



Annual General Meeting 19 May 2011

Agenda Item 6. Annual report on the work of the Committee

for the year 1 Jan 2010-31 Dec 2010

1. Introduction

I am pleased to report that ICOM Australia has made advances in boosting membership numbers, retaining relevance to the profession and being an effective lobbying voice.

2. Year in summary

2.1 Joint secretariat ICOM Australia-Museums Australia

The third year of operation of the joint Secretariat between ICOM Australia and Museums Australia has been highly successful from ICOM Australia's point of view. The Secretariat is based in the National Office of Museums Australia in Old Parliament House, Canberra. The secretariat has reinforced ICOM Australia's ability to handle memberships, general enquiries and the provision of auditing and website services. I particularly thank Lee Scott who manages the ICOM Australia Secretariat and Bernice Murphy (National Director, Museums Australia).

2.2 Executive Board

The Executive Board for 2010 was comprised of:

Office holders

Frank Howarth (Chairperson)
Robin Hirst (Deputy Chairperson)
Scott Mitchell (National Secretary)
Don McMichael (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)
James Warden (Public Officer)

Ordinary members

Jennifer Harris
Lynda Kelly
Nancy Ladas
Chris Nobbs
Deborah Tout-Smith
Jonathan Sweet
Annette Welkamp
Roger Garland
Louise Douglas
Barbara Horn

Ex-officio members (non-voting)

Darryl McIntyre (Museums Australia)

Tarisi Vunidillo (Pacific Islands Museums Association)

Resignations upon expiry of term

Craddock Morton (formerly Chairperson)

Roger Garland (formerly National Secretary)

I would like to thank all members of the Executive Board for their ongoing dedication, particularly given their heavy professional commitments. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of retiring Executive members Louise Douglas and Lynda Kelly.

2.3 Membership

Membership statistics are extremely encouraging, with total membership increasing from 307 in December 2009 to 382 in December 2010, an increase of approximately 25%.

Membership as of 31 Dec 2010 was:

Ordinary individuals	250
Retired professional	79
Student (non-voting)	28
Institutional Cat 1	2
Institutional Cat 2	2
Institutional Cat 3	5
Institutional Cat 4	8
Institutional Cat 5	8
Institutional Cat 6	0
TOTAL	382

Due to changes in the ICOM international rules, institutions are now classified into six categories rather than five, and some institutions are now classified within a different category to that which applied in the previous year. A reciprocal arrangement continues to be in place with Museums Australia for discounted membership rates. ICOM Australia offers Museums Australia individual members a 5% discount while Museums Australia offers ICOM Australia individual members 10%.

My particular thanks to Don McMichael for his tireless efforts as Membership Secretary.

2.4 Web site

The ICOM Australia web site, relaunched in December 2009, has provided valuable means of communicating with membership and the general public. The website currently receives an average of 421 visitors per month. My particular thanks to Roger Garland for his efforts in maintaining the content and functionality of the website.

2.5 ICOM Australia international travel bursaries

ICOM Australia members Susan Faine (Jewish Museum of Australia) and Tarisi Vunidillo (PIMA) were awarded bursaries to meet some of the costs in attending the ICOM General Conference in Shanghai. ICOM Australia also supported Susanna Lai-kuen SIU, Chief Curator (Heritage) Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Hong Kong, to attend the 2010 Museums Australia Conference in Melbourne as a keynote speaker.

2.6 2010 awards for international relations

I was delighted to present the ICOM Australia Awards for International Achievement at the Museums Australia 2010 Annual Conference Dinner in Melbourne on 30 September 2010 in the National Gallery of Victoria Great Hall. The awards were changed in 2010 to be 1. for an individual's life time achievement and 2. for a discrete project which occurred in the previous year (open to individuals and institutions). The winners were Daniel Thomas AO for Lifetime Achievement and Deakin University's Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific for its Lampang Temples Project in northern Thailand.

Thanks to the ICOM Australia sub-committee for overseeing the awards was Annette Welkamp, Robin Hirst and Deb Tout-Smith.

2.7 Policy development and advice

ICOM Australia was invited to participate in the Australian Government's 2010 Collections Organisations Survey, and to provide advice to the Commonwealth on ICOM's role with respect to the 1970 UNESCO convention on cultural property. In my capacity as Chair I wrote to an Art Gallery in New Zealand requesting (unsuccessfully) that some secret-sacred Aboriginal objects be withdrawn from a public auction. During 2010 the Executive has been formulating a policy position around the potential impact of anti-seizure legislation in Australia.

2.7 Blue Shield Australia

Blue Shield Australia (BSA) is an international committee, working to protect the world's cultural heritage threatened by armed conflict and natural disasters. The BSA committee comprises representatives from the following Australian peak industry organisations: the Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities, Australia ICOMOS, the Australian Library and Information Association and ICOM Australia. In July 2010 ICOM Australia took over the rotating chair of BSA, with ICOM Australia represented by Jonathon Sweet and Nancy Ladas (my thanks to both).

Frank Howarth
Chair