

Name: Toner Stevenson

Statement of Suitability for position of Membership Secretary

Toner Stevenson has thirty-five years experience working in the museum and heritage field. Much of her career has focussed on growing, broadening and diversifying audiences by enhancing the visitor experience. She has demonstrated her ability to collaborate with others to develop strategies which are achievable and sustainable, to develop sustainable networks and to be inclusive in delivering outcomes.

Toner is an active member of ICOM and has attended and presented at an international conference of the CAMOC group, with which she has had two papers published, with a third pending. Since joining The University of Sydney Toner has become a member of the UMAC special interest group and is on the organising committee for the 2020 conference, which will be held in Sydney. Building on this experience, Toner is well positioned to be pro-active in the Membership Secretary role to make connections between ICOM Australia and ICOM special interest groups.

Toner has a Doctorate in Museum Studies and extensive museum and heritage experience as Manager of Sydney Observatory, Head of House Museums for Sydney Living Museums, as a project manager for the Natural History Museum, London and at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS). In these roles she has worked with others to identify and resolve issues in an inclusive manner and through networks. At Sydney Living Museums she was pivotal in implementing and Aboriginal Cultural calendar of events, which is still maintained today, and in bringing Muru Mittigar onto the Rouse Hill Estate to conduct their cultural and education business, on their own terms. At Sydney Observatory she raised the profile of the organisation by engaging in local, state and international forums and broadening the observation of astronomical events through social and commercial digital media channels. Her passion for equity was realised in the development and construction of a telescope dome accessible to people in wheelchairs and those with limited mobility. She developed programs that involved diverse communities, such as people from Arabic cultures, and an LGBTI-focussed 'Star Gayzing' program with the Sydney Mardi Gras.

In her current role as Manager of the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry at the University of Sydney Toner has further demonstrated her user-centric focus. Through her recommendations investment has been made in the communications channels used by students and in the facilities they have access to. One example of this is the archaeology laboratories, which she has improved the management of and instigated the installation of new collection storage facilities so students can access the archaeology research collections.

Should she be elected as Membership Secretary there are two areas that she has identified as strategic priorities. Firstly, her focus would be on maintaining and growing the membership of ICOM Australia, through strategic and sustainable means. This is fundamental to realising the ICOM Australia mission, particularly the promotion and support of the work of museum colleagues in Australasia, Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. Toner has contacts in many regions and has travelled widely across Australia, New Zealand and in Indonesia. She is keen to investigate membership opportunities in these regions.

Secondly, enacting the mission to promote and support the interests of members. As outlined previously Toner is keen to work with the ICOM Australia committee to be part of the team that makes members feel ICOM is relevant to their work and that they have a voice.