

The Annual Report is published in 3 parts, Summary Report, Detailed Report and Financial Statements. All Annual Reports since 1998–1999 are available at www.amonline.net.au/about/report/.

CORPORATE INFORMATION

The Australian Museum is a statutory body of, and is principally funded by, the NSW Government operating within the Arts portfolio under the Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation.



GOVERNANCE

The Museum is governed by a Trust established under the *Australian Museum Trust Act 1975* and operates under the *Australian Museum Trust Regulation 2003*. The objectives of the *Australian Museum Trust Act* are to propagate knowledge about the natural environment of Australia and to increase that knowledge, particularly in the natural sciences of biology, anthropology and geology.

MINISTER

The Hon. Robert John Debus, MP
Attorney General, Minister for the Environment,
Minister for the Arts

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM TRUST

Mr Brian Sherman AM (President)
Mr Brian Schwartz AM (Deputy President)
Mr David Handley
Dr Ronnie Harding
Ms Sam Mostyn
Dr Cindy Pan
Associate Professor Stephan Schnierer
Mr Michael Seyffer
Ms Julie Walton OAM

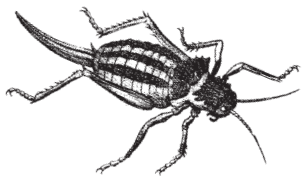
DIRECTOR

Mr Frank Howarth

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OUR ORGANISATION



our place in the world

The Australian Museum is a leader in natural history, science and cultural research, community programs and exhibitions. We have one of the most remarkable and extensive collections of natural and cultural specimens in the country.

The Museum’s Corporate Strategic Plan 2005–2008 defines our purpose, vision, values, context and goals. The Plan is available at www.amonline.net.au/about/corporate_overview.htm.

OUR CONTEXT

As the *Australian* Museum, we seek to explore the tensions that characterise our Australian context. We recognize that we are:

- a nation of Euro-British heritage, but now multi-cultured, located in south-east Asia and the Pacific
- a young, modern culture imposed on one of the oldest continuous cultures in the world
- a nation of mainly migrants trying to create a sense of belonging
- the most sparsely populated but most urbanized country in the world
- geographically isolated with a unique biodiversity, now challenged by invasives
- able to access freely a wide array of knowledge while needing to respect the intellectual property rights of its owners.

OUR GOALS

The Museum’s Corporate Strategic Plan 2005–2008 defines our goals as:

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

The Corporate Strategic Plan sets out the strategies and actions we will implement to achieve our goals as well as the indicators and measures we will use to monitor and report our progress. The Plan is available at www.amonline.net.au/about/corporate_overview.htm.

Phasmid or Stick Insect – the Museum’s annual photography competition *Up close and Spineless* highlights that more than 90% of animal species are invertebrates

OUR PURPOSE

TO INSPIRE THE EXPLORATION OF NATURE AND CULTURES.

OUR VISION

A BEAUTIFUL AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL WORLD WITH VIBRANT AND DIVERSE CULTURES.

OUR VALUES

AS THE *AUSTRALIAN* MUSEUM WE STRIVE TO EMBODY DISTINCTLY AUSTRALIAN VALUES AND QUALITIES.

WE SEEK TO BE:

- EGALITARIAN AND FAIR MINDED
- WILLING TO USE HUMOUR AND NOT TAKE OURSELVES TOO SERIOUSLY
- INQUISITIVE AND EXPLORATIVE
- CREATIVE
- OUTGOING
- RESPECTFUL OF THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS.



forging ahead



Inspiring the exploration
of nature and culture

The Australian Museum delivers a range of services to the government and community of NSW under three Service Groups – Public Programs, Scientific Research and Collection Management.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- the Museum was awarded \$1.26M in research grants
- 124 new species were described – about one new species every three days
- 109 scientific papers were published in refereed journals
- *Records of the Australian Museum* published 18 refereed scientific papers which described 55 new species and eight new genera.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

- around 18,000 records were added to the collection database
- more than 350 specimens and objects were loaned to other institutions around the world
- four rare Lapita pots, thought to be over 3,000 years old, were restored in conjunction with the Vanuatu Cultural Centre.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

- progress against the strategies and actions in the Corporate Strategic Plan 2005–2008 included:
 - completion of stage 1 of the Research and Collections Advisory Committee’s review of research and collections
 - completion of a review of the strengths and weaknesses of the cultural collections as a basis for developing a collection development strategy
 - in the second year of our four-year \$41M Revitalisation Project:
 - the detailed design and documentation of the new Collections & Research Building was completed
 - the exhibition master plan was completed
 - a development application was lodged for works under the Revitalisation Project
 - the development of two new long-term exhibitions on the dinosaurs of Gondwana and on Australian natural history was commenced
 - two heritage galleries were closed and their refurbishment for these new exhibitions was commenced
- the six-year Fire Safety project was completed
- a record \$237,000 in prize money was presented to 24 winners at the 16th annual Australian Museum Eureka Prizes
- The Australian Museum Society hosted over 120 events which were attended by about 5,000 people
- the Museum as a Venue attracted over 15,000 people to 160 private functions.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

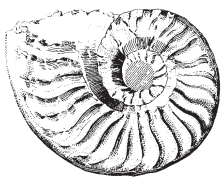
- ON-SITE VISITORS – 297,001 VISITORS ATTENDED COLLEGE STREET (JUST BELOW THE FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE) INCLUDING
 - OVER 41,300 SCHOOL STUDENTS TO EDUCATION PROGRAMS
 - 8,285 VISITORS TO OPEN DAY WHEN ENTRY WAS FREE
 - 7,369 STUDENTS FROM 127 SCHOOLS TO SCIENCE IN THE CITY TO CONSIDER CAREERS IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
- EIGHT SHORT-TERM EXHIBITIONS AND ONE EXPOSITION WERE PRESENTED – *WHO DUNNIT?*

- MYSTERY AT MENAGERIE PARK, HOW TO MAKE A MONSTER, PEARLS: OPULENCE AND OBSESSION, SUPERCROC, IT’S A DOG’S LIFE: ANIMALS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE, WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2005, PACIFIC PATTERNS, SIX STRANDS: WOVEN VESSELS FROM THE COLLECTION AND SCIENCE IN THE CITY
- VIRTUAL VISITORS – THE WEBSITE RECEIVED OVER 17 MILLION VIRTUAL VISITORS (UP 42% ON 2004–2005)
- OUTREACH – *MUSEUM IN A BOX* REACHED OVER 60,000 SCHOOL STUDENTS ACROSS NSW (UP 20% ON 2004–2005)





unlocking and sharing our knowledge



The Museum has been collecting specimens and artefacts since 1827 and has over 14 million items in its collection. To date, access to this natural and cultural heritage has largely been available to researchers and some community groups. Unlocking and sharing the knowledge embodied in the collection is a major goal in the Museum's Corporate Strategic Plan.

The Museum recognises the collection belongs to the community and should be accessible to and accessed by the community. Access to the collection occurs in a number of ways. Scientific researchers can have direct access to the collection onsite or via loans. We encourage community groups, whose cultural heritage is in the collection, to become active stakeholders in managing and interpreting the collection. The design of exhibitions and visitor programs aims to connect our audiences with their natural and culture heritage and inspire them to explore that world. Through this we aim to encourage our audiences to be active in managing and protecting their natural and culture world.

Through the efforts of the community, private organisations, other research institutions and the Museum, the historical depth of the collection is being leveraged and given increasing contemporary relevance. The power of the internet and information software are key factors in putting collection data online, making it

accessible to the community of NSW as well as a wider audience nationally and internationally. The following are some examples of how the Museum is unlocking and sharing the knowledge in collections – both ours and others.

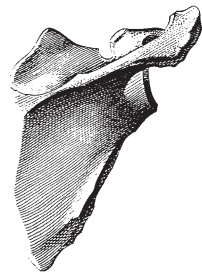
BIOMAPS

BioMaps is Australia's most advanced biodiversity mapping and analysis website. The Australian Museum/Rio Tinto Partnership initiated the BioMaps project and provided funding for its development.

BioMaps is a portal to Australian biodiversity data held by government and scientific organisations in Australia and around the world. It is based on a distributed data structure. This means BioMaps can use the data but the custodial institutions remain responsible for its creation, management and maintenance.

BioMaps provides tools for accessing and analyzing biodiversity data. It enables visualisation of data through a map interface and provides analysis tools for helping planners and scientists to visualise biodiversity distribution and predict future impacts on biodiversity. By pioneering web delivery techniques for biodiversity data, the BioMaps team is broadening access to both biodiversity information and innovative methodologies for analyzing it.

The BioMaps mapping system will help identify places of biodiversity significance



Giganotosaurus carolinii, from Patagonia, southern Argentina, greets visitors to the Museum

THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE COMMUNITY, PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS, OTHER RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND THE MUSEUM, THE HISTORICAL DEPTH OF THE COLLECTION IS BEING LEVERAGED AND GIVEN INCREASING CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE. THE POWER OF THE INTERNET AND INFORMATION SOFTWARE ARE KEY FACTORS IN PUTTING COLLECTION DATA ONLINE, MAKING IT ACCESSIBLE TO THE COMMUNITY OF NSW AS WELL AS A WIDER AUDIENCE NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

in Australia and be a guide to direct survey and conservation efforts. When completed in 2007, the mapping system will enable environmental and land planners to test tools for setting Australian conservation priorities. The national BioMaps system will help to:

- better quantify threats to biodiversity
- identify important biodiversity patterns across the country
- investigate surrogates of biodiversity
- further our understanding of the effects of human impacts.

The Australian Museum and the University of Colorado, USA, have been awarded a major grant from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility to extend the achievements of the Biomaps system.

(To use BioMaps go to www.BioMaps.net.au or for more information see <http://www.amonline.net.au/riotintopartnerships/biomaps/index.htm>)

BIRDS IN BACKYARDS

The disappearance of small bird species throughout urban areas, corresponding with an increase in larger more aggressive species, is a problem well known to bird researchers. Despite this, little research has been done to determine the current status of urban birds

in Australia, or to identify the specific causes of decline. The Birds in Backyards program is a web-based program that was developed not only to research urban birds but also to provide educational and conservation tools. The program aims to develop knowledge of bird diversity in urban areas, develop community awareness and understanding of the current status of urban birds and, ultimately, to increase the diversity of birds living in urban areas. Initially a Birds Australia program, Birds in Backyards became a program of both Birds Australia and the Australian Museum in February 2005, when a partnership was formed.

The program combines the expertise of scientists with the passion of our communities to foster better custodianship of our natural world. The community can get involved by:

- becoming a member of the program (there are currently over 2,800 members)
- contributing to databases of bird distributions by entering survey data online
- sharing information on the use of urban habitats by birds
- creating bird-friendly spaces in gardens and local government areas.

(For more information see <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>)

LAPITA POTS

The Museum assisted the Vanuatu Cultural Centre in the reconstruction of four rare 3,000 year old Lapita pots which were excavated from a burial site near Port Vila, Vanuatu. The site is the earliest known cemetery in the Pacific. This pottery find doubles the number of whole pots that have been discovered in the Pacific Region. The reconstruction allowed the Museum's conservation staff to transfer skills to a staff member of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre to apply to future excavation finds. The pots are now on public display in Port Vila.

ACCESS TO INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

During 2006, the Museum began work on the development of a web-accessible database to distribute knowledge about its Pacific collection. The prototype, containing detailed information and images of individual objects, will be used in the field, not only to provide remote access to the collection, but also to gather indigenous knowledge from Pacific region communities. Collecting and sharing such 'intangible heritage' will add new layers of knowledge to the collection that will benefit the Pacific's indigenous communities as well as the Museum.

Forming the initial input into this project was the extensively documented visit to the Australian Museum by Chief Jerry Uminduru Taki, the Vanuatu Cultural Centre Fieldworker from Erromango, Vanuatu during May 2006. The purpose of the visit was for Chief Jerry Taki to view the museum's collections from the island of Erromango, in order to support the cultural input for the forthcoming Erromango Cultural Revival Festival. At the same time, Chief Jerry Taki provided additional information about some of the early objects from his island in the Australian Museum collection. This indigenous knowledge, recorded in notes, digital photography, DVD and audio formats, has now been captured into the database.

CHAPMAN GALLERY REFURBISHMENT

The Albert Chapman mineral collection displays a spectacular array of world class minerals. Visitors don't need to be an expert mineralogist to be mesmerised by the gems' beauty. Despite this, the gallery offered opportunities for improvement in its layout and lighting levels to enhance interpretation and appreciation of the specimens.

Since the gallery had already been modified for use as a location for the movie *Superman Returns*, staff took the opportunity to look at the space anew. They developed a plan that highlighted the beauty of the gems, and opened up the space to encourage more visitors to enter and to be entranced. Today it is not possible to walk past the space without being drawn in to examine the minerals and to admire and wonder.

WATER QUALITY IN THE HUNTER RIVER

The Museum's collections are being investigated by numerous scientists around NSW, Australia and the world to make important discoveries about the natural and cultural world. For example, the Museum's collection of molluscs from the Hunter Valley is being analysed for the presence of various chemicals by a Newcastle University student whose objective is to document changes in the river's water quality over the last hundred years. The data from specimens can be used to track the changes in water quality that have accompanied rural, industrial and urban development in the Hunter Valley. The information gained can then be used to inform future land use and water quality policy.

Left to right:

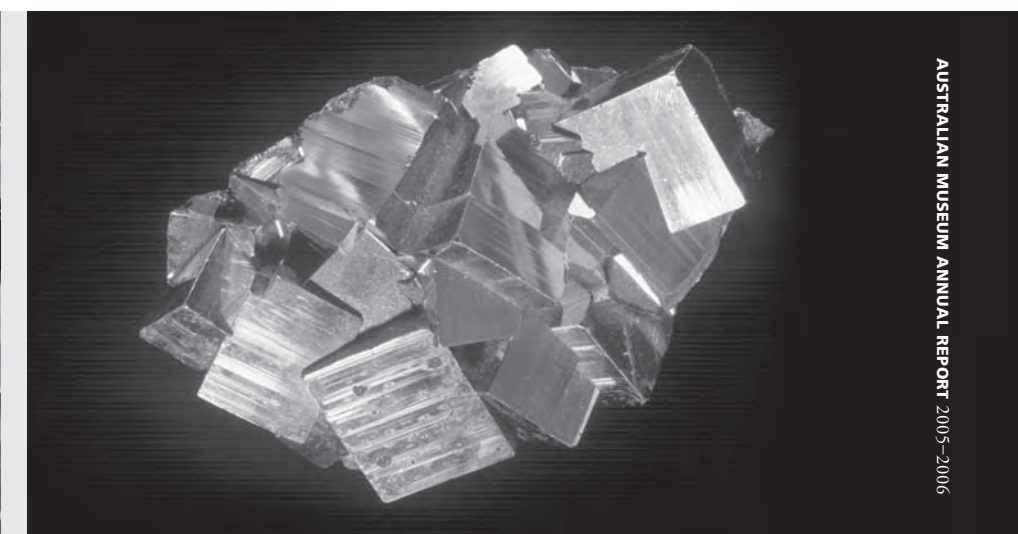
Rainbow Lorikeets

Reconstruction of 3,000 year-old Lapita pots from Vanuatu

Left to right:

Chief Jerry Uminduru Taki (r) along with Trustees examine cultural heritage from Erromango Island, Vanuatu

Pyrite or Iron Sulphide from Huanzala, Peru, in the world class Albert Chapman collection



delivering quality

It has been another year of delivering quality services to the community under challenging circumstances. The Museum completed its organisational restructure and is now organised and staffed for the challenges ahead. As part of the Revitalisation Project, two heritage galleries were closed at the end of January 2006 for refurbishment, Kids Island was temporarily relocated and a significant proportion of staff were engaged on the Revitalisation Project along with their normal duties.

The Museum received 297,001 visitors onsite, reached out to around 60,000 students via Museum in a Box and connected with over 17 million via the website. A significant body of original scientific research was generated and communicated via nearly 100 refereed scientific papers. Over 18,000 items were added to the collection database and 350 loans to similar research institutions fostered scientific research around Australia and internationally.

As well as core service delivery, the Museum continues to make good progress against the Strategies and Action in its Corporate Strategic Plan, of which the Revitalisation Project, now in its second year, is a major component. Under the Project, two new long-term exhibitions are planned to open in 2008 and a new collections and research building is scheduled to be opened by the end of 2008.

During the year the Trust and Museum management set out to further cement the Museum's sound financial position. As a result of good income generation and tight control of expenditure the Museum ended the year with a modest operating surplus. This surplus, combined with good economic performance in the 2004–2005 year, has enabled the Trust to establish an exhibition risk fund, to ensure that the Museum is able to manage its financial exposure when renting major touring exhibitions. Similarly, a development fund has been set aside to build up sufficient cash to enable the Museum to take on projects which require a long lead time before benefits show (for example, to enable the Museum to gradually install energy saving devices throughout the Museum).

Towards the end of the financial year the Minister for the Arts announced a review of the desirability of closer integration of the Trusts and operations of the Australian Museum and the Powerhouse Museum, while maintaining the separate identities and collections of both. I and the other Trustees of the Australian Museum are participating in ongoing discussions on this.

My thanks go to our many visitors and audiences as well as our volunteers and supporters whose patronage and support we value. I thank my fellow Trustees for their support during the year. I commend the Museum's staff for maintaining a high level of service delivery while making progress on the Revitalisation Project.

Brian Sherman AM
President, Australian Museum Trust

AS WELL AS CORE SERVICE DELIVERY, THE MUSEUM CONTINUES TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS AGAINST THE STRATEGIES AND ACTION IN ITS CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN, OF WHICH THE REVITALISATION PROJECT, NOW IN ITS SECOND YEAR, IS A MAJOR COMPONENT. UNDER THE PROJECT, TWO NEW LONG-TERM EXHIBITIONS ARE PLANNED TO OPEN IN 2008 AND A NEW COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH BUILDING IS SCHEDULED TO BE OPENED BY THE END OF 2008.



Brian Sherman





Frank Howarth

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

historical depth contemporary relevance

The theme for this Annual Report is 'unlocking and sharing the knowledge in our natural and cultural collection'. This is also a major goal of our Corporate Strategic Plan. The theme highlights practical examples of how the Museum is leveraging the value of the data embodied in its extensive collection which has been assembled over nearly 180 years.

Unlocking and sharing the knowledge in the collection support community goals in several ways. First, it encourages the community to access the collection, to appreciate its value and to become stakeholders in its preservation and use. The collection is first and foremost a community asset and the Museum is its custodian. Second, the knowledge embodied in the collection contributes to policy and decision making about the way the community uses and preserves its natural and cultural heritage. Thirdly, it encourages the community to value nature and culture and so build thriving and diverse cultures for the future.

Unlocking the knowledge in the collection is, however, just one aspect of how the Museum is renewing itself to meet the challenges of the 21st century. I'd like to outline some of the many new or planned initiatives which also reflect the Museum's renewal.

The Museum first published a community magazine in 1921. The Trustees of the day wanted to 'make an increased effort to reach a wider public, so that every man and

woman in the state and even the children of tender years may feel that the Museum has a message for them'. Our new magazine, called *Explore*, will have been launched by the time this Annual Report is published.

The Museum envisages improved service delivery through the power of the internet and information technology. The year ahead will see the Museum's very popular website reviewed with a view to defining its future direction. We also plan to make significant progress on the development of a new website in 2006–2007.

Building on the initiatives outlined in the theme of this report, we plan to improve access to the collection further through other web-based projects. These include access to cultural collections by communities in the Pacific and access to natural science data through programs such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and Online Zoological Collections of Australia's Museums (OZCAM).

I wish to thank our visitors who continue to support us, our growing audience on the internet as well as our volunteers and supporters. The names of those from the community who gave generously during 2005–2006 are listed in the following section. Not least, my thanks also go to the tremendous efforts of the Museum's executive and staff.

Frank Howarth
Director, Australian Museum



UNLOCKING AND SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE IN THE COLLECTION SUPPORT COMMUNITY GOALS IN SEVERAL WAYS. FIRST, IT ENCOURAGES THE COMMUNITY TO ACCESS THE COLLECTION, TO APPRECIATE ITS VALUE AND TO BECOME STAKEHOLDERS IN ITS PRESERVATION AND USE ... SECOND, THE KNOWLEDGE EMBODIED IN THE COLLECTION CONTRIBUTES TO POLICY AND DECISION MAKING ABOUT THE WAY THE COMMUNITY USES AND PRESERVES ITS NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM MAINTAINS AN ONGOING COMMITMENT TO ITS COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS, PRIVATE BENEFACTORS AND SPONSORS. THE MUSEUM AIMS TO BUILD REWARDING COLLABORATIONS AND TO ENCOURAGE OUR PARTNERS TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE LONG-TERM BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECTS THEY SUPPORT. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROVIDED TO THE MUSEUM DURING THE YEAR.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS
There were 157 people actively volunteering across most sections of the Australian Museum over 2005–2006. There were 45 front-of-house volunteers supporting the Public Programs of the Museum, interacting with general Museum visitors as well as working on specific Visitor Services programs. There were 112 behind-the-scenes volunteers, working with scientists and corporate services. Most were long-term volunteers (one year or longer) who volunteered at least once a week. Volunteers contributed an estimated 48,000 hours of service to the Museum over the last financial year.

Behind the Scenes Volunteers	Eduardo Gallo	Ellen Reynolds	Gillian Whitney	Libby Sakker
Win Alliston	Anne Gilling	Lucie Reynolds	Anthony Yan	Moira Shackleton
Juhura Almazi	Bonnie Griffin	Jill Riley	Cynthia Young	Maureen Sim
Graeme Annabell	Dennis Hackett	Ainslie Robinson	Penny Zylstra	Hazel Sproule
Shahilla Balachadran	Barbara Harvey	Diane Romberg		Tory Stening
Peter Blackwell	Kerinne Harvey	Hazel Ronay	Front of House Volunteers	Ailsa Stewart
Michael Batley	Maureen Haydon	Felicity Roos	Peter Andrews	Lesley Strauss
David Bell	Alexandra Hegedus	Sharn Rose	Les Bassett	Lala Szybinski
Ebo Bentil	Geraldine Henrici	Rosemary Pryor	Carole Bennetts	Gillian Tansilao
Nicholas Bishop	Vindhya Hettige	Phillip Russo	Warren Bennetts	Angela Thomas
Wendy Bishop	Benjamin Hope	Lynn Russell	Ray Biddle	Ashleigh Thomson
Colleen Bramble	Emily Howard	Sascha Schulz	Val Bower	Judith Townsend
Holly Branford	Heather Joynes	Margaret Schonell	Douglas Cham	Katey Turner
Kevin Breault	Margaret Killin	Norma Scott	Helen Clark	Jill Wellington
Diane Brown	Stephen Lawlis	Corey Sellwood	Kate Cox	Sarid Williams
Fay Brown	Alan Leishman	Dorothy Shearman	Des Foster	Lizard Island Volunteers
Gordon Campbell	Deidre Lewis-Cook	Letitia Silberbauer	David Frede	Snow Amos
Carol Cantrell	Peter Mallesch	Clodagh Smith	Valerie Gregory	Susan Baggs
Adrian Carter	Robin Marsh	Jean South	Adrienne Hirst	Curtis Bentley
Stephen Chi Ho	Jolanta Mazurek	Ian Stevenson	Mary Hughes	Dainie Blackbourn
David Colchester	Michael McFadden	Joshua Studdent	Dana Jennings	Ian Blackbourn
Christine Crowther	Luca McKinnon	Natalie Sullivan	Jennifer Johnson	David Bramley
Pam Da Costa	Graham McLean	Allen Sundholm	Linda Kristian	Madeline Brunsdon
Peter Dadswell	Pam Mudford	Jim Teys	Roger Langsworth	Adam Fargher
Katherine Daly	Athena Mumbulla	Elizabeth Thomas	David Lind	Terry Ford
Lawrie Davis	Anne Murray	Marc Thumm	Angela Low	Renie Hood
Moira Dean	Susan Myatt	Greg Towner	Dot Lucas	Adrienne Leith
Megan Dean-Jones	Margot O'Donoghue	Leah Tsang	Joan Luijierink	Jenny Oates
Margaret Dell'Oro	Dorothy Pearson	Dianne Tysson	Wendy Macallister	Sara Piddlesden
Anja Divljan	Paloma Perez-Cortes	Shannon Van Den Bosch	Betty McEwin	Alexia Pool
Edith Donald	Nick Phillips	Megan Van Frank	Lyn McHale	Bill Quinlan
Radka Dostal	Jenny Pollak	Melanie Van Olffen	Lynne Palmer	Martin Sommerville
Melanie Evans	John Pollak	Prue Walker	Denise Playoust	Jennifer Thompson
Jan Fisher	Felicia Pugh	Wendy Walker	Kylie Pollack	Lois Wilson
Gabor Foldvary	Naomi Rabeeya	Hugh Watt	Louise Roberts	
Julian Foot	Penelope Ralph	Jean Weiner	Janet Routh	
	Dominique Reid			

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM MEMBERS
The Australian Museum Society was established in 1972 to support and promote the work of the Australian Museum. During 2006 the Society Council decided to change the name to Australian Museum Members. There are around 6,500 Members who enjoy a range of benefits including free entry to the Museum every day of the year, the opportunity to attend Society events (including lectures, urban and bush walks, workshops, kids activities, behind-the-scenes tours, overseas trips and more), subscription to the Museum's new *Explore* magazine as well as special offers.

We wish to record our sincere thanks to the Australian Museum Members for its support during the year. In particular, we thank those members who served on the Members Council, namely Bill Templeman

(President), David Priddel (Vice President), Barry Wilson (Treasurer), Karen Adams, Christopher Birch, Derril Greenway, Estelle Lazer, Ann Hoban and Philip Rubie. We also thank the Members staff, Kate Murray (Executive Officer) and Serena Todd (Events Coordinator) and the Museum staff who also served on the Members' Council, Frank Howarth (Museum Director), Penny Berents, Glenn Ferguson and Shane McEvey.

Members volunteers
Wendy Charng, Victoria Collis, Margaret Coyle, Margaret Craig, Anthony Ellis, Maureen Ford, Jennifer Jenkins, Jill Harris, Val Hutt, Lawson Lobb, Nan Manefield, Graeme McLean, Gaye McLean, Ross Pearson (who has been a volunteer for over 30 years), Keith Robinson, John Robertson, Hilde Rubie, Philip Rubie and Fay Ryan.

DEVELOPMENT
This year, support for the Australian Museum and the Australian Museum Foundation has made a very real difference to what we have achieved in the fields of science, education and our exhibition programs.

The Australian Museum greatly values our relationships with our donors and the corporate community. Gifts of cash, cultural artefacts and generous legacies, have been vital in assisting us 'to inspire the exploration of nature and cultures'.

We offer sincere thanks to the following individuals and organisations who have given so generously during the year and we warmly invite others to become engaged in the rewards of supporting one of Australia's most significant cultural institutions.

Principal Partners
Coral Reef and Marine Science Foundation
Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation
National Geographic Channel
National Opal Collection
Rio Tinto

Presidents Circle
ANZ Bank
John and Felicity Atanaskovic
Anita and Luca Belgiorno-Nettis
Ernst & Young
Chris Grubb
Lend Lease
Diccon Loxton
Graham O'Neill
Rob Rich
Andrew Roberts
Sherman Group
Lucy Turnbull

Sponsors
IBM
JCDecaux
Konica Minolta
Lavazza
Maersk Line
Paspaley Pearling Company
Sydney Grammar School

Gifts
Beirne Family
Estate of the late Clarence E Chadwick
Estate of the late Kenneth Eaton
Mr Owen Griffiths & Biodiversity
Conservation Madagascar Association
Jacob Grossbard
Estate of the late Gwendoline A West
Michael and Mary Whelan Trust

Cultural Gifts
Graeme Annabell
Rod and Robyn Dent – in honour of Pat Dent and the Wanindilyaugwa tribe
Newcrest Mining Limited
Michael Shea
George Stacey

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

EUREKA PRIZES 2005

The Australian Museum Eureka Prizes were established in 1990 to reward outstanding science and to raise the profile of science in the community. They have developed into the country's pre-eminent and most comprehensive science awards, rewarding outstanding science-related achievements in the categories of research, leadership and innovation, education and science communication.

A record 24 prizes worth \$237,000 were awarded at a gala awards dinner in August 2005. This event has become the largest in Australia celebrating and rewarding Australian science and science communication.

Sponsors

Australian Catholic University
Australian Computer Society
Australian Government Department of
Education, Science and Training
Australian Government Department of
Environment and Heritage
Australian Skeptics Inc.
Botanic Gardens Trust, Sydney
Brian Sherman
British Council Australia
CSIRO
Department of Environment and
Conservation (NSW)
Grains Research & Development
Corporation
Land & Water Australia
Macquarie University
New Scientist
NSW Ministry for Science and
Medical Research
Peter and Divonne Holmes à Court
Pfizer Australia
Royal Societies of Australia
Sherman Foundation (Voiceless)
University of New South Wales
University of Sydney Faculty of Science

Supporters

Abbey's Bookshop, Sydney
Hahn Breweries
Microsoft
Pages Event Hire
Petaluma Australia
Playbill Venues
Sydney Marriott Hotel
Tailored Events Catering

LIZARD ISLAND REEF RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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

Patrons

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

Trustees

Mr Kenneth Coles AM, Chairman
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Mr Jim Bildner
Mr Andrew Green
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Mr Trevor Haworth AM
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Mr Vivian King
Mr Raymond Kirby AO
Mr Gordon Moffatt AM
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Mrs Heather Power
Mr Robert Purves
Professor Stephan Schnierer
Mr David Shannon
Mr Charles Shuetrim
Dr Charles Warman AM

Major Donors

Fred P Archer Charitable Trust
Neil Balnaves
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Ken Coles, AM and Rowena Danziger
Alison Hayward
Kevin Kalkhoven
James N Kirby Foundation
Macquarie Bank Foundation
Maple-Brown Family Charitable
Foundation Ltd
Gordan Moffatt, AM and Jacqueline Moffatt
Lynton and Susan Morgan
The Ian Potter Foundation
Lady Laurine Proud
The Raymond E Purves Foundation
The John Villiers Trust
Thyne Reid Charitable Trusts
Voyages