nature and cultures	Visitors who understood themes and messages in exhibitions		60%	76%
Real and virtual programs are accessed by the community	Visitors	In person	250,000	317,677
		Virtually	24.5 million	23.3 million
	Visitors satisfied with their experience		80%	85%
	Visitation by international visitors		15%	41%



Rebranding and revitalising the Australian Museum

Branding is perhaps an odd word to find in the annual report of a government museum. But it's one that reflects a bold marketing approach by the Australian Museum to reach the hearts and minds of the broader community.

The Museum has to compete for visitors (and government funding) with many other institutions. And although the Museum is rightly held in high regard by peers, academics, Members and regular visitors, not everyone understands just what the Museum actually does.

That's why we've created a bold, fresh visual identity as part of rebranding the Museum. The new Museum brand invokes an immediate, memorable impression to tell people what we do.

Our logo depicts an Aboriginal rock engraving of an echidna, first unveiled in the Museum's Annual Report 2005–06. The new logo conveys both culture (Aboriginal rock engraving) and natural history (echidna). The choice of an echidna symbolises some of the qualities we aspire to. It's a surprising Australian animal that's also found in Papua New Guinea, symbolising our regional focus. It's also a curious animal, always scratching around beneath the surface, indicating a spirit of restless inquiry.

With the added tagline 'nature culture discover', the logo becomes a short visual statement of our purpose – to inspire people to explore nature and cultures.

But our brand is much more than a logo. It is built with every experience people have of the Museum – in print, on screen, in exhibitions, in the media and in person. And the essence of each experience is revelation and wonder – we reveal the world of nature and cultures, and inspire a sense of wonderment.



getting out and about



Beyond branding, the coming year 2007–08 will see the completion of Stage 1 of the Revitalisation Project. Future stages are planned to make the Museum more accessible, not just to families, international tourists and school groups, but also to teenagers and young adults, with:

- a new grand entrance and forecourt to complement the Museum precinct
- a *Learning Centre* to bring together the Museum's different educational spaces into one purpose-built zone
- a new *Pacific Cultures* exhibition and revamped *Indigenous Australians* exhibition
- a new contemporary tailor-made space for young adults.

So rebranding the Museum provides a focus for everything we want this great institution to become. We hope you'll join us for the journey and become a supporter of the Australian Museum.

We hope you'll join us for the journey and become a supporter of the Australian Museum.



The Australian Museum's Lizard Island Research Station is a world-leading centre for coral reef research focused on Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

President's message

The year to June 2007 has been a time to glance over our shoulders and see how far we've come, as well as to build a platform for a successful future.

In October 2006, Minister for the Arts, the Hon. Bob Debus MP, turned the first sod for the new Collections and Research building. Funded by the NSW Government, the building will bring together the Australian Museum's zoological collections and research staff in one modern scientific facility.

As work gained momentum in the first half of 2007, the Museum began to disappear, cocoon-like, behind fencing and hoardings. The builders reached the halfway mark in the building project in June 2007, having replaced a haphazard maze of concrete driveways and temporary buildings with essential infrastructure and foundations for the new building.

Within the Museum, renovations have uncovered the wonderful, half-forgotten architecture of the century-old Vernon and Barnet wings. The spaces are being refurbished to house two new long-term exhibitions that also began serious development in 2006–07. Other external signs of change – including a new logo and signage, and a revamped main entrance, diner and shop – have provided a refreshing taste of the future.

It's pleasing that the Museum has managed to maintain, and even improve upon, visitation levels, despite the gallery closures, disruptions and building noise this year. I take this opportunity to warmly thank visitors for their continued support during this disruptive period, and to acknowledge staff for their vigilance in protecting the collections and exhibitions from the risks posed by the building work.

The Australian Museum's Lizard Island Research Station on the Great Barrier Reef has seen its share of revitalisation and renewal too. Thanks to the generosity and support of the Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation, the Ian Potter Foundation and the Queensland Government, the centre opened a new wing in October 2006 named the Ian Potter Centre for Tropical Marine Research, strengthening our infrastructure for research into the Reef's biodiversity and ecology.



conserving and collecting

We care for an irreplaceable collection of more than 16 million cultural artefacts and scientific specimens.



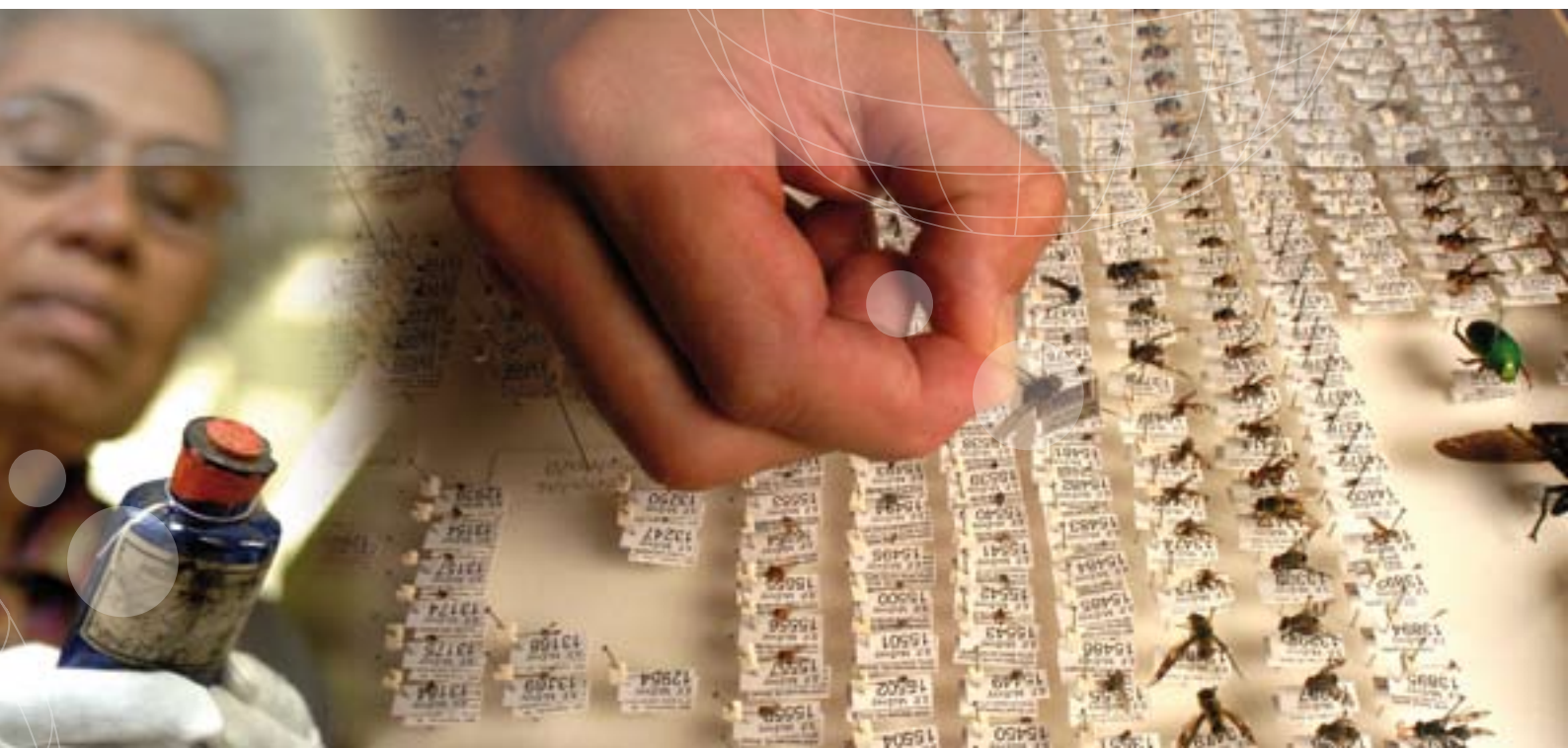
Other highlights have included the 2006 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes, Science in the City, many successful temporary exhibitions, an enviable research publications list from scientific staff, and a phenomenal level of visitation to the Museum's website.

Once again, my thanks to the many visitors, volunteers and supporters whose patronage has enabled the Museum's 180th year to be another successful one. I also thank my fellow Trustees, in particular Associate Professor Stephan Schnierer who left the Trust in December 2006 having served on the Trust for eight years. And I'm sure you'll want to join me in extending a warm welcome to the actor Cate Blanchett who was appointed to the Trust in May 2007.

It is indeed an honour to be involved with the Australian Museum during this exciting period.



Brian Sherman AM
President
Australian Museum Trust



Director's message

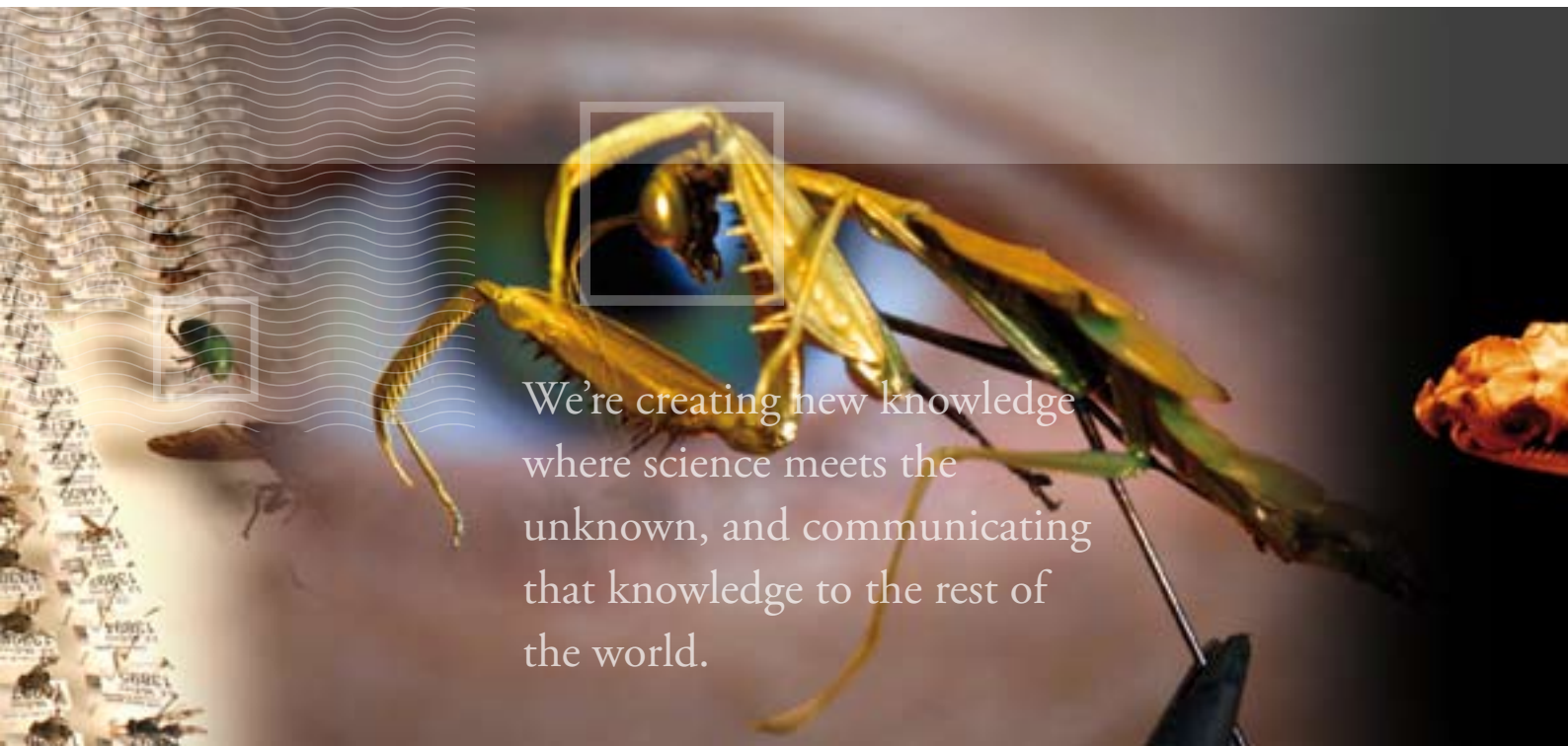
In 2007, the Australian Museum reached its 180th anniversary, a major milestone to be sure. But we're not making a big song and dance about it – we're too busy revitalising the Museum to make sure we stay relevant in the 21st century and beyond. And if there is one word that sums up our approach, it's 'engagement'. We're engaging with:

- decision-makers in government to influence policies on issues like climate change, biodiversity and conservation
- the broader community with new exhibitions and a dynamic program of events
- other institutions to share collections and increase our knowledge of the world's biodiversity
- the Pacific region to maintain thriving and diverse cultures through the Emerging Pacific Cultural Centre – Australian Museum Partnership Program, to name just one example.

Of course, the Museum has always engaged with these stakeholders, but now we are doing so more consciously and strategically. And in this we are not alone. Natural history museums everywhere are looking at their contemporary relevance. As US designer Tom Hennes writes in a recent edition of the museum journal *Curator*, museums are changing from being passive observers and collectors of the natural world to active players within it. He states:

Natural history museums in the 19th and 20th centuries froze the world inside them. Natural history museums in the 21st century are beginning to change the world around them. In the process, they are themselves changing, and profoundly.

This year the Museum has taken key steps towards the future by revitalising many areas of its operations, including two new long-term exhibitions under development, heritage galleries restored, and much more, as Museum Trust President Brian Sherman has outlined in this message.



But just as significant is the Museum's decision to adopt a strategic approach to its scientific research. The Museum's Science Research Strategy sets out our research priorities for the next five years, with eight programs designed to address the problems, issues, knowledge gaps and major challenges facing the natural environment. The strategy identifies our strengths in research and collections for engaging with emerging issues and priorities, not only in New South Wales and Australia, but in the wider Asia-Pacific region.

To be 180 years old is a feat of survival and an achievement not to be taken lightly. And while there is still much to do, to be 180 years young and still relevant is truly a cause for optimism.

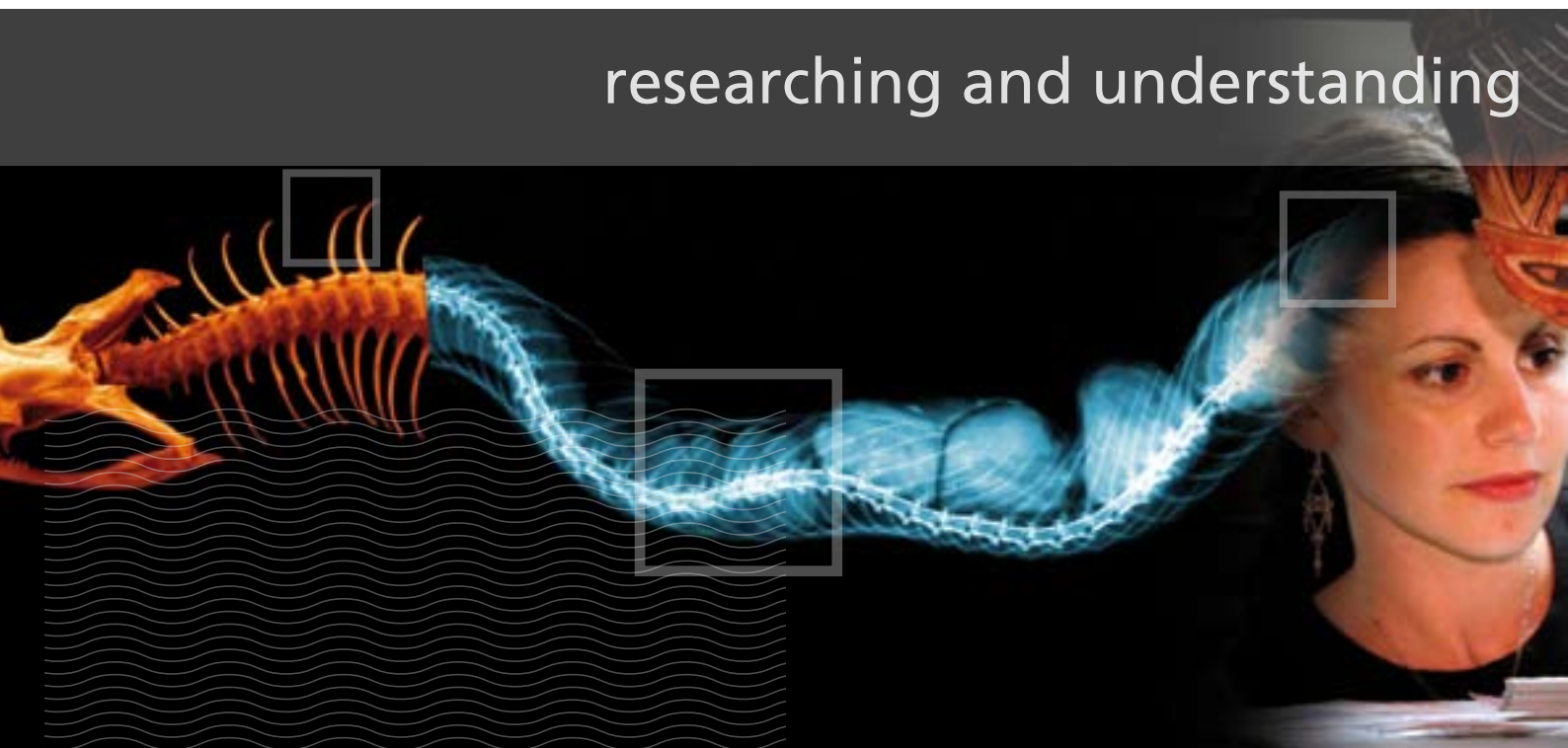


Frank Howarth
Director
Australian Museum

Reference

Hennes, T, 2007, Hyperconnection: natural history museums, knowledge, and the evolving ecology of community. *Curator* vol 50(1), pages 87–108.

researching and understanding



Community support

We are delighted to acknowledge the significant community support we've received during the year. The Australian Museum maintains an ongoing commitment to its community volunteers, private benefactors and sponsors. We aim to build rewarding collaborations and encourage our partners to see for themselves the long-term benefits and outcomes of the projects they support.

The Australian Museum maintains an ongoing commitment to its community volunteers, private benefactors and sponsors.

Directorate volunteers

Margaret Killin

Corporate and Knowledge Services volunteers

Neerv Bhatt
Karin Brown
Carol Cantrell
Nanette Goodsell
Warren Heggarty
Brenda Hill
Susan Myatt
Jill Riley
Margaret Simpson
Prue Walker

Commercial Services volunteers

Bonnie Griffin
Benjamin Hope
Ross Lawson
Michael McFadden
Marc Thumm

Visitor Programs and Services volunteers

Peter Andrews
Les Bassett
Carole Bennetts
Warren Bennetts
Ray Biddle
Wendy Bishop
Val Bower
Tom Carding
Douglas Cham
Helen Clark
Kate Cox
Tim Edwards
Des Foster
David Frede
Valerie Gregory
Adrienne Hirst
Mary Hughes
Dana Jennings
Jennifer Johnson
Linda Kristian
Roger Langsworth
Kathryn Lenham
David Lind
Angela Low

Dot Lucas

Joan Luijterink
Wendy Macallister
Betty McEwin
Lynne Palmer
Denise Playoust
Lucie Reynolds
Janet Routh
Libby Sakker
Moira Shackleton
Hazel Sproule
Tory Stening
Ailsa Stewart
Lesley Strauss
Lala Szybinski
Gillian Tansilao
Angela Thomas
Ashleigh Thomson
Judith Townsend
Katey Turner
Jill Wellington

Exhibitions and Creative Services volunteers

Carmen Nunes
Gomes

Collections volunteers

Win Alliston
Graeme Annabell
Michael Batley
David Bell
Daniela Binder
Nicholas Bishop
Peter Blackwell
Diane Brown
Fay Brown
Gordon Campbell
Stephen Chi Ho
Chan
David Colchester
Christine Crowther
Peter Dadswell
Lawrie Davis
Maira Dean
Anja Divljan
Radka Dostal

informing, displaying and generally ...



Australian Museum volunteers

More than 150 people actively volunteered across most sections of the Australian Museum during the year. There were 37 front-of-house volunteers supporting Public Programs Division, interacting with general Museum visitors as well as working on specific Visitor Services programs. There were 114 volunteering behind the scenes, the majority supporting Research and Collections Division and Commercial Services Branch. Most were long-term volunteers (one year or longer) who volunteered at least once a week. A small number volunteered on short-term projects. Volunteers contributed an estimated 45,900 hours of service to the Museum over the last financial year.

Ian Finn
Jan Fisher
Gabor Foldvary
Eduardo Gallo
Anne Gilling
Rachel Gould
Dennis Hackett
Barbara Harvey
Kerinne Harvey
Maureen Haydon
Ximena Jordan
Alan Leishman
Peter Mallesch
Robin Marsh
Timothy Martin
Jolanta Mazurek
Graham McLean
Pam Mudford
Dorothy Pearson
Nick Phillips
Jenny Pollak
John Pollak
Rosemary Pryor
Penelope Ralph
Ainslie Robinson
Hazel Ronay
Felicity Roos

Sharn Rose
Lyn Russell
Phillip Russo
Margaret Schonell
Sascha Schulz
Norma Scott
Corey Sellwood
Dorothy Shearman
Letitia Silberbauer
Clodagh Smith
Ian Stevenson
Allen Sundholm
Jim Tey
Greg Towner
Leah Tsang
Dianne Tysson
Marlene Vial
Wendy Walker
Jean Weiner
Cynthia Young
Penny Zylstra

Research volunteers
Pamela Da Costa
Katherine Daly
Margaret Dell'Oro
Vindhya Hettige
Esiteri N V
Kamikamica
Kate Loynes
Anne Murray
Margot O'Donoghue
Sarah Pham
Shui Phang
Naomi Rabeeya
Melanie Van Olffen
Kandy Wang
Hugh Watt
Gillian Whitney

Collections and Research Resources volunteers
Shahilla
Balachandran
Alexandra Hegedus
Sam Hodgkinson
Heather Joynes
Isa Loo
Mark Rowden
Karen Sheehan
Anthony Yan

Members volunteers
Wendy Charng
Victoria Collis
Margaret Coyle
Margaret Craig
Anthony Ellis
Maureen Foord
Val Hutt
Jennifer Jenkins
Nan Manefield
Gaye McLean
Graham McLean
Ross Pearson
John Robertson
Keith Robinson

Members interns
Isabelle Bunck
Susanne Jehle
Inka Kramer

Lizard Island volunteers
Snow Amos
Chico Birrell
Terry Ford
Stephanie Glover
Jarrett Hines
Jonas Hines
Renie Hood
Charlotte Johansson
Saul Newman
Ben Pickles
Sara Piddlesden
Bill Quinlan
Tessa Richardson
Lois Wilson
Helen Wodetzki
Peter Wodetzki



Australian Museum Members

Established in 1972, Australian Museum Members exists to support and promote the work of the Australian Museum. Around 6000 Members enjoy a range of benefits including free entry to the Museum every day of the year, advanced notice and discounted tickets to Members events (including Night Talks, urban and bush walks, workshops, kids activities, behind-the-scenes tours, overseas trips and more), free subscription to the Museum's *Explore* magazine as well as special offers.

In 2006–07, Members provided \$100,000 for the purchase of artefacts for the new *Dinosaurs* exhibition:

- *Muttaburrasaurus* – skeleton cast (approx. \$70,000)
- Two dromaeosaurs – life-sized reconstructions (approx. \$15,000)
- *Bambiraptor* – skeleton cast (approx \$10,000)
- *Archaeopteryx* – skeleton reconstruction (approx \$5000).

Members have provided over \$700,000 to the Museum since 1972.

The Museum wishes to record its sincere thanks to Members for their support during the year. In particular, we thank those Members who served on the Australian Museum Members Council.

Australian Museum Members Council

The Australian Museum Members are represented by a council of 14, made up of nine elected Members and five representatives of the Museum.

Members representatives (to Nov 2006)

Bill Templeman
(President)
David Priddel
(Vice President)
Karen Adams
Christopher Birch
Derril Greenway
Ann Hoban
Estelle Lazer
Philip Rubie
Barry Wilson
(Treasurer)

Members representatives (from Nov 2006)

Derril Greenway
(President)
Mathew Wilson
(Vice President)
Karen Adams
Jim Boyce
Bettina Dalton
Peter Feeley
James Gillespie
Robert McLennan
Barry Wilson
(Treasurer)

Museum representatives

Penny Berents
Glenn Ferguson
Frank Howarth
Shane McEvey
Kate Murray
(Executive Officer)

handling with care



Fundraising

Community and corporate support for the Australian Museum and the Australian Museum Foundation through philanthropic donations, sponsorships, bequests and gifts-in-kind are vital in assisting in the achievement of our purpose ‘to inspire the exploration of nature and cultures’.

The Australian Museum is pleased to recognise the generosity and passion of our benefactors and sponsors. We thank those listed here and all our supporters for their contribution to the educational services, public programs and scientific research conducted by the Australian Museum.

We warmly invite others to become engaged in the rewards of supporting one of Australia’s leading cultural and natural history institutions.

Australian Museum Foundation

Atanaskovic Hartnell
Estate of the late Clarence E Chadwick
Lucy Turnbull
Estate of the late Gwendoline A West
Estate of Jessie Campbell Wise

President’s Circle

ANZ Bank
Anita and Luca Belgiorno-Nettis
Susan Conde
Ernst & Young
Christopher Grubb
Lend Lease
Diccon Loxton
Graham O’Neill
Rob and Helen Rich
Andrew Roberts
The Sherman Foundation

Australian Museum supporters

In memory of Graeme Annabell
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Barnes Products Pty Ltd
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Chanel
Coral Reef and Marine Science Foundation
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Rod and Robyn Dent in honour of Pat Dent
and the Wanindilyaugwa tribe
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Rio Tinto
Michael Shea
Warren Somerville
George Stacey
Sydney Grammar School
Senta Taft-Hendry
Sydney’s Child
Travel Alberta
Michael and Mary Whelan Trust

Science in the City, the Suburbs, and the Bush

Australian Government Department of
Education, Science and Training
Cook & Phillip Park Aquatic Centre
New Scientist
Sydney Grammar School
University of Sydney

The Australian Museum’s logo represents both nature and cultures. Photo Carl Bento.

The NSW Government has provided \$40.8 million for the Museum’s Revitalisation Project. Photo Carl Bento.

Giganotosaurus dominates the education foyer in the Museum. Photo Carl Bento.

Glossopteris is a fossil leaf found in coal deposits. Photo Stuart Humphreys.

This Aboriginal rock engraving of an echidna is found in Sydney’s Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. Photo Carl Bento and Stuart Humphreys.

This scanning electron micrograph (SEM) reveals amazing details of a tiny marine scale worm. Photo Sue Lindsay.

A cascading mist of gold coats a specimen being prepared for SEM viewing. Photo Carl Bento.

The Australian Museum Eureka Prizes

The Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are Australia's premier and most comprehensive awards celebrating outstanding science and science communication. They are also the largest national award scheme for research into the critical environmental sustainability issues facing Australia.

The Australian Museum Eureka Prizes raise the profile of science in the community by acknowledging and rewarding outstanding science-related achievements across research, leadership, innovation, school science, science communication and journalism.

Over \$200,000 was presented to 20 winners at the 17th annual Australian Museum Eureka Prizes award dinner held in August 2006. Media coverage of prize finalists and winners reached an estimated audience of around 16 million across Australia. Once again we thank the many sponsors and stakeholders whose support has done so much to make this event a success.

Eureka Sponsors

ATSE Clunies Ross Foundation
 Australian Catholic University
 Australian Government Department of
 Education, Science and Training
 Australian Government Department of the
 Environment and Heritage
 Botanic Gardens Trust, Sydney
 British Council Australia
 CSIRO
 Department of Environment and
 Conservation (NSW)
 Land & Water Australia
 Macquarie University
New Scientist
 NSW Office for Science and Medical Research
 Peter and Divonne Holmes à Court
 Pfizer Australia

The Sherman Foundation

University of New South Wales
 University of Sydney, Faculty of Science
 University of Technology, Sydney
 Voiceless

Eureka Supporters

Abbey's Bookshop, Sydney
 Microsoft
 Pages Event Equipment
 Petaluma
 Playbill Venues
 Sydney Marriott Hotel



Green tree frog. Photo Allen Young.

Biomaps is an award-winning application developed by the Australian Museum and Rio Tinto in partnership to aid biodiversity conservation. Image Paul Flemons.

Black-footed Rock Wallaby.
 Photo Tony Budge www.tonybudge.com.au

From the collection: untitled painting by Papunya Tula
 artist Anatjari Tjakamarra No. 3. Photo Carl Bento.

This delicate microbat skeleton has been cleaned by
 flesh-eating beetle larvae. Photo Carl Bento.

Butterflies – part of the Museum's extensive insect collection.
 Photo Stuart Humphreys.

Kidspace is a new interactive exhibition for the under-5s.
 Photo Stuart Humphreys.

The Museum Shop was extensively revamped in 2006–07.
 Photo James King.

Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation

The Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation is an independent trust established to raise funds for the Australian Museum's Lizard Island Research Station and to support research on the Great Barrier Reef. Its major commitments are to the Doctoral Fellowships program and to the capital development of the research station.

Patrons

Sir John Proud (Founder)
Dr Des Griffin AM
Mr Robert Kirby AO
Mr Henry Loomis and Mrs Jacqueline Loomis
Lady Laurine Proud
Mr Robert Purves
Professor Frank Talbot
Dr Charles Warman AM

Trustees

Dr Penny Berents
Mr James Bildner
Mr Kenneth Coles AM (Chairman)
Mr Andrew Green (Secretary and Treasurer)
Dr Ronnie Harding
Mr Trevor Haworth AM
Mrs Alison Hayward (until November 2006)
Mr Frank Howarth
Mr Chris Joscelyne
Mr Vivian King
Mr Raymond Kirby AO
Mr Bill Page-Hanify AM
Mrs Fiona Playfair (from November 2006)
Mrs Heather Power
Mr Robert Purves
Associate Professor Stephan Schnierer
(until December 2006)
Mr Michael Seyffer (from February 2007)
Mr David Shannon
Mr Charles Shuetrim
Dr Charles Warman AM

Major Donors

Balnaves Foundation
Captain Cook Cruises
Ken Coles AM and Rowena Danziger
Bill and Alison Hayward
Hermon Slade Raiatea Foundation
Chris Joscelyne
Kevin Kalkhoven
The James N Kirby Foundation
Macquarie Bank Foundation
Maple-Brown Family Charitable
Foundation Ltd
Lynton and Susan Morgan
Trevor Pearson and Maggie Garnett
The Ian Potter Foundation
Queensland Government's Smart State
Research Facilities Fund
Charlie and Sandy Shuetrim
The Raymond E Purves Foundation
Thyne Reid Foundation
The Vernon Foundation
The John Villiers Trust
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
Voyages
Sarah Whyte



Staff prepare a model for the new *Dinosaurs* exhibition opening in 2008. Photo Carl Bento.

The Museum's collections are accessed by many Indigenous and Pacific communities for cultural purposes. Photo Carl Bento.

The giant puppet show *Gondwana, Land of the Giants* enjoyed a sell-out season at the Australian Museum. Photo Stuart Humphreys.

The Australian Museum's Lizard Island Research Station is a global centre for tropical reef research. Photo Charlie Shuetrim.

The Museum has a fossil stromatolite in its collection that is the oldest verified fossil in the world.
Photo Dr Martin J Van Kranendonk.

Ancient footprints cover a dry lake bed near Lake Mungo in south-western New South Wales. Photo Stuart Humphreys.

Visiting Fijian cultural leader Eseri Kamikamica examines materials used in making traditional bark cloth.
Photo Stuart Humphreys.

The Museum cares for a priceless collection of more than 16 million scientific specimens and cultural artefacts. Photo Carl Bento.

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The Australian Museum is open from 9.30 am to 5 pm seven days a week (except 25 December).
Business hours are 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday.



Availability

This report is available at www.australianmuseum.net.au/about/report.
Further information on the research and education programs and services of the Australian Museum can be found at www.australianmuseum.net.au.

General Museum Entry

Adult \$10
Child/concession/senior \$5
Family (1 adult, 2 children) \$17.50
Family (2 adults, 2 children) \$25
Each additional child \$2.50
School students, Government Concession Cardholders, Australian Student Cardholders, Seniors Cardholders (NSW Government Issue) \$5
Children under 5 years, Australian Aged Pension Cardholders, Australian Museum Members FREE
Additional charges may apply to special exhibitions and activities.

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All inks used in the production of this report are vegetable-based.



A prepared specimen ready for imaging in the SEM.
Photo Carl Bento.

See the world differently at the Australian Museum.
Photo Australian Museum.

Behind the scenes, staff work to preserve fragile materials and artefacts.

Eaten Alive: the world of predators was one of 10 temporary exhibitions onsite in 2006–07.

The Museum's *Planet of Minerals* exhibition is a visual feast.

The Museum has a unique diversity of specialised equipment and skills for supporting research and exhibitions. Photo James King.

The body of this male hunting spider, *Toxapsoidea*, is just three millimetres in length. Photo Carl Bento.

www.australianmuseum.net.au