

Annual General Meeting

Agenda Item 6

18 May 2016

Annual Report on the Work of the Committee For the period June 2015 to April 2016

1. Introduction

It has been another active year with respect to the ICOM Executive Board, whose activities range from administering ICOM memberships, supporting conferences and other professional activities, making submissions on relevant policy issues and making a number of awards and bursaries.

2. Year in Summary

2.1 Joint Secretariat ICOM Australia-Museums Australia

Once again the joint ICOM Australia and Museums Australia Secretariat has continued to thrive.

The ICOM Australia Executive Board would like to thank Louise Douglas, Lee Scott and Alex Marsden for their assistance in administrative support such as membership processing, general enquiries and the provision of website services.

2.2 Executive Board

The ICOM Australia Executive Board for 2015 was comprised:

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| Chair | Dr Robin Hirst | Museum Victoria |
| Vice-Chair | Mr Alec Coles | Western Australian Museum |
| National Secretary | Ms Nancy Ladas | Museum Victoria |
| Treasurer | Dr Scott Mitchell | Australian Museum |
| Membership Secretary and Public Officer | Ms Louise Douglas | National Museum of Australia |
| Members | Ms Nola Anderson | Nola Anderson Consulting |
| | Ms Judith Coombes | Powerhouse Museum |
| | Mr Richard Ferguson | Australian National Maritime Museum |
| | Ms Mariea Fisher | Unaffiliated |
| | Ms Carolyn Forster | National Museum of Australia |

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|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Mr Roger Garland | Unaffiliated |
| | Ms Mirna Heruc | The University of Adelaide |
| | Ms Maisy Stapleton | Maisy Stapleton Projects |
| | Dr Charlotte Smith | Museum Victoria |
| | Dr Jonathan Sweet | Deakin University |
| | Ms Deborah Tout-Smith | Museum Victoria |
| | | |
| Ex-Officio | Mr Frank Howarth | Museums Australia |
| Ex-Officio | Ms Tarisi Vunidilo | Pacific Islands Museums Association |

I would like to thank all members of the Executive Board for their commitment throughout the year and I would especially like to acknowledge the work of Scott Mitchell and Nancy Ladas who along with me step down from the Executive Board after having enjoyed our six-year terms.

2.3 Chair, ICOM Australia

Dr Robin Hirst attended the ICOM Annual Meeting including the 80th session of the ICOM Advisory Committee and the 30th ICOM General Assembly sessions in Paris, France, in early June 2015.

Robin was invited to participate in the International Committee for Museology (ICOFOM) ASPAC meeting in Taiwan and was also invited to and presented a paper at the Yeongwol International Museums Forum in Korea.

Robin will be attending the 24th ICOM General Conference called Museums and Cultural Landscapes, 3-9 July 2016 in Milan, Italy.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the founding of ICOM. Australia was one of the 14 nations who were signatories from 1946. The history of ICOM Australia is being compiled by Dr Bernice Murphy and Robin will present highlights at the Milan conference.

2.4 Membership

At the end of the 2015 membership year ICOM Australia's membership peaked with a total of 527 members. This was an increase of 30 memberships compared to 2014 and an overall record since ICOM Australia was established.

The majority of renewals are usually processed by March of each calendar year. In 2015, renewals and new memberships continued strongly from April to November 2015, with 85 memberships added. A particularly pleasing aspect was the doubling of postgraduate student memberships – from 33 to 58 memberships.

The following table details membership numbers in the institutional and individual categories:

| Membership category | Number |
|---|---------------|
| Institutional member – Category 1 (salary budget less than \$50K, fee \$425) | - |
| Institutional member – Category 2 (salary budget \$50K-\$160K, fee \$525) | 2 |
| Institutional member – Category 3 (salary budget \$160K-\$1.6M, fee \$750) | 5 |
| Institutional member – Category 4 (salary budget \$1.6M-\$8M, fee \$1100) | 5 |
| Institutional member – Category 5 (salary budget \$8M-\$16M, fee \$1300) | 2 |
| Institutional member – Category 6 (salary budget more than \$16M, fee \$1600) | 11 |
| Individual – regular (fee \$140) | 272 |
| Individual – retired professional (fee \$65) | 164 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Individual – postgraduate student (fee \$55) | 58 |
| Individual – supporting (fee \$400) | 8 |
| Total members | 527 |

The overall administration costs for a managing membership comprise:

- a subscription paid to ICOM headquarters in Paris: ICOM Australia, as with all National Committees, sends a percentage of each membership fee to Paris
- an administration fee paid to Museums Australia for coordinating and managing the processing of membership through a Secretariat.

Currently the subscription paid to Paris is for:

- the postgraduate students category: is more than the current fee
- the retired category: leaves only a small amount with ICOM Australia.

In late 2015, the ICOM Australia Board agreed to retain 2016 membership fees at the same level as the previous two years but agreed that they would need to be raised. The outgoing Board is of the view that a rise in membership fees will be required in 2017.

There is still room for membership growth, particularly with institutional membership.

Indications are that ICOM Australia continues to be seen as valuable and worthwhile membership for individuals in the museum and gallery community. This is seen particularly in the renewal activity for 2016, which has been particularly high. At the end of April 2016, 95 per cent of 2015 members (484 members) had renewed. With this start to the year, it is anticipated that 2016 membership will significantly exceed the 2015 total of 527 memberships.

ICOM Australia wishes to thank the staff of the Museums Australia National Office for their stalwart work in managing the ICOM Australia's membership.

2.5 Awards for International Relations

The ICOM Australia Awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding work undertaken by ICOM Australia member institutions and individuals that has strengthened international relations and contributed to the cultural richness of our region.

In 2015 Dr Don McMichael was recognised for his outstanding achievements in international relations. Dr McMichael's involvement with ICOM extends from the time Australia was first invited to an international meeting. In 1987 he was elected Chair of the ICOM Australia National Committee, and in 1992-95 served on the (international) Executive Council of ICOM. In the early 1990s, Dr McMichael, Dr Des Griffin, Ms Bernice Murphy and others formed the idea of Australia hosting the triennial ICOM conference, and made a successful bid to the ICOM Executive Council. Dr McMichael spearheaded the formation of a company to manage ICOM 98 in Melbourne with Senator John Button as chair; served as Director and Secretary of the ICOM 98 Company; and worked in a highly effective team to guide the whole project through to a successful conclusion – intellectually, organizationally and financially.

Dr McMichael has worked hard over many years to ensure Australia was actively part of the international museum community and has been represented in key discussions and decision-making. He has also gracefully supported the coming generation by passing on his knowledge and ensuring others have access to development opportunities.

The award for a discrete project recognises an exemplary collaboration between Australia's National Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery of Indonesia for the 2014 exhibition Masters of modern Indonesian portraiture and associated capacity building workshops.

The National Portrait Gallery (NPG) and the National Gallery of Indonesia (GalNas) collaborated on a major exhibition of Indonesian master paintings presented at the NPG and are developing a series of capacity-building workshops. These initiatives facilitate important cross-cultural exchange and professional development while forging strong and significant affiliations between these two national collecting institutions.

The exhibition provided significant insight into Indonesia's rich modern and contemporary portrait practice. It included many key modernist works from the GalNas collection (1940s—1980s) complemented by a selection of contemporary Indonesian works. Notably, the exhibition provided the Australian public with an overview of the dynamism of historical portrait practice in Indonesia, and an exploration of contemporary identity and cultural and social issues through current portrait practice in Indonesia.

The award winners for 2016 will be announced at the Conference Dinner tonight. Thanks to the awards sub-committee comprising Nola Anderson, Alec Coles and Charlotte Smith for running the program this year.

2.6 Website

Roger Garland developed an online survey of the ICOM Australia website users to gain an insight into current and past members' use of the website, including views about the design and navigation of the site. The survey was comprised of 15 questions including an opportunity to provide comments, raise questions or express concerns. All feedback will be used to guide the redevelopment.

Roger has also been involved in redevelopment of the joint Museums Australia and ICOM Australia database. Thank you Roger for your invaluable input and enthusiasm in keeping our website up to date.

2.7 ICOM Australia Partnerships Program

The ICOM Australia Partnerships Program – formerly IAMPP is being reviewed by a committee coordinated by Ms Deborah Tout-Smith, with Dr Robin Hirst, Ms Mariea Fisher and Dr Jonathan Sweet, and critical input from Dr Elizabeth Bonshek, Senior Curator, Pacific Cultures, and Museum Victoria. A revised version of the program will be announced later in 2016.

2.8 ICOM Australia Bursary Program

In 2015 we reviewed the ICOM Australia Bursary Program aims to support ICOM Australia members and ICOM regional members attendance at international ICOM meetings including General Conferences, meetings of International Committees and Affiliated Organisations or Regional Assemblies.

We awarded two bursaries to support attendance at international museum conferences to Wendy Lugg for the Museums Australasia Conference, Auckland, New Zealand and Vinod Daniel for the ICOM Triennial Conference, Milan, Italy.

Thank you to Mariea Fisher, Alec Coles and Charlotte Smith for their work on this program.

2.9 Social Media

ICOM Australia opened its first social media account in Facebook. At the time of writing this report we have over 540 likes. The Facebook account enhances our online presence and allows us to post up to the minute international museum news.

The most liked photograph is of Robin representing ICOM Australia at the Advisory Committee meeting in Paris, at the UNESCO headquarters.

2.10 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. It is working to enhance disaster preparedness and recovery throughout the museum sector. 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 2015 the ICOM Australia Executive assumed chair of BSA and appointed Dr Jonathan Sweet to the role with National Secretary Nancy Ladas as the proxy.

The BSA is planning an international summit with the working title and theme likely to be around *Cultural heritage and disaster response in the next decade: Bridging gaps, strengthening collaborations and improving systems*. The aim of the summit is to bring together different perspectives concerning the conservation of cultural heritage in times of war and natural disaster, to talk about the big picture and big questions, and to shape strategic priorities, strategic issues research and future program directions.

2.11 GLAM Peak Body

Nancy Ladas and Robin Hirst participated in a series of workshops titled 'Digital access to collections' alongside 11 peak bodies, 6 national institutions, 5 state institutions and national bodies. The initiative focuses on how we might enable people to access, use and build on our collections.

A working group submitted an application for Catalyst funding to develop a government-endorsed, sector-implemented national strategic framework to provide a structure within which digital access to cultural collections can be greatly increased to the benefit of all Australians.

2.12 Honorary member

I am very pleased to inform you that our submission to appoint Dr Bernice Murphy as an ICOM Honorary member was approved by the Executive Council during its session held in Paris in December 2015.

The honorary membership will be presented to Bernice during the 31st General Assembly on 9 July, 2016 in Milan.

2.13 ICOM Australia Rules of Procedure

There is a need to review the ICOM Australia Rules of Procedure to allow the Executive Board some flexibility regarding membership throughout the year and consider the timing of elections and the period of office for Board Members. This work will align the Rules for National Committees of ICOM with our own Rules of Procedure. The incoming Executive Board will undertake this work.

Dr Robin Hirst
Chair