

ANNUAL REPORT 1999/2000

To the Hon. Bob Carr MP

Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship


Sir,

In accordance with the provisions of the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984*, and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, we have pleasure in submitting this report of the activities of the Australian Museum Trust for the financial year ended 30 June 2000 for presentation to Parliament.

On behalf of the Australian Museum Trust,



Mr Malcolm Long  
President of the Trust



Professor Michael Archer  
Secretary of the Trust

Australian Museum

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Admission Charges

Family \$19; child \$3; adult \$8; concession \$4;

seniors card holders, TAMS members and children under 5 free

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## Mission

Our Mission is to increase understanding of, and influence public debate on, the natural environment, human societies and human interaction with the environment.

## Values

Success in achieving our Mission requires that we work in ways which embody values that are important to us and to the people who work in and use the Museum and its services. These values guide the way we implement strategies and, in some cases, are the values we wish our audiences to share with us.

**People:** People are at the centre of everything we do. We respect and respond to the knowledge and experiences people bring to us, and will be responsive to their needs.

**Excited Minds:** We are committed to providing experiences that excite and stimulate people into finding out more, taking action or thinking further about their world, and for them to be in control of these interactions.

**Communities:** We are committed to developing mutually beneficial partnerships with communities.

**Continuous Improvement:** We will strive to create our own future, based in part on knowledge of and learning from what we are doing today. We respect constructive criticism so that we can learn to do things better.

**Diversity:** We respect diversity of opinion in our workplace as we work towards achieving our shared goals. This means we share information and beat down 'territorialism' wherever it might occur.

**Excellence:** We value excellence in scholarship, communication, research and management. The excellence of our research and scholarship, the new ideas we present and the ways we present them are vitally important to our success.

**Innovation:** We will encourage risk-taking, innovation and experimentation to improve the ways we communicate with and engage people.

**The Natural and Cultural Environment:** Australia's environmental and cultural diversity is extremely important to us and we will seek to increase our knowledge of and respect for it and share our understanding with others.

**Cultural Respect:** We will respect the rights and wishes of the peoples whose knowledge and material culture form the basis of our human-studies programs.

## Objectives

The Museum's objectives are derived from our Mission and our Values. In looking to our future, we must work towards:

- extending the influence of our research and new understandings of the world on current audiences and interest groups by being more aware of, and responsive to, user needs;
- raising awareness of the Museum and our role in communicating and influencing debate on environmental and cultural issues through research and knowledge; and
- extending our reach in current and new audiences using innovative and user-responsive approaches to providing services.

The past year has seen the beginnings of some major structural changes for the Australian Museum, which should lead to long-term gains for the Museum and the people of Sydney, New South Wales and beyond. With the use of new technology to reach, excite and enthuse people about the Australian Museum and Australia's environment, heritage and culture, we are increasingly becoming a 'global' museum anchored here in New South Wales, and the Olympic Games can only strengthen this role. This role, and the means to achieve it, is central to our deliberations about the future of the Australian Museum.

While these management and financial reforms are taking place to secure our long-term future, it is inevitable that there will be some difficult periods of change in the short term. However, if we are to move forward, we need a solid base from which to build and we must plan our resources accordingly. There are many projects the Museum could become involved with, but there is a need to prioritise and to ensure that those things that we do, we do well.

The major focus for the Trust and for the staff of the Museum in the years to come will undoubtedly be the future of the Australian Museum, and the shape and form of the 'new Australian Museum'. With the new National Museum of Australia in Canberra, the new Museum of Victoria and other major museum developments in other capital cities, the time is ripe for the Australian Museum to project into the future its own role, particularly in those areas of the Museum's unique expertise and world standing. The fact that the Government has recognised this in its policy statements and through the provision of funding for planning a 'new Australian Museum' means that the Trust and Museum staff have an opportunity to shape the future of the Australian Museum for the 21st century.

It is significant that the planning for the new Museum will be under way in 2001 when we celebrate the Centenary of Federation. We are no longer a colony and the Museum's impact stretches well beyond the dotted lines drawn on a map that indicate a border with another State. Our welfare in this community is now interdependent with enlightened environmental policy elsewhere too. From our NSW home, we therefore need to consider our contribution in Australian and regional terms and beyond.

Since its genesis back in the fairly early days of the Colony of New South Wales, the Australian Museum has been equated with the magnificent heritage building on College Street. Exploring the nexus between the Australian Museum and College Street, which the Museum has begun to do, is probably the most significant event in the history of the Museum. This building will be part of the future but at this stage it is too early to determine its precise role. However, whatever transpires, the fact remains that there is an urgent need for work to be done to the whole site, to provide better conditions for both the staff who work here and the public who visit.

In planning for the future we also need to think beyond the physical boundaries of a city block in the CBD of Sydney, and the range of projects initiated this year are indicative of the types of projects that a modern-day

museum can become involved with. Many of these have involved collaborations with community groups, other government institutions, universities, the corporate sector and international partnerships. The NSW Government has provided the necessary funding and support for the Museum to continue to grow, for which we are extremely grateful. But the Museum should also be proactive in seeking funds for its future and not rely solely on government.

The Director's Message outlines many achievements. The fact that these have been done in a period of change is a great credit to all involved. In this regard, I would like to give a special thanks to my fellow Trust members who contributed throughout the year. I would also like to mention the contribution over the years of Lucy Hughes-Turnbull who was unable to continue as a Trustee due to other commitments. Her contribution was significant and, as a friend of the Museum, she will continue to assist in the future. The Trust was fortunate to have two new members in Andrew Roberts and Julianna Walton, both of whom have already become deeply involved in working for our future.

As we move forward there is also the need to acknowledge the contribution of all the staff of, and individuals associated with, the Australian Museum. The fact that so much has been achieved is a great credit to them all. Special mention must be made of the infectious enthusiasm of the Director, Professor Michael Archer. While looking forward to shaping the future of the Museum, he recognises the importance of learning from the Museum's past history to understand where we are today and where we might usefully go in the future. This perspective through time is central to Mike's own research work and in many ways encapsulates what the Museum has been, is now and has the potential to be.

Malcolm Long

## Director's Message

The Australian Museum has had a uniquely challenging year. Not all of the challenges have been easy to meet and many have required extraordinary inputs from the Trust, staff and friends of the Australian Museum. In meeting these challenges, we have been significantly assisted by the NSW Ministry for the Arts and the NSW Premier's Department, and by many new friends in the corporate and private sectors of the community.

The Trust has been greatly assisted by addition of its two newest members. Andrew Roberts, Deputy Managing Director of Multiplex, is an invaluable asset at a time when the Museum is considering a very exciting and expanded future. Julianna Walton, consultant to government in a range of areas including legislation review, planning policy, systems review, public policy and regulatory systems, brings with her a very keen interest in museums and extensive experience with local government as a former Sydney City Councillor.

Some of the challenges, particularly those focusing on the Australian Museum's future, have been very exciting. In 1999 Trust reviewed the Museum's long-term goals, priorities and new visions for better achieving these goals. With the support of Trust, the Museum has continued through 1999 and into 2000 to maximise its relevance to the needs of a rapidly changing world. We have been assisted in this process through provision by Government of funds to begin the planning process for the Australian Museum of the future.

As a first step, we have developed an issues paper for Trust that explores the range of potential visions for the Museum's future and workshopped this with all staff. Consideration is being given to the future of the College Street site, the Alcheringa Project proposal, anticipated associate and branch museums, our Public Programs, the highly successful AM website and other initiatives. The fact that knowledge about our past helps to understand the present and more sustainably manage the future, both in terms of environmental and cultural diversity, provides a framework that unites all of the Museum's activities from research to Public Programs and potentially a new and exciting role in developing, with appropriate partners, programs that will better secure Australia's future.

Other challenges have involved detailed assessment by the Trust and staff of the Australian Museum, in conjunction with NSW Treasury, of the financial viability of the Museum's ongoing activities. Recognising the fact that the 'Making a Difference' exhibition program was winding down, Treasury advocated a reduced commitment to salary-related recurrent support for the Museum into and beyond the 2000/01 financial year.

Trust reached the difficult decision to close the *djumu* Gallery at Customs House on 31 June 2000, a venue that had been sustaining financial losses since it opened in December 1998. In so deciding, however, it noted the many very wonderful programs that the Gallery's Director, John Kirkman, and staff have produced since the Gallery opened. It also reaffirmed the Museum's commitment to maintaining and, if possible, increasing its deep commitment to Indigenous programs in its other premises.

The Museum has also embarked on a coordinated restructuring of its senior management to better facilitate its services to its many stakeholders. During the year, the framework for a Service Strategy was developed, as were many new initiatives that will increase the efficiency of operations in the Financial and Corporate Services areas. Establishment of an Australian Museum Foundation as a way of establishing a further revenue stream is currently under consideration by Trust. Former Trust member Lucy Hughes-Turnbull and her husband Malcolm have become the inaugural donors, providing sufficient funds to employ the Foundation's first Executive Officer.

The Australian Museum's science programs and research centres have again produced a wide range of exciting results ranging from vital biodiversity research to Chinese palaeontology, exciting new interpretations of rock art, a new 'Immortals Program' providing naming rights for Australian invertebrates new to science, frog research that underpinned the Olympic Coordination Authority's win of both the 2000 Banksia Gold Award and the Banksia Flora and Fauna Conservation Award, research into larval fish that has major implications for their conservation, supervising research projects of many postgraduate students and participating in university undergraduate subjects. And as expected based on previous year's performances, the Museum's Eureka Prizes ceremony achieved unprecedented media attention with a record \$90,000 in prizes being awarded.

The Australian Museum's Thylacine Project leapt into life when it was announced at a press conference in early May that Don Colgan and his Evolutionary Biology Unit team had successfully recovered high-quality DNA from the pickled pup, a project that has excited everyone with media coverage coming from all parts of the globe. Discussions about a major documentary and financial support for the Project are underway. The Australian Museum Rheuben Griffiths Trust is being established to assist in the raising of funds to keep the work going. The Premier of NSW assisted with a special project grant and commented that it was one of the most exciting projects he had ever encountered.

This year saw many bright and stimulating new exhibitions developed, including *Ancient Lives*, *Bats* and *Living Colour*. While attendances were generally lower than hoped, in part because of cutbacks in funds and opportunities for advertisement, use of the Australian Museum's website has skyrocketed over the same period to more than 170,000 users per month, many times the attendance rate we get through the front door! Several exhibitions were stunning successes in terms of drawing in non-traditional audiences. For example the intriguing, and to some very challenging, *Body Art* generated much media interest and attracted large numbers of the young adult and non-family adult audience. A similar huge and young crowd danced the night away at the brilliant *Motorola Bat Ball*, where for a night the Museum was transformed into a most unusual dance-party venue.

The partnership established in 1999 with Cadbury in connection with the Museum's newest major exhibition *Australia's Lost Kingdoms*, which opened on 26 August 2000, has had many delightful and mutually beneficial outcomes. With the assistance of Anne Musser and many

of the Australian Museum's creative staff, a new and very popular series of 'Lost Kingdoms' prehistoric Australian creatures (150 by 2000/01) were on the market in May 2000, inside the increasingly popular confectionary known as 'Yowie'.

Other new initiatives begun in 1999 include rural and regional associate museums being developed in conjunction with the Australian Museum. The Canowindra Age of Fishes, already underway in 1998, was followed in 1999 by organisation of the \$15 million Somerville Collection of minerals and fossils (including dinosaurs and many other prehistoric reptiles) in Bathurst. Discussions are now under way for similar developments in Wellington (Pleistocene megafaunal giants), Lightning Ridge (Cretaceous opalised fossils) and Brewarinna (human and megafaunal overlaps). Together these will form the 'Fossil Trail', an educational and tourism initiative of the Australian Museum that starts in Sydney, sweeps through New South Wales and then links to similar trails being developed in Queensland.

The National Opal Collection is another success story of 1999/2000. Working with Cody Opals, the Australian Museum has positioned its finest opalised fossils, many of which were out of public sight in the collections, in superb exhibition space co-designed with the Australian Museum, in high-quality commercial space on the Pitt Street Mall in Sydney. In exchange for its participation in The National Opal Collection, the Australian Museum receives a guaranteed annual financial return based on the shop's commercial sales.

Although sad to lose our remarkably skilled Associate Director Gary Morgan, early in 2000, we were delighted that he has gone on to become the Executive Director of the Western Australian Museum. In the same way, former Australian Museum Research Scientist Tim Flannery, by accepting the Directorship of the South Australian Museum this year, further strengthens our growing alliances with the major museums of all States.

As might be expected with such a talented group of people, the Australian Museum had many personal as well as institutional successes during the year. Orest Keywan won the Sculpture by the Sea competition, continuing the artistic recognition of our Exhibitions staff; Mary Bell and other staff involved in the Museum-in-a-Box program won a Premier's Award for Regional Services; Phil Gordon, Lynda Kelly and Tim Sullivan's expertise was requested to review the important *Previous Possessions: New Obligations* policy; and *Nature Australia* magazine won the Whitley Award for Best Natural History Periodical.

While this year has indeed been a hard one in terms of financial constraints and related cost-cutting, it has also been one filled with new initiatives and enthusiastic focus on the brightest future that has ever been on this Museum's horizon.

Professor Michael Archer

The Museum's Corporate Strategic Plan identifies four specific strategies to integrate the Museum's work in a range of areas to ensure we are working effectively towards achieving our objectives.

- Access
- The Physical Experience
- Virtual Access
- Science 2020

## Access

The Australian Museum is committed to providing new and improved access to its facilities and collections, not just in terms of physical and virtual access, but by making them more intellectually accessible. The Museum is also committed to involving regional communities in the development of content, interpretation and design of programs to tour in regional areas.

Providing access to the collections is an important function of a museum. Most members of the public experience the Museum's collections through the Public Programs. However, access to collections includes scientific-research purposes whereby researchers work with collection items at the Museum, or through arranging loans of material to research institutions around Australia and overseas. Collection items are also loaned to other institutions for exhibitions and other Public Programs.

The Museum also provides access to its collections for cultural reasons consistent with the Museums Australia policy *Previous Possessions: New Obligations*, especially for Indigenous people who have an association with particular collection items.

### Highlights

#### Public Access

The Museum's College Street and djamu Gallery sites were visited by over 332,000 people during the year, a decrease of 17 per cent from last year. The Museum's website recorded 1.2 million users during the year, a 150 per cent increase on the previous year. Outreach programs reached over 350,000 people throughout NSW, a 30 per cent increase on the previous year.

*search & discover*, the Museum's information and resource centre, had over 100,000 visitors and 7,000 public enquiries, with many more referred to scientific staff and collection managers.

#### ***djamu* Gallery—the Australian Museum at Customs House**

Eight Indigenous exhibitions and associated programs were developed at *djamu* Gallery throughout the year. They were marked by a strong sense of ownership and pride coupled with innovative curatorial practice, and many received strong critical acclaim. However, in the face of continued low attendance levels and resulting unsustainable operating costs, the Museum was forced to close *djamu* Gallery on 30 June 2000, after some 20 months of operation. The Museum's ongoing strong commitment to Indigenous people and issues remains undiminished, and appropriate programs will continue to be developed at the Museum's College Street site, throughout outreach programs and through *australian museum online*.

#### Indigenous Access

As part of the ongoing Indigenous Access Program at the Museum's College Street site, six new community displays and a range of performance and workshop programs were presented in the *Indigenous Australians* gallery in order to keep that gallery current and relevant. Two Aboriginal keeping-place network meetings were organised nationally, and training opportunities arranged within the Museum for five Aboriginal people from various communities in NSW. Grants from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission ensured the continuation of the Aboriginal Museums Outreach project in 1999/2000. Training programs for communities in northern Australia on the care of cultural material have been run, and a major report prepared for the Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts on the training needs of staff at Indigenous cultural centres.

#### Community Access

Several Community Access Programs, designed to provide community groups with access to the Museum and visitors with access to aspects of our culturally diverse society, were presented this year. The Community Access Programs were discontinued from 30 June 2000, after some six years of operation. The Museum's ongoing commitment to cultural diversity will continue to be developed through 'mainstream' programs. Fifteen biodiversity community displays were also held in the Museum's *Biodiversity* exhibition, plus video-conferencing sessions between visitors and scientists overseas.

#### Regional and Rural Access

The Museum continued to provide regional communities with access to Museum exhibitions and programs throughout the year. The Museum-on-the-Road (MOTR) series of travelling exhibitions was visited by 272,500 people at 19 venues around NSW, a 30 per cent increase on the previous year. Promotion of Museum-on-the-Road now also includes listings on regional websites and internet dairies, as well as extensive local-media coverage. The Museum-in-a-Box program was further expanded, with ten new boxes developed. These were used by 73,000 students, with 446 loans to NSW schools. Museum-on-the-Road and Museum-in-a-Box also won an award for Provision of Services to Regional and Rural NSW at the 1999 Premier's Public Sector Awards.

#### Access to Collections

Over 1,000 loans were made from the Museum's collections to other organisations and institutions to facilitate research and education. The Museum's Open Day, which provides unique opportunities for access to Museum collections and staff, attracted 5,150 visitors this year. Access to collections online also increased throughout the year with several new web-based projects launched.

#### Access for Students and Educators

School programs and products reached over 50,000 students and educators this year and included new students' workshop series; student materials for temporary exhibitions; teachers' open nights, previews, seminars and professional development days; collaborative workshops with the Australian Science Teachers Association, the Kindergarten Union and



the Association of Independent Schools; and publication of children's science books. The Museum received a grant from the Science and Technology Awareness Program to work with 27 schools on a project, *Backyard Biodiversity*, apprenticing students from regional areas into scientific techniques and current research. The Museum's work-experience programs continue to be popular with secondary students.

#### **Collaborations and Partnerships**

Throughout the year many important Museum projects have involved collaborations with community groups, educational institutions, government agencies, the corporate sector and international partnerships. Innovative projects have included the Thylacine Cloning Project, the establishment of the new Australian Museum Foundation, the Museum's new joint graduate and postgraduate training program in biosystematics with the University of New England, and the planning for regional collaborations in Canowindra, Lightning Ridge and Bathurst. The Immortals Program, allowing donors to have a species named after them, was also launched.

#### **Future Access: The New Australian Museum and the Alcheringa Project**

Looking to the future and emphasising the importance of partnerships between government and the corporate sector were the strategic focuses in the development of a feasibility study for the New Museum and the Alcheringa Project. Funding for a Preliminary Feasibility Study by PricewaterhouseCoopers on this concept was provided in 1999/2000 by the Ministry for the Arts.

#### **Publishing**

The Museum's publishing activities provides a wide audience, both in Australia and overseas, with access to the Museum's information and collections. *Nature Australia* magazine continued to be a successful avenue for communicating scientific research to the general public, with each issue reaching over 60,000 people. *Nature Australia* also won the 1999 Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales Whitley Award for Best Natural History Periodical. *Records of the Australian Museum* continues to be an important publisher of original scientific research. In 1999/2000 56 new species and six new genera were described and named in Australian Museum scientific publications. A number of commercial co-publishing projects were undertaken during the year with Macmillan Education Australia, Weldon Owen and New Holland Publishers. These projects extend the Museum's reach into schools, libraries and various commercial markets. The Museum's photographic library, Nature Focus, provided over 500 clients with access to the Museum's photographic collections.

#### **Commercial Access**

##### *Australian Museum Business Services (AMBS)*

AMBS provides substantial access to the Museum's professional capabilities through the provision of commercial services. Over 160 projects were completed this year, the main recipients of these services being government bodies, companies and individuals in Australia and internationally. Within the environmental area, project outcomes influenced decisions in environmental protection and management, especially

in major development works. The Conservation of the Green and Golden Bell Frog for the Olympic Coordination Authority project, for example, won the prestigious Banksia Flora and Fauna Conservation Award and Gold Award.

##### *The Museum Shop*

Establishment of special exhibition shops for *Ancient Lives* and *Bats*, and the development of innovative product and point-of-sales material helped lift total sales and ensured that the Shop was an integral part of the Museum visit experience. The development of important contacts with Indigenous communities enabled an expansion in the range and diversity of products, and a website shop with a comprehensive listing of books related to Australian Aboriginal and Pacific Island culture has been produced.

##### *Museum-as-a-Venue*

During the year, 25,000 people used the Museum's galleries and public spaces for after-hours events. This year also brought about significant change to operations with a new, five-year catering contract awarded to Blue Rock Catering and plans for a major restructure of venue operations. The income raised through these efforts contributes to the maintenance of spaces for all users and to the Museum's programs.

#### **The Australian Museum Society (TAMS)**

TAMS provides its members with unique access to the Museum, its programs and the flow of ideas and discussions concerning the natural world. Through the regular *Muse* magazine, TAMS highlights scientific issues, debates, Museum exhibitions and news. Throughout the year, over 80 events were held including specialist collection tours, lectures and seminars on areas of scientific research, and events linked to exhibition themes, such as *Ancient Lives*, *Bats* and *Living Colour*.

#### **Marketing**

The long-awaited branding campaign captured the imagination of Sydneysiders, appearing on internet advertising, billboards, bus-sides, press advertisements and postcards. The campaign positioned the Australian Museum as a place where the mind is excited. Throughout the year new and diverse ways to raise the Museum's profile were launched. The *Motorola Bat Ball* in October 1999 saw 1,000 paying guests enjoy a Halloween gala sponsored by Motorola and Bacardi. The party introduced the Australian Museum to a new generation of visitors and raised money for the Australian Red Cross. A new strategy to position the Museum within the crowded market by creating joint promotions with corporate partners and sponsors was launched with Discovery Channel Day, a free day for Foxtel subscribers with special Discovery Channel trails, documentaries and exclusive services.

## The Physical Experience

The Australian Museum is committed to using values-driven criteria as a principal part of developing and assessing its Public Programs. Each program needs to be examined in the following way: does it engender respect for audiences and their needs; does the content astonish the senses and excite visitors' minds; is it a unique experience?

### Highlights

#### Public Programs in 1999/2000

The Museum produced a range of Public Programs designed to provide specific audiences with experiences that meet their expectations and interests. Development of these programs reflects comprehensive visitor research which, over several years, has added significantly to the Museum's understanding of those features of Public Programs that best meet visitor needs.

#### Temporary Exhibitions

*Ancient Lives: Greeks, Romans & Etruscans:*

5 June–29 August 1999

*Captive Lives: Looking for Tambo and his Companions:*

14 August–28 November 1999

*Bats:* 25 September–13 February 2000

*Body Art:* 12 February–18 June 2000

*Living Colour:* 18 March–16 July 2000

#### Temporary Exhibitions at *djambu* Gallery

—the Australian Museum at Customs House

*Ngayulu-latju Palyantja:* 2 April–1 August 1999

*Kitset Cultures:* 8 May–8 September 1999

*Menthuen—Queue Here:* 9 July 1999–27 January 2000

*Mapping our Countries:*

9 October 1999–27 February 2000

*The Power of Hair:* 5 February–30 June 2000

*Sospen Graun: Pottery from Papua New Guinea:*

4 March–30 June 2000

*Back to the Walls: Tribal Murals and Aerosol Walls from India and Australia:* 6 March–30 June 2000

*Sea of Hands:* May 2000

#### Community Access Programs

*Picture Sydney: Landmarks of a New Generation:*

24 July–10 October 1999

*Day of the Dead:* 20 October–28 November 1999

Community programs in *Body Art* exhibition:

12 February–18 June 2000

#### Indigenous Australians Changing Displays

*Mum Shirl: A Tribute:* 15 May–15 August 1999

*Gordon Syron—An Aboriginal Historical Perspective:*

15 May–15 August 1999

*Kunwinjku Culture and Art from Western Arnhem Land:*

21 August–21 November 1999

*The Gathering of the Tribes from Dharug Nation:*

27 November 1999–27 February 2000

*Message Stick:* 4 March–14 May 2000

*Indigenous Australia: Standing Strong:*

20 May–30 July 2000

#### Biodiversity Changing Displays

Sea Grass Watch: 5–31 July 1999

Sustainable Energy Development Authority:

12–31 August 1999

Community Biodiversity Network: 1–30 September 1999

Birds Australia: Birds in Backyards: 1–31 October 1999

Recycle Art: 1–21 November 1999

Total Catchment Management Trust (Hacking River):

22 November–22 December 1999

Australian Conservation Foundation:

13–31 December 1999

University of Sydney display: 1–23 January 2000

Solarch: 24 January–21 February 2000

Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services:

22 February–12 March 2000

Murray Land and Water Management Plans:

13 March–2 April 2000

Waste Education Project: 3–30 April 2000

State Forests: 1–21 May 2000

Wirrimbirra Sanctuary: 22 May–11 June 2000

Wires Eastern Branch: 12 June–2 July 2000

#### Theatre Programs

*Tale of Two Togas:* 3 July–29 August 1999

*Musical Immersivity in Biodiversity:*

3 July–18 September 1999

*ManBat:* 4 September–19 December 1999

*Acro-Bats:* 31 October 1999

*Dino Heads:* 26 January 2000

*Fantastic Bat Fantasy:* 3 January–13 February 2000

*The Rhythm of Life:* 20 February–25 June 2000

*The Colour Show:* 18 March–16 July 2000

#### Events

NAIDOC Week: 4–11 July 1999

National Threatened Species Day: 7 September 1999

Motorola Bat Ball: 30 October 1999

Australia Day: 26 January 2000

Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival Body Art events:

16–22 February 2000

Heritage Week: 1–9 April 2000

National Science Week: 3–10 May 2000

Open Day: 7 May 2000

World Environment Day: 5 June 2000

Themed school-holiday programs

(July and September 1999; January and April 2000)

#### Museum-on-the-Road

*More than Dinosaurs: Evolution of Life and Indigenous*

*Australians* exhibitions toured throughout NSW.

#### Museum-in-a-Box

79 Boxes available for loan to schools throughout NSW,

including ten new Boxes created in 1999/2000.

#### Touring Exhibitions

*Spiders* (Darwin, Canberra)

*Frank Hurley Photographer* (Batchelor)

*British Gas Wildlife Photographer of the Year*

(Newcastle, Perth, Hobart, Canberra)

#### AMBS Commercial Exhibition Projects

National Opal Collection display (Cody Opals/Australian Museum)

*Inventing Australians* exhibition (Sydney Children's Museum)

Australian birds display (Museum of the Aegean)

*Belonging* exhibition (State and National Library consortium)

*Indigenous Australians* exhibition (Newcastle Regional Museum)

Cumberland State Forest Visitor Centre

*First Encounters: One Land, Two Cultures* display (Royal Botanic Gardens)

### Multimedia

The Museum developed and produced 28 multimedia products for regional, national and international exhibitions, and for commercial and internal purposes throughout the year. The Museum's *Future Visions: Australian Museum Corporate Video* won a Silver Screen Award in the 33rd USA International Film and Video Festival.

### Improvements in Public Program Processes

In order to improve both the process of development and the end product, a new Public Program Guideline incorporating a Statement of Excellence, a training outline, a development process and feedback procedures was produced. Forums were held with staff to increase understanding of the visitor experience and learning in museums, and to inform on the development of future planning of public space at the Museum.

### Exhibition and Program Partnerships

Throughout the year, the Museum established partnerships with public and private organisations in order to develop exhibitions and other museum experiences. These included the establishment of the National Opal Collection on display in the Sydney CBD, collaboration on the Age of Fishes Museum at Canowindra and the Somerville Collection at Bathurst, and the creation of strong links with museums in China for exhibition development and exchange. The Museum also provided commercial exhibition design and other related services to a diverse group of clients within the NSW and national public and private sectors.

### Planning for the Olympics

Four targeted exhibitions were a feature of the Museum's Olympic program: *Landmarks for the 21st Century*, *Telstra Presents Transitions: 17 years of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, *BHP WildScience* and *Australia's Lost Kingdoms*. Services in a range of styles, languages and media are also being developed to meet our visitors' needs. A new orientation and signage system was introduced into the Museum in late 1999.

## Virtual Access

The Australian Museum recognises that communications technology will be an ever more powerful tool for reaching out to current and new audiences. Through careful evaluation and development of the way people use technology to obtain access to the Museum, we will seek to develop tailored programs that effectively meet specific needs and provide unique, enjoyable learning and social experiences. Technology will also enable the Museum to play a larger role in linking people in discussion and exploration of biological and cultural diversity.

### Highlights

#### Website Development

Further expansion in the scope and coverage of the Museum's website ([www.austmus.gov.au](http://www.austmus.gov.au)) took place during the year. The Museum's main website *australian museum online* was enhanced by a range of new facilities including a site on the possible cloning of the Thylacine; a catalogue of Aboriginal artefacts in the collections to improve access and interpretation; an international

science forum; and a site on the invertebrate collections and research information. Additions and improvements were made to the popular *fish* site, *crustacea.net*, *sea slug forum* and exhibition information. This year *search & discover*, the Museum's information and resource centre, received approximately 22 per cent of its 7,000 enquiries via the web.

New collaborative projects completed during the year included *dreaming online*, a project for schools led by Aboriginal storytellers and part of the Commonwealth Institute's Australia Dreaming Program (produced in cooperation with the Commonwealth Institute and the British Council), and *web in a box*, a web-enabled video school conference project sponsored by Sydney Water.

The expansion in website coverage led to further significant growth in total usage over the year, with over 1.3 million user sessions (over 24 million hits) recorded, an increase of 150 per cent on last year.

#### Network

The Museum's new Integrated Library Management System will allow detailed information on our unique collections to be made available via both the Internet and Intranet. IMUX connections between the College Street site and the Museum's Annex at Yurong Street were installed, increasing the bandwidth fourfold between the two buildings with no extra ongoing costs. The Museum successfully implemented the Y2K program with no down time. Eleven new servers and over 100 PCs were replaced to make the Museum Y2K compliant.

#### Access to Collections

Increased access to Anthropology collections and information was created by the development of a web page for the Aboriginal Heritage Unit, the preparation of a catalogue of our NSW Aboriginal collections, and the design and implementation of a new computerised collection-management system.

Further progress was made in databasing the Museum's substantial collections with highlights including over 300,000 invertebrate records added to the collection database as part of a collection enhancement project, more than 10,000 records added to the vertebrate database, and three collections of photographic archives databased. The Museum has also joined in the establishment of a national database link called OZCAM. OZCAM will link natural history collection databases across the country, allowing for broader access to Museum collections and information.

The Museum participated in two international programs for information access under the *Census of Marine Life* funded by the National Oceanographic Partnership Program and the Sloane Foundation, USA.

## Science 2020

Scientific research at the Australian Museum is about ideas: discovering and communicating new knowledge, and insights into the world and its cultures. This is coordinated through the Museum's research centres that reflect the diversity of our expertise and collections.

Science 2020 is designed to promote and extend the reach of our scientific programs and projects. It is a means of communicating knowledge more effectively by raising awareness of the Museum's leading-edge science programs and projects, and through a closer integration of the Museum's scientific research projects and Public Programs.

### Highlights

#### Policy Advice

The Museum continued its active role in providing advice and submissions on a variety of government-planning and policy processes. This remains a central role, extending the reach and impact of our scientific knowledge by channelling Museum expertise into processes that impact directly on the lives of many Australians. During the year the Museum made submissions on Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality, a Discussion Paper on Higher Education Research and Training, a proposed revision of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act and various environmental issues.

#### Research Centres

The Museum's Research Centres are the focus of our scientific research, providing the opportunity for multidisciplinary collaboration and cooperation both within the Museum and with external partners. There are currently eight centres: Conservation and Biodiversity Centre for Research, Geodiversity Research Centre, Centre for Evolutionary Biology Research, People and Place Research Centre, Centre for Materials Conservation and the Built Environment, Museum Audience Research Centre, Future of Australia's Terrestrial Ecosystems Centre, and Centre for Research into the Evolution of Australia's Terrestrial Ecosystems.

#### Research Highlights

Museum staff undertake an active and innovative program of ongoing scientific research, the results of which are communicated through scientific and popular publications, seminars and conferences, and the Museum's Public Programs. Significant projects and events during the year included:

- the publication of some 130 scientific and popular articles in biology, geology, anthropology, museum conservation, education and museum studies
- the second year of a three-year funded program for taxonomic work, especially the description of new invertebrate species, important in biodiversity studies as part of the NSW State Biodiversity Strategy
- the third year of the government enhancement-funded biodiversity research program, which resulted in the establishment of Geographic Information Systems methodology to allow better use of the Museum for conservation purposes, further refinement in genetic criteria for reserve selection, major progress on the Hotspots' Project using collection databases as

indicators of areas of endemism and diversity, and completion of the species diversity component of habitat networks

- involvement in various whole-of-government collaborative initiatives, such as the NSW State Biodiversity Strategy, Natural Resources Information Management Strategy and State of Environment, and in a variety of projects, such as research on the taxonomy of invertebrate animals and their use in bioregional planning as part of the implementation of the NSW State Biodiversity Strategy
- Darling Riverine Plains Bioregional Assessment Program, funded by NSW State Biodiversity Strategy grant, to examine invertebrate biodiversity at a range of land tenure, habitat types and vegetation sites
- Southern Comprehensive Regional Assessment project, funded by NSW Resource and Conservation Assessment Council and Environment Australia, to examine invertebrate biodiversity using Museum collections data and field-based surveys from 110 sites
- projects funded by the Australian Biological Research Study included the production of *A Systematic Revision of the Phreatoicoidea (Crustacea, Isopoda) of Australia* and studies on selected Australian polychaete families
- research on the effects of oil pollution and dredging of sandy-beach amphipods
- reviews conducted of the conservation status of marine fishes and invertebrates for Environment Australia
- development of a checklist of marine molluscs of the Indo-west Pacific region in collaboration with several overseas institutions, funded by the Sloane Foundation and Australian Biological Resources Study as part of an international Oceans Biogeographic Information System based on the web
- research into the systematics and biology of terrestrial and aquatic organisms in relation to biodiversity projects of significance to the State
- research into Australian/Asian gemstones with the Australian National University, University of Technology Sydney, Bern Natural History Museum, Museum of Victoria, Tasmanian Museum, University of Auckland, University of Tasmania, University of Adelaide, University of Oregon and the Gubelin Laboratory, Switzerland
- research on fossil animals that has made significant advances in the studies of fossil fishes (published in *Nature*), trilobites and the evolution, palaeontology and palaeobiology of Australia's carnivorous marsupials
- a three-year collaborative project with staff from the University of Wollongong and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (Darwin) for archaeological and geographic research into the landscapes of the Keep River region, funded by an Australian Research Council grant, with 43 rock-art sites previously unknown to non-Aboriginal people recorded this year alone
- research into the prehistory of the unexplored region of West New Britain, with one of the earliest archaeological sites in the Pacific region already discovered
- continuation of the innovative Prehistoric Starch

Project analysing starch granules from ancient soils, involving researchers from Australia, Japan, The Netherlands, USA and South Africa

- preparation of *Guidelines on Museum Buildings* for the Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts
- preparation of the *National Conservation Research Audit and Research Needs Assessment* for the Heritage Collections Council
- research projects into museum learning and communication, conducted or coordinated by the Museum
- monitoring of the environment within Mawson's Hut in Antarctica, as part of a major program to preserve this historic site
- commencement of initial studies, supported by the Griffiths family and the Carvan Institute, into the possible cloning of the Thylacine, with good-quality DNA extracted from the Museum's Thylacine pup this year
- major collaborative studies on groups of invertebrates (arthropods, polychaetes and gastropods) published, establishing the Museum as a significant contributor to the current revolution in the understanding of invertebrate relationships
- 50 ecological and heritage consultancy projects undertaken during the year, often involving collaborative projects between Museum staff and external research organisations resulting in the development of new scientific techniques such as remote monitoring equipment for the surveillance of fauna using underpasses and overpasses, and the development of artificial habitats for frogs.

#### Lizard Island Research Station

Sixty research projects were conducted by visiting researchers at the Museum's Lizard Island Research Station on the Great Barrier Reef, a ten per cent increase on the previous year. Overseas workers conducted some 36 per cent of these projects. Widespread international access to the Lizard Island Research Station fosters broad research themes with contributors from different institutions. Examples of ongoing research themes include: larval fish ecology; complex behavioural associations between animal groups; coral population dynamics; ecological physiology and morphology of herbivorous fishes. Educational visits were made by eight groups of university students and five groups of school students from Australia, USA, Canada and Scotland. There was again a record usage of the Station's facilities by film groups from Australia, USA and Japan producing nature documentaries and art films.

#### Conferences and Workshops

Staff participated in several international workshops, forums and conferences including: workshops for *crustacea.net* at the Australian Museum, the University of Maine, USA, and the Kristeneberg Marine Laboratory, Sweden; workshops on interactive keys for identification of marine organisms in Bogor, Indonesia, run by Museum scientists; workshops in Costa Rica for the Strategic Alliance with INBio; workshops on the Systematics of Indo-Pacific Fishes in Japan; Nature's Treasurehouses—

a major conference on the future of natural history museums in London; Zoological Revolution Conference in conjunction with Royal Zoological Society of NSW; American Association of Museums Education conference in USA; and various specialist conferences throughout Australia.

#### Planning

Planning was initiated for a review of science in the Museum to strategically position research in the new Australian Museum. It is envisioned that the process, to be carried out during the next financial year, will advance the research and collection management activities, which are already recognised as being of high standard worldwide.

#### Eureka Prizes

The Museum-administered Eureka Prizes, Australia's pre-eminent national science awards, successfully celebrated their tenth anniversary this year. Ten Prizes worth over \$90,000 were awarded at a ceremony compered by media personalities Amanda Keller and Adam Spencer during National Science Week. Widespread media coverage of the winners, including a 'Eureka Prizes' edition of Quantum on ABC TV seen by over 650,000 people across Australia, emphasised the role of the Prizes in raising the profile of science in the community.

#### Media Coverage

The Museum took a pro-active role in strategically planning 'waves' of science coverage throughout the year. An international media conference held to announce results of the DNA extraction from the Thylacine pup in May secured phenomenal coverage. On a national basis the announcement of the results, as well as various interviews, went out over 340 radio stations, Channels 7, 9, 10 and ABC TV Australia-wide, and every major and most rural newspapers across the country.

Internationally, CNN, BBC, and various Japanese networks carried the story to more than 440 million viewers, and *The New York Times*, *The Times* in London and radio followed suit.

Other subjects that received extensive media coverage included: keeping native animals as pets; swimming feats of coral fish larvae; discovery of *Kollikodon* (a Mesozoic monotreme); threatened native bee species; repatriation of artefacts to India; research on the Green and Golden Bell Frog; anatomical study of *Thylacaleo*; and shark threats to athletes in Sydney Harbour.



## FINANCIAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Australian Museum's financial results for 1999/2000 were in line with its revised budget expectations that were adjusted following a review of its finances as conducted by Treasury.

Admissions to the Museum were down on the previous year. Some 332,602 people were admitted to the College Street site and *djumu* Gallery during the year (400,301 in 1998/1999). Revenue from admissions decreased to \$1,379,606, a decrease of 36 per cent on the 1998/1999 financial year return of \$2,143,000. Admission prices were increased during May, the first admission price adjustment in nine years.

During the year there were four major temporary exhibitions. These were part of the Museum's Public Programs that had been financially supported by way of enhanced Treasury Funding. Some 91,175 people visited these exhibitions. The Government's support for Public Programs through the Make a Difference program enabled the Museum to stage these temporary exhibitions.

The popularity of the exhibitions also enabled the Museum to pursue a reasonably successful merchandising program. Shop sales totalled \$990,715 compared with \$1,482,000 in 1998/99 when visitor numbers were considerably higher.

Other commercial activities continued to perform well, although not at the same level as the previous year. Australian Museum Business Services produced revenue of \$1,901,000, a decrease of \$1,342,000 in 1999/2000, due substantially to the general wind-back in work for the Olympics as the projects neared completion.

At the end of the year the *djumu* Gallery at Customs House, Circular Quay, was closed. This action was taken in response to the low patronage and relatively high operation costs that were unable to be sustained in view of other priorities for 2000/01.

Capital funding provided during the year amounted to \$5,016,000. Delays were experienced with a number of projects, such as the upgrading of the main air conditioning system and the upgrading of the fire-safety-warning system. The Museum continues to face difficulties in maintaining its heritage-classified buildings as their heritage status requires more specialised treatment and trades skills, necessitating additional administrative oversighting and resource allocation.

No valuation of collection assets has been provided in the financial statements as required by Australian Accounting Standards AAS29 Financial Reporting by Government Departments. Efforts continued during the year ended 30 June 2000 to identify and value these assets, including the development of a valuation

methodology and the substantial completion of the formal valuation exercise. The previous initial valuation exercise had identified a preliminary value of some \$3.047 billion. The Ministry for the Arts provided expert assistance with the revaluation project.

The revaluation exercise has raised a number of issues such as the cataloguing of the collection and the requirement for resources to adequately undertake this process. It has also resulted in a substantial increase in the insurance cost associated with the collection. The premium payable to the Treasury Managed Fund has escalated from \$213,602 in 1999/2000 to \$773,500 in 2000/01. The Museum wishes to emphasise that a financial valuation does not reflect what the Museum believes to be the intrinsic worth of the collections. Their true value cannot be expressed in monetary terms but rather in terms of their cultural and/or scientific worth. The majority of the collections cannot be replaced. The specimens have been collected over more than 150 years. Some items are from locations where species are now extinct. Cultural materials can reflect creative techniques that are no longer practised. These specimens and items are invaluable and irreplaceable.

## Material Adjustments to Budgets

During 1999/2000 two material adjustments were made to the budget allocation. An amount of \$3,400,000 was transferred by the Treasury from the Museum's Capital allocation to its Recurrent allocation in recognition of the nature of the expenditure in the area of Exhibitions in the Public Programs. An additional \$1,200,000 was also provided in supplementation of the Museum's recurrent services budget base allocation.

## Economic and Other Factors Affecting the Achievement of Operational Objectives

There were some 332,602 visitors to the Museum in 1999/2000. This was a decline of 63,699 on the previous year. There were 91,175 visitors to the four major temporary exhibitions held during the year, whereas in 1998/99 there were 213,978 visitors to the three temporary exhibitions, two of which were resounding successes.

## Outline Budget for 2000/01

As a result of a review of the Museum's finances conducted during 1999 by the Treasury, the budget allocation for 2000/01 was restructured in line with the Treasury's requirement to reduce the Museum's activity level. The main impact of the reduced allocation is on the Public Programs area and the Museum will undertake a voluntary redundancy program in conjunction with a package of management reforms and restructuring to meet the new target.



BOX 12 GPO  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT  
AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM TRUST

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament and Members of the Australian Museum Trust

**Scope**

I have audited the accounts of the Australian Museum Trust for the year ended 30 June 2000. The Trust is responsible for the financial report consisting of the statement of financial position, operating statement, statement of cash flows and summary of compliance with financial directives, together with the notes thereto, and the information contained therein. My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report to Members of the New South Wales Parliament and Members of the Trust based on my audit as required by sections 34 and 41C(1) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the Act). My responsibility does not extend here to an assessment of the assumptions used in formulating budget figures disclosed in the financial report.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates.

In addition, other legislative requirements which could have an impact on the Australian Museum Trust's financial report have been reviewed on a cyclical basis. For this year, the requirements examined comprised compliance with:

- the core business activities being in accordance with the *Australian Museum Trust Act 1975*;
- key provisions of Part 2 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1988* and Parts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the *Public Sector Management (General) Regulation 1996*; and
- the Premier's Department SES Guidelines in respect of the Director's Contract.

These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the requirements of the Act, Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, in Australia, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Trust's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

**Qualification**

As detailed in Note 1(p) to the financial statements, no amount for collection assets has been recognised in the statement of financial position, nor has any potential flow on effect to the operating statement from increased depreciation expense. In my opinion, this is a departure from Australian Accounting Standard AAS29 "Financial reporting by Government Departments" as it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied in these assets will eventuate and that they possess a cost or value that can be measured reliably. The recognition of collection assets is fundamental to an understanding of the Trust's financial position and the results of its operations. My audit opinion on the financial report for the year ended 30 June 1999 was similarly qualified.

**Qualified Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the qualification paragraph, the financial report does not present fairly in accordance with sections 41B and 41BA of the Act, applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2000 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

RJ Sendt  
Auditor-General  
SYDNEY  
4 September 2000

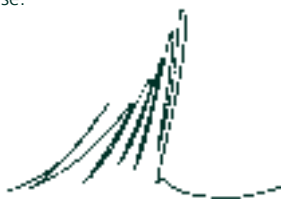
**AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM TRUST  
STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 41C(1C)  
OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND AUDIT ACT, 1983**

Pursuant to Section 41C(1C) of the Public Finance and Audit Act we state that:

- (a) The financial statements and notes thereon exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions for the year ended 30 June 2000.
- (b) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the requirements of the Public Finance & Audit Act 1983, Public Finance and Audit (General) Regulations 1995 and the Financial Reporting Code for General Government Sector.
- (c) There are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate. No valuation of collection assets has been provided in the financial statements as required by the Australian Accounting Standard AAS29 Financial Reporting by Government Departments. Efforts have been made during the year ended 30 June 2000 to identify and value these assets, including the development of a valuation methodology and the conduct of an initial valuation exercise.



Mr Malcolm Long  
President of the Trust



Professor Michael Archer  
Secretary of the Trust

**START OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM TRUST  
OPERATING STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000**

	Notes	Actual 2000 \$'000	Budget 2000 \$'000	Actual 1999 \$'000
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Employee related	3 (a)	18,961	17,310	19,330
Other operating expenses	3 (b)	9,867	7,497	12,292
Maintenance	3 (c)	655	1,000	1,379
Depreciation	3 (d)	3,091	3,324	2,928
Grants and subsidies	3 (e)	77	45	96
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>32,651</b>	<b>29,176</b>	<b>36,025</b>
Less:				
<b>Retained Revenue</b>				
Sale of goods and services	4 (a)	7,013	7,172	9,135
Investment income	4 (b)	54	10	62
Grants and contributions	5, 6	1,330	865	2,380
<b>Total Retained Revenue</b>		<b>8,397</b>	<b>8,047</b>	<b>11,577</b>
Gain/(Loss) on disposal of non-current assets	7	(87)	-	-
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>19 (b)</b>	<b>24,341</b>	<b>21,129</b>	<b>24,448</b>



	Notes	Actual 2000 \$'000	Budget 2000 \$'000	Actual 1999 \$'000
<b>Government Contributions</b>				
Recurrent appropriation		20,268	15,498	16,559
Capital appropriation		5,016	8,416	5,765
Acceptance by Crown Transactions	8	2,042	600	1,856
Entity of employee entitlements and other liabilities				
<b>Total Government Contributions</b>		<b>27,326</b>	<b>24,514</b>	<b>24,180</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>2,985</b>	<b>3,385</b>	<b>(268)</b>

**AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM TRUST  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2000**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

Cash	9	75	40	53
Investments	10 (a)	2,256	-	988
Receivables	10 (b)	943	400	1,330
Inventories	10 (c)	241	179	254
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>3,515</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>2,625</b>

**Non-Current Assets**

Land and buildings	11(a)	192,809	192,800	192,933
Plant & equipment, and exhibitions	11(a)	20,084	25,366	18,253
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>212,893</b>	<b>218,166</b>	<b>211,186</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>216,408</b>	<b>218,785</b>	<b>213,811</b>

**LIABILITIES**

**Current Liabilities**

Accounts payable	12 (a)	921	300	1,138
Borrowings	12 (b)	269	-	260
Employee entitlements	12 (c)	1,807	1,382	1,887
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,997</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>3,285</b>

**Non-Current Liabilities**

Borrowings	12 (b)	-	-	100
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>2,997</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>3,385</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>213,411</b>	<b>217,103</b>	<b>210,426</b>

**EQUITY**

Reserves	13	202,750	202,750	202,750
Accumulated funds	13	10,661	14,353	7,676
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>213,411</b>	<b>217,103</b>	<b>210,426</b>

**AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM TRUST  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000**

	Notes	Actual 2000 \$'000	Budget 2000 \$'000	Actual 1999 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Payments</b>				
Employee related		(17,699)	(16,157)	(17,618)
Grants and subsidies		(77)	(45)	(96)
Other		(10,671)	(8,401)	(12,658)
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>(28,447)</b>	<b>(24,603)</b>	<b>(30,372)</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Sale of goods and services		7,361	7,666	8,694
Interest received		44	-	62
Other		1,330	875	2,380
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>8,735</b>	<b>8,541</b>	<b>11,136</b>
<b>Cash Flows From Government</b>				
Recurrent appropriation		20,268	15,498	16,559
Capital appropriation		5,016	8,416	5,765
Cash reimbursements from the Crown Transactions Entity		694	600	649
<b>Net Cash Flows from Government</b>		<b>25,978</b>	<b>24,514</b>	<b>22,973</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>19 (b)</b>	<b>6,266</b>	<b>8,452</b>	<b>3,737</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Purchases of land and buildings, and plant and equipment		(4,890)	(8,416)	(5,035)
Proceeds from sale of property, and plant and equipment		5	-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments		(1,268)	-	1,292
Other		-	-	-
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(6,153)</b>	<b>(8,416)</b>	<b>(3,743)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Proceeds from borrowings and advances		-	-	200
Repayment of borrowings and advances		-	(100)	-
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>NET (DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH</b>		<b>113</b>	<b>(64)</b>	<b>194</b>
Opening cash and cash equivalents		(107)	104	(301)
<b>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>19 (a)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>(107)</b>

**AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM TRUST  
SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCIAL DIRECTIVES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000**

	2000				1999			
	Recurrent appropriation	Expenditure net claim on consolidated fund	Capital appropriation	Expenditure net claim on consolidated fund	Recurrent appropriation	Expenditure	Capital appropriation	Expenditure
<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION/ EXPENDITURE</b>								
Appropriation Act	15,498	15,498	8,416	8,416	15,059	15,059	8,453	5,360
Additional appropriations	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,500	-	-
s. 21A PF&AA – special appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
s. 24 PF&AA – transfers of functions between departments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
s. 26 PF&AA – Appropriation Act	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>15,509</u>	<u>15,509</u>	<u>8,416</u>	<u>8,416</u>	<u>16,559</u>	<u>16,559</u>	<u>8,453</u>	<u>5,360</u>
<b>OTHER APPROPRIATIONS/ EXPENDITURE</b>								
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Treasurer's advance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Section 22 – expenditure for certain works and services	4,792	4,792	(3,400)	(3,400)	-	-	-	-
Transfers from another agency (section 28 of the Appropriation Act)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(987)	405
Less payroll tax	(33)	(33)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>4,759</u>	<u>4,759</u>	<u>(3,400)</u>	<u>(3,400)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(987)</u>	<u>405</u>
<b>Total Appropriations/ Expenditure/ Net Claim on Consolidated Fund (includes Transfer payments)</b>	<u>20,268</u>	<u>20,268</u>	<u>5,016</u>	<u>5,016</u>	<u>16,559</u>	<u>16,559</u>	<u>7,466</u>	<u>5,765</u>
								5,765
<b>Amount drawn down against Appropriation</b>		<u>20,268</u>		<u>5,016</u>		<u>16,559</u>		<u>5,765</u>
<b>Liability to Consolidated Fund</b>		-		-				

The Summary of Compliance is based on the assumption that Consolidated Fund moneys is spent first (except where otherwise identified or prescribed). An amount of \$126,000 was appropriated from the Capital Appropriation for the purpose of funding several exhibitions and was fully spent on this purpose. However, in accordance with the Accounting Standards, the expenditure has been reclassified as an expense in the financial statements.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2000.**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**(a) The Museum Trust Reporting Entity**

The Australian Museum Trust comprises all the operating activities and entities under its control. These entities include The Australian Museum Society, Australian Museum Foundation and the Lizard Island Research Station. It also encompasses funds that are restricted for specified purposes by the grantor or donor, but are nevertheless controlled by the Trust.

All transactions and balances between the funds and entities comprising the Australian Museum Trust have been eliminated in the process of preparing the financial statements.

**(b) Basis of Accounting**

The Australian Museum Trust financial statements are a general-purpose financial report that has been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional and reporting requirements, the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act* and *Regulations*, and the Financial Reporting Directions published in the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies or issued by the Treasurer under Section 9(2)n of the Act.

Where there are inconsistencies between the above requirements the legislative provisions have prevailed. Statements of Accounting Concepts are used as guidance in the absence of applicable Australian Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional and reporting requirements, and legislative requirements.

Except for certain land and some buildings that are recorded at valuation, the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. The collection, which has not been completely valued, has not been recognised in the Statement of Financial Position.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of previous years.

**(c) Revenue Recognition**

Revenue is recognised when the Department has control of the goods or right to receive, it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Department, and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably. Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of revenue are discussed below.

**(i) Parliamentary Appropriations and Contributions from Other Bodies**

From this financial year there is a change in accounting policy for the recognition of parliamentary appropriations. Parliamentary appropriations are generally recognised as revenues when the agency obtains control over the assets comprising the appropriations/contributions.

Control over appropriations and contributions is normally obtained upon the receipt of cash.

An exception to the above is when appropriations are unspent at year-end. In this case, the authority to spend the money lapses and generally the unspent amount must be repaid to the Consolidated Fund in the following financial year. As a result, unspent appropriations are now accounted for as liabilities rather than revenue.

**(ii) Sale of Goods and Services**

Revenue from the sale of goods and services comprises revenue from the provision of products or services, i.e. user charges. User charges are recognised as revenue when the agency obtains control of the assets that result from them.

**(d) Employee Entitlements**

**(i) Wages and Salaries, Annual Leave, Sick Leave and On-Costs**

Liabilities for wages and salaries, annual leave and vesting sick leave are recognised and measured as the amount unpaid at the reporting date at current pay rates in respect of employees' services up to that date.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the entitlements accrued in the future.

The outstanding amounts of payroll tax, workers' compensation insurance premiums and fringe benefits tax, which are consequential to employment, are recognised as liabilities and expenses where the employee entitlements to which they relate have been recognised.

**(ii) Long Service Leave and Superannuation**

The Trust's liabilities for long service leave and superannuation are assumed by the Crown Entity. The Museum accounts for the liability as having been extinguished resulting in the amount assumed being shown as part of the non-monetary revenue item described as "Acceptance by the Crown Entity of Employee Entitlements" and other liabilities.

Long service leave is measured on a nominal basis. The nominal method is based on the remuneration rates at year end for all employees with five or more years of service. It is considered that this measurement technique produces results not materially different from the estimate determined by using the present value basis of measurement.

The superannuation expense for the financial year is determined by using the formulae specified in the Treasurer's Directions. The expense for certain superannuation schemes (i.e. Basic Benefit and First State Super) is calculated as a percentage of the employees' salary. For other superannuation schemes (i.e. State Superannuation Scheme and State Authorities Superannuation Scheme), the expense is calculated as a multiple of the employees' superannuation contributions.

**(e) Insurance**

The Trust's insurance activities are conducted through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund Scheme of self-insurance for Government agencies. The Fund Manager based on past experience determines the expense (premium).

**(f) Acquisition of Assets**

The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisitions of assets controlled by the Trust. Cost is determined as the fair value of the asset given as a consideration plus the costs incidental to the acquisition.

**(g) Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment acquired for \$500 and above individually are capitalised.

**(h) Revaluation of Physical Non-Current Assets**

The Museum's Heritage Buildings are valued at replacement cost for a building closely resembling the existing facility. Other Museum buildings are valued based on the estimated written-down replacement cost of the most appropriate modern equivalent replacement facility having a similar service potential to the existing asset. Land is valued at market value.

Where assets are revalued upward or downward as a result of a revaluation of a class of non-current physical assets, the Trust restates separately the gross amount and the related accumulated depreciation of that class of assets.

The recoverable-amount test has not been applied as the agency is a not-for-profit entity whose service potential is not related to the ability to generate net cash inflows.

**(i) Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis for all depreciable assets (except the Museum's Heritage buildings) so as to write off the depreciable amount of each asset as it is consumed over its useful life to the Museum. Land is not a depreciable asset.

The Museum believes that the life of the Museum's Heritage buildings (Sydney) is indeterminate but conservatively estimates that the useful life of the buildings as a Museum would be in excess of 200 years provided that the buildings are subject to normal maintenance. Therefore the annual depreciation expense to be applied to the building is determined to be immaterial.

The other buildings at the Sydney site are divided into Major buildings that are depreciated over their estimated life of 80 years and Minor buildings that are depreciated over their estimated remaining life of 20 to 60 years.

The buildings on Lizard Island are depreciated over their remaining estimated life of up to 40 years on the assumption that the Museum's lease of land on the island will be renewed.

Depreciation rates for each plant and equipment asset category are as follows:

Buildings	1.25%–6.67%
Plant and Equipment	10%–33.33%
Vehicles	15%

Exhibitions are amortised on a straight-line basis based on their expected useful life, with a maximum life for depreciation purposes not exceeding nine years.

**(j) Cash**

Cash comprises cash on hand and bank balances with the Museum's bankers. Interest is earned on daily balances at a fixed rate.

**(k) Receivables**

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectability of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts, which are recognised as uncollectable, are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is raised when some doubt as to collection exists. The credit risk is the carrying amount (net of any provision for doubtful debts). The carrying amount approximates net fair value. Sales are made on 30-day terms.

**(l) Investments**

Investments are on deposit "at call" with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The interest rate is calculated based on average daily deposits, payable quarterly. Interest revenues are recognised as they accrue.

**(m) Inventories**

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

**(n) Trade Creditors and Accruals**

The liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in the Treasurer's Direction 219.01. If trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received. Treasurer's Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment.

**(o) Comparative Figures**

Some expenditure figures were allocated on a different basis than in the previous year. Due to the new classification of accounts, previous years' figures are not comparable to the figures presented in the current financial year.

**(p) Valuation of Collection Assets**

No valuation of collection assets has been provided in the financial statements as required by the Australian Accounting Standard AAS29 Financial Reporting by Government Departments.

Following an initial valuation exercise in 1999, further efforts were made during the year ended 30 June 2000 to identify and value these assets. The 1999 valuation exercise resulted in an initial collection value of \$3,047,250,850. A continuing effort to refine the valuation during the year ended 30 June 2000, so as to achieve a more reliable value of the collection assets, was not finalised.

## 2. BUDGET REVIEW

### Net Cost of Services

The actual net cost of services for 1999/2000 was \$3,212,000 more than the Treasury Budget Paper (\$7,406,000 more in 1998/1999).

Budget variances were due to:

The budget figures as published in the Treasurer's budget papers 1999/2000 were subsequently reviewed and varied to reflect more up to date information and budget decisions by the Treasury. Following a review of the Museum's finances during the year by Treasury, the Museum's base funding was supported by \$1,200,000 and an amount of \$3,400,000 was transferred from Capital to Recurrent.

Employee related expenses were effected by the Public Sector Award as well as increased commercial activity by Museum business units.

Maintenance expenses were decreased substantially due to the contracts not being progressed in time. Grants

income increased substantially. Grants expenditure is only undertaken in line with formal agreements for the provision of grants funding. Sales of Goods and Services decreased due to a reduction in the number of people visiting the Museum.

### Assets and Liabilities

The major capitalisation of exhibits was the *Bats* exhibition \$355,771, *Living Colour* exhibition \$587,847, *Body Art* exhibition \$421,588 and *Australia's Lost Kingdoms* exhibition \$565,315.

### Cash Flows

Decreased attendances, an increase in grants received as well as the transfer of funds by Treasury from the Capital to Recurrent allocations effected cash flows. The Minor Works in Progress were committed but the contracts were not fulfilled during the year, resulting in a minor under capitalisation.

## 3. EXPENSES

	1999/00 \$'000	1998/99 \$'000
<b>(a) Employee related expenses</b>		
Comprised the following specific items:		
Salaries and wages (including recreation leave)	15,651	15,926
Superannuation entitlements	1,453	1,363
Payroll tax and fringe benefit tax	1,132	1,219
Long service leave	505	575
Workers compensation insurance	208	236
Other	12	11
	18,961	19,330
<b>(b) Other operating expenses</b>		
Comprised the following items:		
Audit remuneration	36	35
Bad and doubtful debts	52	14
Rental expense	588	629
Freight	247	129
Motor vehicles	141	147
Advertising and promotional	1,104	1,205
Electricity	274	276
Consultants	213	12
Contractors	1,308	1,152
Travel and accommodation	494	299
Cleaning and waste removal	468	430
Cost of sales	729	840
Insurance	378	389
Postal and telephone	528	513
Working expenses	2,478	5,617
Printing	524	479
Maintenance contracts	305	126
	9,867	12,292

**3. EXPENSES CONTINUED**

	1999/00 \$'000	1998/99 \$'000
<b>(c) Maintenance</b>		
Comprised the following items:		
Repairs and routine maintenance	655	1,379
	<u>655</u>	<u>1,379</u>

**(d) Depreciation**

Depreciation was charged as follows:

Buildings	126	288
Exhibitions	1,185	937
Plant and equipment	1,780	1,703
	<u>3,091</u>	<u>2,928</u>

**(e) Grants and Subsidies**

Grants and subsidies were as follows:

Visiting Fellowships	59	72
Postgraduate research grants	18	24
	<u>77</u>	<u>96</u>

**4. RETAINED REVENUE****(a) Sale of Goods**

Comprised the following items:

Subscriptions/sales	2,251	2,284
Admissions	1,380	2,143
Fees for services	2,798	4,284
Miscellaneous	584	424
	<u>7,013</u>	<u>9,135</u>

**(b) Investment Income**

Interest	54	62
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**5. GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Revenue from Grants and Contributions comprised:

Scientific research—Federal Government grants	593	545
Scientific research—State Government grants	259	215
Other grants	161	1,231
Donations	224	12
Other	93	377
	<u>1,330</u>	<u>2,380</u>

**6. CONDITIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESTRICTED ASSETS**

The Museum receives grants from various bodies for specific purposes (see note 5). These grants, whilst specific in nature, do not impose conditions as to how the funds are to be expended other than in accordance with the grant's purpose. Funds unexpended at balance date comprise:

Scientific research—Federal Government grants	373	235
Scientific research—State Government grants	164	(9)
Other grants	445	195
	<u>982</u>	<u>421</u>

Application of Trust assets is restricted because conditions of the grants require future allocation of available funds for specified purposes.

**7. GAIN/(LOSS) ON SALE OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS**

	1999/00	1998/99
	\$'000	\$'000
Gain/(Loss) on disposal of non-current assets		
Proceeds from sale	5	-
Written down value of assets sold	(92)	-
<b>Gain/(Loss) on sale of non current assets</b>	<b>(87)</b>	<b>-</b>

**8. ACCEPTANCE BY CROWN TRANSACTIONS ENTITY OF EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS AND OTHER LIABILITIES**

The following liabilities and/or expenses have been assumed by the Crown Transactions Entity or other government agencies:

Superannuation	1,453	1339
Long service leave	496	425
Payroll tax on superannuation	93	92
	<b>2,042</b>	<b>1,856</b>

**9. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash at bank	55	35
Cash on hand	20	18
	<b>75</b>	<b>53</b>

Refer to note 12(b) for bank overdraft.

**10. CURRENT ASSETS****(a) Investments**

Investments recorded at cost comprised:

Bank term deposits	2,256	988
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Investments are brought to account at cost. The face value is \$2,256,068 as at 30 June 2000 (\$987,559 as at 30 June 1999). Investments are on deposit "at call" with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The interest rate for the duration of the investment has been 4.5% based on average daily deposits payable quarterly.

**(b) Receivables**

At an aggregate value of \$943,000 was recorded at balance date and comprised:

Trade debtors	834	1,033
Accrued revenue payments	147	257
Other receivables	17	48
	<b>998</b>	<b>1,338</b>
Less provision for doubtful debts	55	8
	<b>943</b>	<b>1,330</b>

The trade debtors are aged:

Less than 30 days	648	397
30 to 59 days	53	228
60 to 120 days	3	46
120 and over	130	362
	<b>834</b>	<b>1,033</b>

**(c) Inventories**

The value recorded at 30 June 2000 of \$240,709 (\$254,280 as at 30 June 1999) represented stock in trade held in the Museum's shop outlets and finished goods. All stock is considered current assets.



## 11. NON-CURRENT ASSETS

### (a) Summary of Property, Plant and Equipment

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Plant & Equip \$'000	Exhibits \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 July 1999	-	1,004	7,216	10,083	18,303
Additions	-	3	2,915	1,972	4,890
Disposals	-	-	619	-	619
At 30 June 2000	-	1,007	9,512	12,055	22,574
<b>Valuation</b>					
At 1 July 1999	15,870	177,590	10,370	-	203,830
Increments	-	-	-	-	-
Decrements	-	-	-	-	-
At 30 June 2000	15,870	177,590	10,370	-	203,830
<b>Cost and Valuation</b>	<b>15,870</b>	<b>178,597</b>	<b>19,882</b>	<b>12,055</b>	<b>226,404</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 July 1999	-	1,532	3,681	5,735	10,948
Charge for year	-	126	1,780	1,185	3,091
Disposals	-	-	528	-	528
At 30 June 2000	-	1,658	4,933	6,920	13,511
<b>Net book value at 30 June 2000</b>	<b>15,870</b>	<b>176,939</b>	<b>14,949</b>	<b>5,135</b>	<b>212,893</b>
At 30 June 1999	15,870	177,063	13,905	4,348	211,186

### (b) Land and Buildings

The value recorded in the Statement of Financial Position covers the following Trust Property:

	1999/00 Land \$'000	1999/00 Buildings \$'000	Total \$'000	1998/99 \$'000
Museum Property				
- College and William Street, Sydney (at valuation)	10,000	175,492	185,492	185,492
Museum Property				
- Yurong and William Street, Sydney (at valuation)	5,870	-	5,870	5,870
Lizard Island Research Station buildings (at valuation)	-	3,103	3,103	3,103
Less accumulated depreciation	-	(1,656)	(1,656)	(1,532)
	<b>15,870</b>	<b>176,939</b>	<b>192,809</b>	<b>192,933</b>

The Valuer General's Department valued the land at a market valuation. The date of valuation was 30 June 1995 for College Street. Land is valued at market value.

The Lizard Island Research Station site is occupied by the Trust as lessee from the Queensland Government. The initial lease was for a period of 25 years and terminated in 1998. A new lease at a nominal annual rental is currently being negotiated.

The Museum's heritage buildings are valued at replacement cost for a building closely resembling the existing facility. Other Museum buildings are valued based on the estimated written-down replacement cost of the most appropriate modern equivalent replacement facility having a similar service potential to the existing asset. The buildings were valued in June 1998 by Bryan Hazlewood, Quantity Surveyor.

**(c) Plant and Equipment**

	1999/00 \$'000	1998/99 \$'000
The book values are summarised as follows:		
Book value at 1 July	13,905	12,339
Net additions/deletions	2,296	3,214
Revaluation	-	-
	<u>16,201</u>	<u>15,553</u>
Less depreciation	1,252	1,648
Book value at 30 June	<u>14,949</u>	<u>13,905</u>

It is considered that the market value of plant and equipment approximates the book value. Fully depreciated items included in the plant and equipment register and still in use comprise some computers, microscopes, cameras and other items.

**(d) Exhibitions**

The value of exhibitions represents capitalisation of the development and establishment costs of exhibitions that will continue to generate revenue or provide a community service beyond the financial year or years in which these costs were incurred.

Capitalised development and establishment costs include material and construction expenditure but do not include an assessment of the intrinsic value of collection items incorporated in an exhibition unless specifically purchased and costed for the purpose. Labour costs for permanent staff inputs to the development of exhibitions are reflected in employee-related expenses and are not included in the capitalisation of exhibitions.

Book value of exhibitions operational at 1 July	4,348	3,519
Capitalisation of exhibitions developed	<u>1,972</u>	<u>1,766</u>
	6,320	5,285
Less depreciation to operating statement	1,185	937
Book value of exhibitions at 30 June	<u>5,135</u>	<u>4,348</u>

The Museum has a number of fully depreciated exhibits. The main items included in this category are the Birds Gallery, Insects Gallery, Marine Gallery, Mineral Gallery and Reptile Area. The Museum continues to derive service potential and economic benefit from these exhibits.

**12. CURRENT/NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES****(a) Accounts Payable**

Creditors	274	612
Accruals	584	355
Income received in advance	<u>63</u>	<u>171</u>
	921	1,138

**(b) Current Liabilities**

Bank overdraft	69	160
Borrowings	<u>200</u>	<u>100</u>
	269	260

**Non-Current Liabilities**

Borrowings	-	<u>100</u>
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The bank overdraft is represented by unpresented cheques at 30 June 2000. Borrowings represent a non-interest-bearing loan repayable in the next financial year.

**(c) Employee Entitlements**

Recreation leave	1,491	1,475
Accrued salaries and wages	316	412
Balance at 30 June	<u>1,807</u>	<u>1,887</u>

**13. CHANGES IN EQUITY**

	Accumulated Funds		Asset Revaluation		Total Equity	
	1999/00	1998/99	1999/00	1998/99	1999/00	1998/99
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	7,676	7,944	202,750	202,750	210,426	210,694
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	2,985	(268)	-	-	2,985	(268)
Increment/decrement on revaluation of:						
Buildings and improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at the end of the financial year	10,661	7,676	202,750	202,750	213,411	210,426

**14. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE****(a) Other Expenditure Commitments**

Purchase orders for goods and services contracted for at 30 June 2000 not otherwise accounted for in the Statement of Financial Position totalled \$348,977 (\$1,155,491 at 30 June 1999). All commitments are likely to fall due not later than one year.

**(b) Capital Commitments**

Purchase orders for goods and services contracted for at 30 June 2000 not otherwise accounted for in the Statement of Financial Position totalled \$1,159,886 (\$665,698 at 30 June 1999). All commitments are likely to fall due not later than one year.

**(c) Operating Lease Commitments**

The Trust has forward commitments for lease rentals with respect to three properties it occupies as lessee. The aggregate lease expenditure contracted for at 30 June 2000 (subject to adjustments) comprises:

	1999/00	1998/99
	\$'000	\$'000
Not later than 1 year	676	414
Later than 1 year & not later than 5 years	1,021	1,404
Later than 5 years	-	-
	<b>1,697</b>	<b>1,818</b>

These operating lease commitments are not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities.

**(d) Goods and Services Tax**

Other expenditure commitments disclosed above include \$291,169 for Goods and Services Tax. A contingent asset exists for the same amount, which is recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.

**15. MATERIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED AT NO COST TO THE MUSEUM**

Material assistance provided to the Museum for which payment was not made (figures are not available as to the cost of these services) included:

Volunteer services  
Industrial relations from the Department of Industrial Relations  
Donation of objects for the collections.

**16. AUDIT FEE**

The fee for the audit of the Museum's accounts and records by the Audit Office of New South Wales was \$36,000 (\$34,500 in 1998/99). No other benefits were provided/paid in respect of the audit. Internal audit was provided by the Internal Audit Bureau and paid for by the Ministry for the Arts.

**17. MEMBERS FEES OR BENEFITS ETC.**

Trust members do not receive emoluments or other benefits of office. There were no loans made to members or employees of the Trust.

**18. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

The Trust was not aware of any contingent liability relevant to its functions as at 30 June 2000.

**19. NOTE TO STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS****(a) Reconciliation to Cash**

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in the bank accounts (including overdrafts). Cash at the end of financial year shown in the cash-flow statement is reconciled to the items Cash and Borrowings in the balance sheet as follows:

	1999/00	1998/99
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash on hand	20	18
Salary advance account	13	24
Lizard Island advance account	10	10
Trust operating account	(69)	(156)
The Australian Museum Society accounts	29	(4)
Peter Rankin Memorial fund	3	1
	<u>6</u>	<u>(107)</u>

**(b) Reconciliation of Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities to Net Cost of Services**

Net cash used on operating activities	(6,266)	(3,737)
Depreciation	3,091	2,928
Acceptance by Crown Entity of Museum liabilities	2,042	1,856
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(80)	505
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	387	(431)
Loss on disposal of plant & equipment	87	-
Decrease/(increase) in inventory	13	(76)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(217)	1,079
Government recurrent allocation	20,268	16,559
Government capital allocation	5,016	5,765
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<u><b>24,341</b></u>	<u><b>24,448</b></u>

**(c) Bank Overdraft Facility**

The Museum has a \$403,000 bank overdraft facility on its operating account for payroll processing purposes. An offset facility of \$100,000 is included as part of this facility.

**20. YEAR 2000 DATE CHANGE**

The Australian Museum did not experience any impact from the Y2K date change or the Leap Year additional day. Funds had been provided to deal with the potential difficulties.

**21. PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The Australian Museum operates under one program. The objective is to increase understanding of, and influence public debate on, the natural environment, human societies and human interaction with the environment.

**END OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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## Corporate Governance

The Australian Museum exists in a framework of corporate governance that includes general public-sector statutory requirements and regulations, together with the Australian Museum Trust. The Trust is constituted under the *Australian Museum Trust Act 1975* and the *Australian Museum Trust Regulation 1998*. The Act states that the object of the Trust is to propagate and increase knowledge about the natural environment of Australia with particular emphasis on the natural sciences of biology, anthropology and geology (sections 7(1) and (2)). The Trust meets every two months and comprises nine appointed members (see below).

The Trust may establish committees (section 8(7)) and has formed the Development Committee, Program Committee, Finance Audit and Review Committee, and the Lizard Island Research Station Foundation to assist it in the exercise of its duties. These committees also meet regularly, in the lead-up to Trust meetings.

## Australian Museum Trust

The Australian Museum Trust consists of nine trustees appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister. A Trustee is appointed for three years but is eligible for reappointment. A Trustee is not to hold office for four consecutive terms. The President of the Trust is nominated by the Minister. The Governor may, on the nomination of the Minister, appoint a person to fill any vacancy that occurs for the residue of the term of office of his or her predecessor. The appointment of a Trustee takes effect on 1 January of the year following that in which the appointment is made. The Trustees must include at least one person who has a knowledge of or experience in science; and at least one person who has a knowledge of or experience in education.

### Trust Profiles

*Mr Malcolm Long (President)* LLB is Director of Communications Strategies and Management Pty Ltd, a Director of Pan TV Ltd, a member of the Musica Viva National Council and former Chairman of International Institute of Communications. From 1993 to 1997 he was Managing Director of the SBS Corporation, Australia's multicultural and multilingual broadcaster. Prior to joining SBS, he was Deputy Managing Director of the ABC. He was appointed to the Trust in January 1995 and appointed President in January 1996.

*Ms Deeta Colvin* is the principal and founder of Colvin Communications International, an Australian firm specialising in niche marketing and publicity strategies for international events and luxury consumables including fashion, travel, food, wine, cosmetics and jewellery. Ms Colvin is a member of several committees including the NSW Cancer Council Breast Cancer Awareness Committee, the Committee for the Garvin Institute and the Business Council of the Art Gallery

of NSW. She is a member of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the National Art School Board and the Public Relations Institute. Ms Colvin has a BA from the University of New England and postgraduate qualifications in industrial relations law from Sydney University. Ms Colvin was appointed to the Trust in June 1997.

*Ms Lucy Hughes-Turnbull* holds a BL and an MBA from Sydney and NSW Universities respectively. She has worked as a solicitor and investment banker since 1986, specialising in commercial, corporate, insolvency and trade-practices law. In investment banking, she has worked in the corporate advisory area, mostly in investment evaluation and financial-statement analysis.

She is Chair of the Sydney Children's Hospital Appeal and a Director of the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation Ltd. She is also a Director of several companies, including Turnbull and Partners Holdings Ltd. She joined the Trust in January 1995 and was elected Deputy President in January 1998. She resigned from the Trust in October 1999.

*Professor Judith Kinnear* is Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) at the University of Sydney. In that position, she has a leading role in the development of international education and exchange programs, particularly in Asia. She has a BSc in zoology and a PhD in genetics. She also has qualifications in computer simulation and education, and has worked on campuses in Melbourne, Sydney, London and New York. Professor Kinnear joined the Trust in January 1998.

*Mr Quang Luu* BA, LLB (Saigon), LLB (ANU) is Head of SBS Radio, a Director of MSTL Ltd, a subsidiary company of the SBS Corporation, and alternate Director of PAN TV Ltd. He was admitted as a Barrister of the Supreme Court of NSW in 1982. Mr Luu is a former South Vietnamese career diplomat and State Director of the Federal Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in NSW. He has been widely involved in community and philanthropic work, including as a Board Member of the Refugee Council of Australia and a Trustee of the Charitable Trust of the Australian Chinese Medical Association. Mr Luu was also the Founding President of the Vietnamese Community in Australia. He was appointed to the Trust in October 1998.

*Mr Andrew Roberts* BCom, MBA (UNSW) is Deputy Managing Director of Multiplex Constructions. He also holds directorships with various companies within the Multiplex group, MTM Funds Management and Danae Resources NL. Mr Roberts is a member of the Australian Society of Accountants and has undertaken postgraduate studies in property finance at the University of California, Berkeley. He was appointed to the Trust in January 2000.

*Associate Professor Margaret Rose* is Director of Animal Care for the Prince Henry, Prince of Wales and the Prince of

Wales Children's Hospitals, and an Associate Professor in the Clinical School of the University of NSW. She is a veterinarian with over 20 years experience in biomedical research. For most of that time, she has been involved in issues relating to science and public policy, particularly with regard to the use of animals in research and teaching. She is Chair of the Animal Research Review Panel. She also serves as a member of the NSW Government Animal Welfare Advisory Council and is a founding member of the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching. She joined the Trust in January 1995.

*Associate Professor Stephan Schnierer* is Director of the College of Indigenous Australian Peoples at the Southern Cross University, Lismore. He holds an MSc in marine biology and has experience in teaching and consulting in aquaculture and fisheries management. He has worked with Indigenous communities in issues relating to the environment and resource management, Indigenous knowledge systems and cultural heritage. He is an Indigenous Australian and joined the Trust in January 1998.

*Ms Julianna Walton* BA, LLB (Sydney), MT&CP (Sydney) is a qualified lawyer and planner, and a non-practising Solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW. Ms Walton began her career as a policy officer with the NSW Local Government and Shires Associations, before moving into government as a ministerial adviser and a consultant to government in a range of areas, including legislation review, planning policy, systems review, public policy and regulatory systems. From September 1991 to September 1999, Ms Walton was a Sydney City Councillor. She is currently the Chairman of the Fair Trading Advisory Council and of the Property Services Advisory Council, and Director of the State Transit Authority. She was appointed to the Trust in January 2000.

*Professor John Whitehouse* is a partner in the law firm Minter Ellison, principally practising in the areas of planning, environment, local government and mining. He is Honorary Professional Fellow of the Centre for Natural Resources, Law and Policy in the School of Law, University of Wollongong, Visiting Fellow on Environmental Studies in the Graduate School of the Environment, Macquarie University, and Chairman of the Sydney Catchment Authority. Professor Whitehouse was a partner with Dunhill Madden Butler from 1991 to 1996 and established the firm's local government, environment and planning practice. He was Director of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service from 1985 to 1989. Professor Whitehouse was appointed to the Trust in March 1997.

#### **Attendances of Meetings for Australian Museum Trust**

There were six meetings of the Australian Museum Trust in 1999/2000.

Attendances were as follows:

Mr Malcolm Long, President	(6)
Ms Deeta Colvin	(3)
Ms Lucy Hughes-Turnbull, Deputy President (resigned October 1999)	(0)
Professor Judith Kinnear	(5)
Mr Quang Luu	(5)
Mr Andrew Roberts (appointed October 1999)	(4)
Associate Professor Margaret Rose	(6)
Associate Professor Stephan Schnierer	(3)
Ms Julianna Walton (appointed January 2000)	(3)
Professor John Whitehouse	(3)

#### **Trust Committees**

##### **Development Committee**

Professor Judith Kinnear, Mr Malcolm Long, Mr Andrew Roberts, Associate Professor Margaret Rose, Associate Professor Stephan Schnierer

##### **Financial Audit and Review Committee**

Ms Vanessa Hudson, Mr Quang Luu, Professor John Whitehouse

##### **Lizard Island Research Station Foundation**

Associate Professor Margaret Rose, Ms Julianna Walton

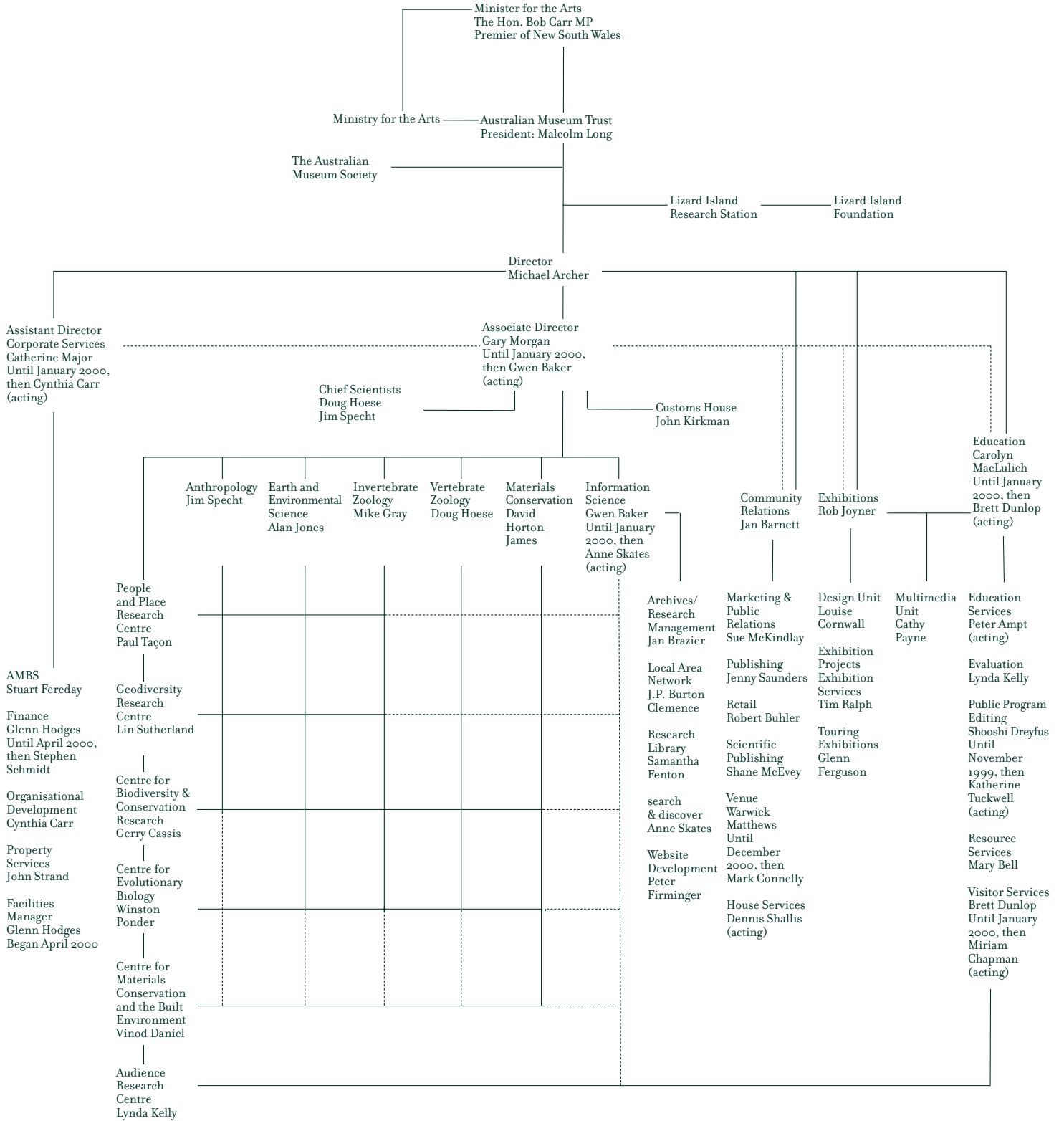
##### **Program Committee**

Ms Deeta Colvin, Ms Lucy Hughes-Turnbull, Associate Professor Margaret Rose, Associate Professor Stephan Schnierer

#### **Senior Executive Service**

The number of SES positions at the Museum remained unchanged from the previous year at three: Director, Associate Director and Assistant Director of Corporate Services. The position of Director is held by Professor Michael Archer BA, PhD, FRZSNSW, the Associate Director is Gary Morgan BSc(Hons), PhD, and the Assistant Director is Catherine Major BA(Hons), ACIS, AFAIM. One SES position, that of Assistant Director, is held by a woman, which is the same as that for the 1998/99 reporting year. The Museum has no SES positions of or above level 5. In January 2000, Gary Morgan resigned from his position as Associate Director.

### Organisational Chart





## Management Reforms

During 1999/2000, the Museum undertook a range of reviews and activities to ensure the best positioning for a sustainable future. A Management Reform Agenda has been developed to address management and operational issues of the Australian Museum. This Management Plan includes financial, structural, planning, leadership and employment reforms to maintain and improve the range of events, programs and services provided by the Museum. Current reforms include:

**Leadership Reforms:** The Museum will appoint a Deputy Director to manage the operations across the Museum's activities and assist the Director with the external and strategic priorities of the Museum. A new senior-management structure is being designed to strategically align the current activities into four key functional areas to maximise resources to achieve the corporate goals.

**Reviews:** An independent operational review of the Finance Section was commissioned to ensure that it is equipped to meet current and future needs. Nexus Management Consultants was engaged in June 1999 and identified a number of recommendations at the macro and micro levels that are currently being implemented.

**Planning:** The Museum's first Service Strategy was developed in 1999. It represents a bridge between our previous planning and future planning that will assist in the focus on outcomes for customers and stakeholders. This first Service Strategy emphasises areas of change, in order to achieve the service outcomes in the Strategy and maximise our value to the community.

**Business Models:** The development and implementation of processes for business cases for all major new initiatives and major changes to products and services are being developed to support future initiatives.

## Ethnic Affairs Priority Statement

The Australian Museum is strongly committed to the principles underpinning cultural diversity. As part of the Museum's Corporate Strategic Plan for 1998–2001, the following two major strategies were developed:

- to provide experiences that excite and stimulate people to find out more about, and to act in ways that respect, environmental and cultural diversity; and
- to provide new and improved access to the Museum's knowledge, facilities and collection.

Some key achievements for 1999/2000 included:

**Community Access Programs:** The photographic project and exhibition *Picture Sydney: Landmarks of a New*

*Generation* involved 19 culturally diverse young people aged 12–17 exploring their landmarks through photography. The project, based on a model established by the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles, was included in the Board of Studies NSW Teaching Heritage website and the exhibition was featured in over 20 media articles including *Photofile*, Australia's leading photography journal. The exhibition's catalogue won a commendation in the Energy Australia National Trust Heritage Awards 2000. The Museum was partnered by the NSW Department of Education and Training's Youth Assistance Strategies Scheme and the NSW Heritage Office in funding the project and the catalogue. The Museum also hosted and developed the exhibition and installation, *Day of the Dead*, created by Mexican artist Felipe Ehrenberg and involving the local Mexican community under the auspices of the Mexican Consulate. The Community Access Program was discontinued from 30 June 2000, after some six years of operation, and the Museum's commitment to cultural diversity will be developed through 'mainstream' programs in the future.

**Exhibitions:** The major temporary exhibition *Body Art* was developed using extensive community consultation, modelled on the processes established by the Community Access Program. Communities consulted and represented in the exhibition and programs included Indian, Chinese, Aboriginal, Samoan, Maori, Vanuatan and African, as well as the gay and lesbian community. *Living Colour*, another major temporary exhibition developed with community consultation, explored cultural beliefs about colour with Chinese, Aboriginal, Tibetan-Buddhist and Indian communities.

**Biodiversity Program:** A community display was staged in the *Biodiversity* exhibition to showcase the Ethnic Communities Waste Education Project, a joint effort between the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW and the Southern Sydney Waste Board. This project informed the community of the importance of waste minimisation, using written material in community languages.

**djamu Gallery:** The eight exhibitions at *djamu* Gallery, the Australian Museum at Customs House, all involved Indigenous inputs and participation: *Ngayulu-latju Palyantja*, *Kitset Cultures*, *Menthuen—Queue Here*, *Mapping our Countries*, *The Power of Hair*, *Sospen Graun: Pottery from Papua New Guinea*, *Back to the Walls: Tribal Murals and Aerosol Walls from India, Australia, Fiji and New Zealand*, and *Sea of Hands*.

**Cultural Protocols:** During the year the Museum established a Cultural Protocols Consultative Group to advise the Director and senior staff on policy and practical matters relating to Indigenous people who are involved in Museum activities. Where appropriate, this group may also offer advice on matters relating to people of culturally diverse backgrounds.

**Multilingual Information:** A new self-guided tour map for first-time visitors was produced in English and six other languages (Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean and Spanish), with further languages being considered. The Museum improved customer access to Museum staff with multilingual abilities by refining and updating its database of staff with specific language abilities.

**Implementation of Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody**

Initiatives have been undertaken by the Museum to implement recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, specifically Recommendation 56, which states in part:

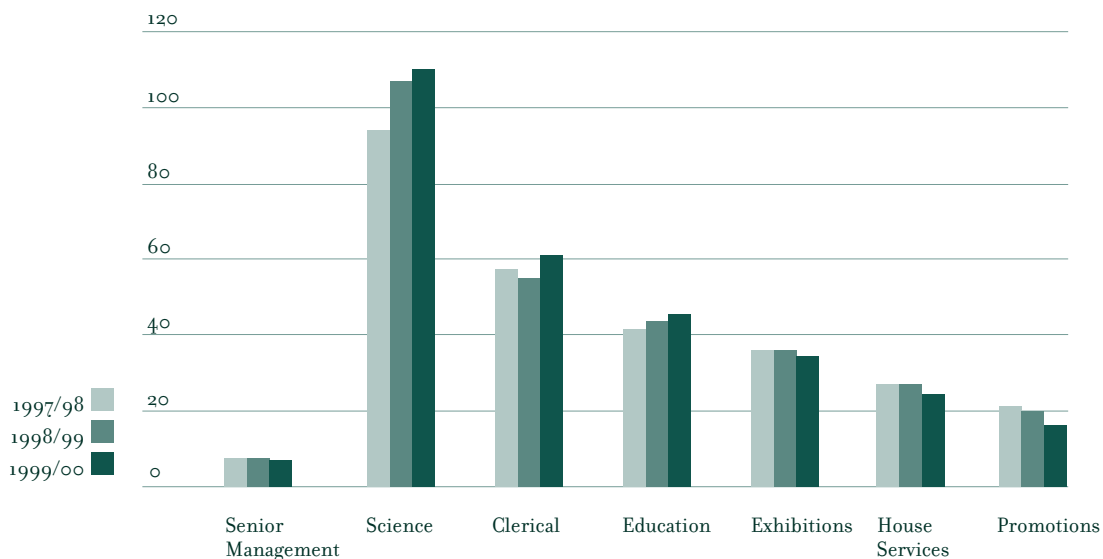
“Many Aboriginal people have expressed the wish to record and make known to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people aspects of the history, traditions and contemporary culture of Aboriginal society... The Commission recommends that government

and appropriate heritage authorities negotiate with Aboriginal Communities and organisations in order to support such Aboriginal initiatives.”

The Museum is committed to supporting this recommendation through the management, care, conservation and presentation of collections of Aboriginal-heritage items from NSW and other parts of Australia.

The Museum continued the Aboriginal Heritage outreach program in regional and rural centres to assist the development of local-level Aboriginal cultural centres and museums. There are now 14 participating organisations in this scheme, which is funded through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. The Museum continued its commitment to the Aboriginal Employment Strategy and is employing staff under the Elsa Dixon Employment and Career Development Program. The *Indigenous Australians* exhibition, developed with extensive community consultation, continued to be a key exhibition at the College Street site and was supported by six changing Indigenous community-developed exhibits and programs throughout the year. The *Indigenous Australians* Museum-on-the-Road travelling exhibition and the Aboriginal Studies Museum-in-a-Box Units continued to support regional and rural communities and schools around NSW.

**Staffing Statistics**



## Disability Plan Report

The new Australian Museum Disability Plan has been developed and forwarded to the Department of Aging and Disability for comment in June 2000. The Plan will be operational in September 2000.

## Human Resources

During the year, the Museum has focused on a program of reform that more closely aligns the service-delivery needs of its customers. A new management structure is being developed that will see a greater emphasis on collaborative work practices between functional areas of the Museum, enabling future needs to be met more effectively and efficiently. These reforms will be developed and implemented using consultative mechanisms and specific Human Resources strategies. The Australian Museum is committed to the professional development of its workforce, and training for the reporting year has been based on the Australian Museum's management-reform agenda. This commenced with training for senior management to underpin the future restructure. Staff-development courses for

Developing a Business Case Program, Activity-based Costing for Effective Decision Making, Intelligent Leadership, and a Step-by-Step Guide to the Disciplinary Process were also conducted. Other general training included First Aid Training and Security Training. During the year, a new Occupational Health and Safety Policy, and a Harassment Policy and Grievance Policy were developed and implemented.

## Equal Employment Opportunity

A new EEO Management Plan was developed and is based on the NSW EEO Framework. The aim of the first year of the Plan is to establish a sound information base to inform strategies for the future. To assist this, an EEO re-survey was undertaken in the reporting period. The response rate for the survey increased by 20 per cent from previous years and the Australian Museum is currently collating the data to ensure that current policies and practices reflect the EEO strategies of the Management Plan. Where apparent, appropriate strategies will be implemented to ensure that our workforce meets the benchmarks for public-sector organisations.

**Table 1. Percentage of total staff by level**

Level	Total staff (number)	Staff responding to EEO survey	Men	Women	Aboriginal people & Torres Strait Islanders	People from racial, ethnic, ethno-religious minority groups	People whose language first spoken as a child was not English	People with a disability	People with a disability requiring work-related adjustment
< \$26,276	70	39%	24%	76%	0%	7%	15%	11%	3.7%
\$26,276 – \$34,512	60	48%	48%	52%	6.9%	24%	24%	28%	13.8%
\$34,513 – \$38,582	90	54%	38%	62%	2.0%	20%	16%	12%	2.0%
\$38,583 – \$48,823	84	70%	40%	60%	5.1%	15%	14%	12%	1.7%
\$48,824 – \$63,137	81	69%	60%	40%	0%	18%	13%	14%	1.8%
\$63,138 – \$78,921	25	68%	68%	32%	0%	18%	12%	12%	0%
> \$78,921 (non-SES)	15	80%	87%	13%	0%	17%	0%	17%	0%
> \$78,921 (SES)	2	50%	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	66.7%	0%
TOTAL	427	59%	45%	55%	2.4%	17%	15%	15%	3.6%
Subgroup totals (number)		250	194	233	6	43	36	37	8

Table 2. Percentage of total staff by employment basis

Employment basis	Total staff (number)	Staff responding to EEO survey	Men	Women	Aboriginal people & Torres Strait Islanders	People from racial, ethnic, ethno-religious minority groups	People whose language first spoken as a child was not English	People with a disability	People with a disability requiring work-related adjustment
<b>Permanent</b>									
Full-time	177	71%	62%	38%	3.2%	19%	16%	16%	5.6%
Part-time	32	69%	16%	84%	4.5%	5%	18%	5%	4.5%
<b>Temporary</b>									
Full-time	77	71%	44%	56%	0%	16%	16%	16%	0%
Part-time	22	73%	27%	73%	0%	6%	6%	13%	0%
<b>Contract</b>									
SES	2	50%	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	66.7%	0%
Non-SES	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Casual	117	26%	33%	67%	3.3%	27%	7%	13%	0%
TOTAL	427	59%	45%	55%	2.6%	19%	13%	15%	2.6%
Subgroup totals (number)		250	194	233	6	43	36	37	8

### Freedom of Information—Statement of Affairs

The following Statement of Affairs for the Australian Museum is presented in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*, Section 14(1)(b) and 3.

The Museum's Statement (FOI Agency No. 377) is correct as at 30 June 2000.

The Australian Museum had its inception as the Colonial Museum in 1827 and was subsequently incorporated by Act of Parliament as the Australian Museum in 1853. The *Australian Museum Trust Act 1975* and the *Australian Museum Trust Regulation 1998* define the powers, authorities, duties and functions of the Australian Museum Trust.

The Organisational Chart outlines the formal structure and responsibilities of the various Divisions of the Museum. The Mission of the Australian Museum is to increase understanding of, and influence public debate on, the natural environment, human societies and human interaction with the environment. The objectives of the Museum are published in each year's Annual Report. The objectives, which are derived from the Mission and values, are:

- to extend the influence of our research and new understandings of the world on current audiences and interest groups by being more aware of, and responsive to, user needs;

- to raise awareness of the Museum and our role in communicating and influencing debate on environmental and cultural issues through research and knowledge; and
- to extend our reach in current and new audiences using innovative and user-responsive approaches to providing services.

The objectives are also published in the Museum's Corporate Strategic Plan 1998–2001. There are four strategies developed in the Strategic Plan to enable the Museum to achieve its objectives: Access; the Physical Experience; Virtual Access; and Science 2020. Copies of the Museum's Corporate Strategic Plan are available for inspection in the Museum's Research Library or on the Museum's website ([www.austmus.gov.au](http://www.austmus.gov.au)).

The Australian Museum has been involved in Corporate Planning since 1976. The plans give focus and direction to critical issues affecting the Museum's development. It is our aim that planning and assessment of progress become an integral part of the corporate culture of the Museum. Performance criteria are included within every strategic objective of the Corporate Strategic Plan. As indicated in the Corporate Strategic Plan and the Annual Report, the key stakeholder in our operations is the public. Through research, exhibitions, education and other Public Programs, the Museum aims to produce and communicate knowledge that is intended to generate understanding and affect the community's attitudes and actions.

The Museum will provide visitors and the wider audience with a fair and reasonable opportunity to be heard regarding any aspect of the running of the Museum. The Museum regularly surveys and monitors community opinions and involves itself in a wide range of public discussion and liaison with various groups. The Australian Museum website ([www.austmus.gov.au](http://www.austmus.gov.au)) provides much online information on the Museum, including its Public Programs, research work and current projects, and offers online information products and services.

#### **Documents Held by the Australian Museum**

As might be expected from an institution of the age and nature of the Australian Museum, many documents are held, mainly on site. The categories of documents held are described below, as are the ways in which they may be accessed, and whether or not a charge is involved. Some of the documents listed below are freely available. However, for various reasons, such as personal privacy or commercial confidentiality, some documents may not be made available informally without the need for a formal FOI application. Requests for access to documents that are not generally open for inspection should be made to the FOI Coordinator.

#### **Archives**

The extant records of the Australian Museum date from 1836 and form a unique collection of source material for students of natural history, science, Australian history, and the changing role of museums in our society. In conjunction with the acquisition of large specimen and artefact collections, there developed a correspondingly large group of supporting documentation, such as accession schedules, purchase and exchange records, correspondence, minutes of various committees and personal papers, all of which are part of the Archives holdings. A large body of official inward and outward correspondence from 1837 onwards is held and the majority of this indexed. In addition, the Archives holds Minute Books, reports, files, exhibition files, research notes and papers, newscuttings, photographs, drawings and illustrations, material archives, maps, plans and publications. *A Guide to the Australian Museum Archives (1989)* is available for consultation or purchase through the Australian Museum Archives.

Access to items held in the Archives is available through the Australian Museum Archives. The Museum's institutional archives are public records. They come under the *NSW State Records Act 1998* and are managed in accordance with that Act. Acquired archives are accessed in accordance with donor conditions.

#### **Staff Records**

All records relating to staff selection, appraisal, recruitment and training are held in the Organisational Development Section. Staff of the Museum may gain

access to their own files by contacting this section. Other records are generally not available for inspection.

#### **Administrative Records**

These include current records held in the offices of the Director, Associate Director and Assistant Director of Corporate Services; centrally registered current and semi-current records held in the Central Records System (CRS); and non-current records that have been transferred to the Archives. These records cover all aspects of the Museum's decision-making and administrative functions, and are vital to both the day-to-day operations of the Museum, as well as being the source of the Museum's permanent administrative archival record.

#### **Scientific Records**

The functions of the scientific sections include collection management, research, contributing to Public Programs and disseminating information. The records created and maintained reflect these functions, viz. collection records (documenting the acquisition, registration, use, conservation and management of the collections), research records (notes, data, field trips, pictorial material, manuscripts, conferences and committee papers, professional societies), information files, publications, correspondence files and administrative records (budgets, corporate plans, grant applications, annual reports, correspondence).

#### **Public Program Records**

Records documenting the functions of the Museum's Public Programs are held. These include Public Programs Guidelines, exhibition files, education files, public relations and marketing files, audience research surveys and reports, planning papers and reports, teaching materials and publications.

#### **Other Sections**

Various other sections (property, finance, library, publishing) have records that are not part of the above-mentioned systems. These records include correspondence, project files, financial documents, corporate plans and documentation specific to the objectives and services of the specific section.

#### **Planning and Policy Documents**

Corporate Strategic Plan  
 Science Strategic Plan  
 Information Management and Technology Strategic Plan  
 Marketing Plan  
 Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan  
 Annual Report on Ethnic Affairs and Statement of Intent  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collections and Related Issues  
 Code of Conduct Policy  
 Commercial Publications by Museum Staff

AMBS Commercialisation Activities  
 Conflict of Interest  
 Corporate Sponsorship Guidelines  
 Charter for a Culturally Diverse Society  
 Email Policy  
 Environmental Submissions Policy  
 Environmental Survey Policy  
 Evaluation Policy and Guidelines  
 Export of Non-living Specimens  
 Family/Friends on Field Trips  
 Future Directions for Scientific Research  
 Guarantee of Service  
 Grievance and Dispute Handling Procedures  
 Harassment Free Workplace Policy  
 Internet Access and Usage  
 Legal Contracts  
 Occupational Health and Safety Policy  
 Overseas Travel  
 Records Management Policy  
 Remote Access Guidelines  
 Sick Leave Policy  
 Software Policy  
 Staff Development Policy  
 Study Time Policy  
 TAMS Excursions—Leave Provisions for Staff Leaders  
 Access to Trust Minutes Policy  
 Motor Vehicle Policy  
 Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy and Plan

These documents may all be accessed through the Australian Museum Archives.

#### **Publications**

The Australian Museum produces a wide range of publications. It is possible to access these in the Australian Museum Research Library, the State Library of NSW, and university libraries in Australia. Publications may be purchased through the Australian Museum Bookshop or the Museum's Publishing Unit.

#### **Privacy Management Plan and Personal Information**

As required by the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, each public-sector agency has to prepare and implement a Privacy Management Plan that outlines what personal information an agency collects and uses, and has to assess the collection, storage, use and disclosure of this personal information against the 12 Information Protection Principles outlined in the Act. These principles establish standards for using personal information in the public sector.

The Museum's Privacy Management Plan outlines how the Museum complies with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and the standards outlined in the Information Protection Principles, identifies personal information held, outlines strategies to address specific issues, and details the review process available

to an individual (the right to make a complaint about possible misuse of personal information).

In brief, the Museum collects some personal information in carrying out its functions: personal information relating to the collections (e.g. acquisition information); mailing and contact lists for educational activities, exhibition and Public Programs promotions, market and audience research and commercial activities; membership and subscription databases used for the Museum's publications, societies such as The Australian Museum Society, and fundraising foundations; scientific research (e.g. grant applications or where projects involve the community); information services (e.g. details of public inquiries); information relating to people who are the subjects of or involved in exhibitions and Public Programs; community contact information for Public Programs and programs relating to the Museum's work with Indigenous communities; personnel records of Museum staff, volunteers, work experience or other people who work at the Museum; and personal information held in the Museum Archives (institutional and private records).

For information on the Plan, contact the Privacy Contact Officer, Archives & Records Section, Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010, phone (02) 9320 6148, fax (02) 9320 6050.

#### **Access Arrangements, Procedures and Points of Contact**

##### **Documents Published by the Australian Museum:**

All of the Museum's published books, serials, reports and documents may be accessed through the Australian Museum Research Library, Monday to Friday, 9.00 am–12.30 pm, 1.30 pm–5.00 pm.

**Personnel Files:** Staff do not need to use FOI to access their personnel files. A request to access one's file should be directed to the Organisational Development Section.

**Policy and Planning Documents:** These may all be accessed through the Australian Museum Archives, Monday to Friday, 9.00 am–12.30 pm, 1.30 pm–5.00 pm.

**Archives:** These may be accessed through the Australian Museum Archives, Monday to Friday, 9.00 am–12.30 pm, 1.30 pm–5.00 pm.

**All Other Documents:** To access all other records, applications in writing or in person must be made to the FOI Coordinator, Australian Museum, Archives & Records Section, 6 College St, Sydney NSW 2010, phone: (02) 9320 6148. Requests for access under the FOI Act must be accompanied by a \$30 application fee.

#### **Freedom of Information—Statistics**

The Museum received no requests for information in 1999/2000 under the *NSW Freedom of Information Act 1989*. Sections B–L of the statistical reporting forms are not therefore applicable to the Museum during the period.



FOI Requests	Personal	Other	Total
A1 New (including transferred in)	○	○	○
A2 Brought forward	○	○	○
A3 Total to be processed	○	○	○
A4 Completed	○	○	○
A5 Transferred out	○	○	○
A6 Withdrawn	○	○	○
A7 Total processed	○	○	○
A8 Unfinished (carried forward)	○	○	○

### Consumer Response

The Australian Museum values comments on its performance. Through this feedback, the Museum is able to continuously improve upon the delivery of service and product to the community. A visitors' book is available for comments and, where contact details are supplied, they are promptly replied to.

Comments made during the year were overwhelmingly positive. Complaints from visitors were investigated and a reply provided by mail, email or in person. Visitor comments continue to be used in the evaluation of Museum Public Programs and visitor facilities. During the year, the Museum improved recording and analysis of visitor comments to better facilitate effective actioning of visitor feedback with a new data-analysis program designed by Museum staff. This program assisted staff in identifying and rectifying operational issues with temporary exhibitions at opening, and addressing accessibility issues in other public spaces. Changes to the size of text print have been completed in the *Indigenous Australians* exhibition in response to visitor feedback, and a new signage and orientation system was designed and installed in 1999. A hotline has been set up so that any complaints regarding exhibitions and maintenance can be dealt with immediately by Museum staff.

### Funds Granted to Non-Government Community Organisations

There were no funds granted to non-government community organisations during the period.

### Risk Management

The Australian Museum monitors its program for risk identification and management internally by surveys conducted by the Treasury Managed Fund and through workplace activities such as its Occupational Health and Safety Committee. It undertakes risk management in ways consistent with Government guidelines and policy in order to safeguard the public, staff, collections, buildings and related assets. The control environment includes:

- corporate risk assessments and management audits undertaken by the Internal Audit Bureau;

- ongoing risk-management functions, including maintenance of asset registers for various classes of assets and the operation of an Occupational Health and Safety Committee;
- discrete risk-management activities, including fire and safety audits, valuation of the collections and building assets, development of risk strategies for public exhibitions and spaces as well as fire-safety drills;
- Museum buildings and site secured constantly by full-time security staff; and
- appropriate insurance cover with the Treasury Managed Fund covering all classes of risk.

The Museum has an inherent risk factor with the age and heritage aspects of its buildings. The fire in the roof of the Long Gallery in 1998 highlighted the need for increased reviews, and an accelerated program of fire-system upgrades continued during the year. Specific projects undertaken included the commencement of a major upgrade of the early-warning fire-safety capabilities of the Museum at an estimated cost for Stage 1 of \$1,250,000. An upgrading of the air-conditioning system is also in progress at an estimated cost of \$3,041,000 and is due for completion in 2001/02.

A review of the Museum's systems and practices for the protection of people, property, collections and information, and for exhibitions indemnified under the Commonwealth Government's Art Indemnity Australia (AIA) scheme, was undertaken by Australian Protective Services (APS).

Additional risk-management activities include regular review of financial and audit outcomes by the Australian Museum Trust's Finance Audit and Review Committee. This committee meets six times a year and takes an active role in reviewing strategic financial directions, outcomes and results of the ongoing audit program. Four internal audits were undertaken during the year: a Review of Compliance with Legislative and Policy Requirements, an audit of IT Network and Management Security, an audit of *Nature Australia* magazine, and a review of Tax Compliance. During the year those audit reports identified some housekeeping issues but no serious breaches or issues were identified. The Internal Audit Bureau has a Fraud Risk Management Strategy and the Museum has a Corruption Prevention Policy.

### Legal Change

The Exhibition Project Managers and Officers Australian Museum Award was reviewed under Section 19 of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996*. The purpose of the review was to modernise the Award. Minor variations were made to reflect the current wage provisions.

### Consultants and Contractors

Social Change on Line (SCoL) was contracted for database integration development for the FaunaNet project at a cost of \$54,024. The Institute of Public Administration was contracted to prepare a Service Strategy at a cost of \$49,800. KE Software was contracted for work on the Anthropology collection database at a cost of \$53,730. H. Parnaby was contracted for specialist work on the NSW bat collection at a cost of \$30,000.

The services of 27 consultants, each costing less than \$30,000 each, were engaged at a total cost of \$143,918.

### Occupational Health and Safety

The Australian Museum is committed to providing a safe work environment that addresses Occupational Health and Safety issues. The Museum's standing Occupational Health and Safety Committee meets on a monthly basis, with a workplace inspection carried out after each meeting. The Committee makes recommendations to supervisors and to senior management on improvements required, and follows up to ensure that changes have been made. During the year, a new Occupational Health and Safety Policy was developed and the appropriate action is being undertaken to implement the requirements of the policy. In addition, action is currently being taken for other Occupational Health and Safety related policies to be developed and implemented, such as Rehabilitation and First Aid Policies.

Total number of claims submitted for the reporting period: 22

Number of claims per employee: 0.071

Number of work-related illnesses: Nil

Average cost per worker's compensation claim: \$2,264

Average worker's compensation claim per employee: \$161.

### Promotion

The Museum's 1999/2000 Annual Report is the major publication outlining the Museum's functions and activities for the year. However, more comprehensive information on the Museum's activities is available through our website at [www.austmus.gov.au](http://www.austmus.gov.au). During the year, Museum staff published over 130 scientific and popular articles in biology, geology, anthropology, museum conservation, education and museum studies. In 1999/2000, Museum staff were members of over 60 State, national or international committees, boards, consultative or advisory groups.

### Overseas Travel

#### Anthropology

Jim Specht and Robin Torrence undertook fieldwork in West New Britain and Mt Hagen, and attended meetings at museums and universities in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 2–20 July 1999.

Phil Gordon visited museums in Washington DC, London, Cambridge and Paris from 23 September–6 October 1999.

Liz Bonshek attended the Pacific Arts Association

conference in Chicago, USA, and visited museums in the UK and Germany from 18 October–9 November 1999.

Paul Taçon attended the Society for American Archaeology conference in Philadelphia, USA, from 4–14 April 2000.

Robin Torrence undertook fieldwork in West New Britain and gave seminars at the Port Moresby National Museum, Papua New Guinea, from 25 May–9 June 2000.

#### Community Relations

Robert Buhler attended the Museum Store Association conference in Minneapolis and the American Book Expo in Chicago, USA, and visited Peru to purchase merchandise for the Incas exhibition from 24 May–15 June 2000.

#### Director's Office

Mike Archer travelled to Hong Kong, China, to inspect exhibitions and finalise negotiations for the *Chinese Dinosaurs* exhibition tour to Australia and NZ, to visit fossils sites and select exhibition specimens from 17 April–1 May 2000.

#### djambu Gallery

John Kirkman visited Bihar, India, to negotiate for the Back to the Walls exhibition from 22–26 November 1999.

#### Earth and Environmental Science

Zerina Johanson visited the Natural History Museum in London, attended the British Vertebrate Palaeontology conference in Edinburgh and the Willi Hennig Society meeting in Gotttingen, Germany, from 30 August–17 September 1999. She also attended the Early Vertebrates conference in Flagstaff, USA, from 14–20 May 2000.

Greg Edgecombe attended the Willi Hennig Society meeting in Gottingen, Germany, from 11–17 September 1999.

Lin Sutherland attended the International Gemmological conference in Goa and the International Gem Trade seminar in Mumbai, India, from 18 September–4 October 1999.

#### Education

Sheryl Connors attended the World Indigenous Peoples Conference in Hawaii, USA, from 1–7 August 1999.

Sarah Main attended the Sites of Learning early childhood conference in Hull and visited museums in London and York, UK, from 10–27 September 1999.

Carolyn MacLulich attended the American Association of Museums conference in Montana, USA, and visited museums in Vancouver and Los Angeles from 19 September–1 October 1999.

#### Exhibitions

Elizabeth Cowell travelled to Peru to select artefacts from seven Peruvian museums for the Incas exhibition from 25 January–16 February 2000.

#### Invertebrate Zoology

Peter Middlefart attended the Biology and Evolution



of Bivalva conference in Cambridge and visited museums in London, UK, from 13–29 September 1999. He also attended the Tropical Marine Mollusc conference and workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 18 October–1 November 1999.

Pat Hutchings undertook fieldwork on the Togian Islands, Indonesia, from 14–30 September 1999.

Winston Ponder attended the Japanese Malacological Society meeting in Fukuoka, Japan, from 27 January–7 February 2000. He also visited Bogor Zoological Museum and Jakarta Oceanology Institute, Indonesia, to conduct courses and develop research programs from 2–15 April 2000.

Dan Bickel attended a planning workshop for biodiversity inventory in Costa Rica from 7–19 June 2000. He also attended the Southern Connections Congress in New Zealand from 14–24 January 2000.

Paul Flemons attended the Society for Conservation Biology conference in Missoula, the Society for Conservation Biology conference in Borrego Springs, the ESRI conference in San Diego, and visited museums in New York and Washington DC, USA, from 8–28 June 2000.

Gerry Cassis conducted a training program at Bogor Zoological Museum, Indonesia, from 26 June–8 July 2000.

#### Materials Conservation

Vinod Daniel attended the 12th Triennial International Committee of Museums conference in Lyons, visited conservation laboratories in Paris, and visited the International Centre for Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome, from 29 August–3 September 1999. He also travelled to Chennai, India, to repatriate cultural artefacts from 23 February–1 March 2000.

Colin Macgreggor travelled to Marseilles, France, to install an exhibition from 11–18 April 2000.

#### Vertebrate Zoology

Jeff Leis attended an international working group on marine populations in California, USA, from 22 October–4 November 1999. He also attended the Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratories seminar in Shimizu and the International Symposium on Diversity of Fishes in Tokyo, Japan, from 19–28 February 2000.

Doug Hoese attended the International Symposium on Diversity of Fishes in Tokyo and undertook research studies in Mizurur, Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan, from 21 February–14 March 2000. He also attended the Natures' Treasurehouse conference in London, UK, from 1–15 April 2000.

Mark McGrouther and Kerry Parkinson undertook fieldwork with the Smithsonian Institute Fish Survey in the Philippines from 11 May–7 June 2000.

Ross Sadlier undertook fieldwork in New Caledonia from 11–25 April 2000.

Richard Major undertook research at the Archibold Research Station in Orlando, the University of the South in Sewanee, Cornell University in Ithaca, the Burke Museum in Seattle, and attended the Society for Conservation Biology conference in Missoula, USA, from 22 April–23 June 2000.

Walter Boles attended the 5th International Meeting of the Society of Avian Palaeontology and Evolution in Beijing, China, from 26 May–10 June 2000.

#### Actions Taken to Achieve Year 2000 Compliance

The Australian Museum has followed all Government Guidelines and Procedures in relation to Y2K. The Museum has sought and obtained external, independent certification as to our procedures and preparation as follows:

- Year 2000 Business Risk Analysis: Certificate of Reasonableness for the Australian Museum
- Year 2000 Remediation Program: Certificate of Reasonableness of Process for Australian Museum
- Year 2000 Contingency and Disaster Recovery Planning: Certificate of Reasonableness of Process for Australian Museum.

The total cost of the Museum's Y2K Program was \$787,850.

#### Land Disposal

The Museum did not dispose of any real property during the period.

#### Healthy Aging

General admission to the College Street site and to *djumu* Gallery is free for people aged 60 or over. Approximately 15 per cent of visitors in 1999/2000 were aged 60 or over, a similar figure to the previous year. Some programs have proved particularly popular with this audience, for example 18 per cent of the audience to *Ancient Lives: Greeks Romans & Etruscans* was from this group. Many of the Australian Museum Society weekday events and tours are targeted towards seniors. The Museum celebrated Seniors Week with additional tours and free admission to the special exhibitions *Body Art* and *Living Colour*. Over 59 per cent of Education Volunteers, enthusiastic contributors to visitors' experiences of the Museums' collections, research, programs and displays, are aged over 55 years.

The Museum's Aboriginal Outreach program addresses all age groups, and older Indigenous people are a particularly important category for the development of community museums and keeping places. One of the main aims of the program is to self-empower Indigenous peoples to achieve their own cultural objectives. This can only be achieved with the involvement of Aboriginal elders, who play a vital role within their communities in the custodianship of cultural knowledge and the passing of this knowledge to younger people.

### Energy Management Policy

The NSW Government Energy Management Policy requires agencies to reduce energy consumption in government buildings by:

15% of the 1995/96 level by 2001

25% of the 1995/96 level by 2005

The Museum achieved the Government's 2005 energy-consumption target this year. Reductions in energy consumption were achieved with the assistance of Energy Australia, which analysed the Museum's energy-consumption patterns and needs, developed a plan for reducing consumption, and implemented the technology required to achieve the target reductions. The Museum's achievement has been widely advertised and promoted by Energy Australia. Our efforts have also been promoted by the Department of Public Works & Services and the Sustainable Energy Development Authority as a model for other government agencies.

The Museum has been a leader in the reduction in energy consumption. Energy costs were further reduced in 1999/2000 following the negotiation of a reduced electricity tariff for the two-year period from 1998/99 and an Energy Management system with Energy Australia. During 2000/01 the energy management of the Museum will be reviewed and revised policies issued.

### Waste Reduction and Recycling Policy

The Australian Museum Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy and Plan were developed in May 1998 in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority's Guidelines. The principal aim is to ensure the effective use of materials by recycling and reusing materials. To this end staff and visitors are encouraged to recycle materials wherever possible. Recycling contracts with external organisations cover paper/cardboard waste, glass and reusable materials. Extensive use is made of recycled paper products for photocopying and packaging.

### Accounts Payable Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2000

- Schedule of accounts payable at 30 June 2000:
 

· Current	616,137.42
· Less than 30 days overdue	71,799.98
· 30 to 60 days overdue	49,247.69
· 60 to 90 days overdue	87,943.33
· over 90 days overdue	31,768.27
Total	856,896.69
- Accounts paid on time for the year ended 30 June 2000
 

Percentage of accounts paid on time	74%
Total amount of accounts paid on time	9,563,307
Total amount of accounts paid	12,849,254

### 3. Commentary on action taken

Prompt payment of accounts was associated with the low level of cash available at the beginning of the financial year. Accounts were prioritised on the basis of terms of creditors.

### Action Taken to Implement the Government's Action Plan for Women

#### A. Whole-of-Government Approach

The Australian Museum is firmly supportive of the whole-of-government approach in meeting the broad-policy outcomes of the Action Plan for Women. It is recognised that all areas of NSW Government have a role in improving the economic and social participation of women by integrating the needs and concerns of women as part of normal business.

#### B. Women's Interests and the Arts

All services, products and programs are available to women and hence significantly benefit women.

#### C. Achievements under Relevant Key Objectives

The Museum promotes a workplace that is equitable, safe and responsive to all aspects of women's lives through the implementation of Flexible Work Practices Policy and Procedures, and the coordination and development of EEO policies, procedures, priorities and outcomes. During the year, the Museum developed a new EEO Management Plan that ensures programs and services for women are specifically and individually addressed. The Museum will recommence the Spokeswoman program and sponsor career development for women in the coming year.

#### D. Specific Commitments under the Action Plan for Women

There are no specific commitments in the Plan that refer to the Australian Museum.

#### Guarantee of Service

No changes were made during the year to the Museum's Guarantee of Service.

#### Review of Value on Non-Essential Land

The Museum does not own or occupy any land not essential to its operations.

#### Code of Conduct

The Australian Museum's Code of Conduct was reviewed and updated based on audit requirements. The Code of Conduct is currently awaiting endorsement from the PSA prior to general release to staff.

#### Cost of Report

This report is printed on recycled paper. A total of 200 copies of this report have been produced at a cost of approximately \$9.50 per copy.

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