

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INCORPORATED



ANNUAL REPORT

1991

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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As President, and on behalf of the Committee of Management, I would like to thank the Museum's staff who have worked with such dedication and enthusiasm through 1991. A reading of the Annual Report demonstrates the many and varied projects undertaken, the growth in visitor numbers and the assistance given to a wider community. We are truly fulfilling our aims and objectives. May I also record my personal appreciation of the support and loyalty given by the Committee of Management in what have been difficult and testing times. Their individual and corporate strength will ensure that our Living Museum of the West continues to serve its community.

Irene Wescott
President
Melbourne's Living Museum of the West

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 1991

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

President
Irene Wescott
Senior Vice-President
Peter Somerville
Junior Vice-President
Chris Reidy

Community representatives
Brian Hubber
Rhonda Hallett
Dianne Beevers
Judith Gleeson

Staff Representative
Peter Haffenden

NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES Western Region Commission - Fred Maddern

City of Altona - Joan and Tom Bryans
City of Footscray - Cr. Marie Earle
City of Sunshine - Cr. Irene Shand
City of Werribee - Cr. Kevin Skehan

Department of Planning & Housing - Madeleine Ellis
Ministry of Education - Tony Tartaro

Ex officio
Museum Director - Olwen Ford

SPECIAL THANKS

The Committee of Management, members and staff of Melbourne's Living Museum of the West acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the contribution of the Victorian Ministry for the Arts in providing core funding for our museum's operations in 1991 and the advice and encouragement given by Hilary Newton, Manager of the Museums unit, Victorian Ministry for the Arts.

From inter-state

Kay Hallahan, MLC, Minister for the Arts, Western Australia, with Olwen Ford, talking about Melbourne's Living Museum of the West, over tea and cakes at the Hilton, Melbourne.



'I very much appreciated hearing first hand the achievements of the Living Museum of the West and its success in building awareness of the lives of working women and men. Your pioneering work is an inspiration, particularly during this year when Western Australia is undertaking a major review of museum policy.

... and from overseas

'I'm very excited by the Living Museum of the West. I've never seen anything like it before. It does seem to me that it lives up to all the elements of its name, that it is a living museum ...

I find the place really fascinating, and I'm going to carry this story back to England with me and hope that other people will pick up from it.

Sue Clifford of the national 'Common Ground movement, U.K. at 'Appreciating the west' seminar at Pipemakers Park, 9 March 1992
Common Ground is working to encourage people to value and enjoy their own familiar surroundings, regardless of whether they are rare and unusual.

Overview

1991 was a year of higher profile, giving opportunities for wider scope through activities in a range of new contexts. Especially significant and innovative was the Koorie project, which enabled the Museum to employ Robert Mate Mate as Aboriginal Project Officer and which has involved the Museum in contact with a number of Koorie people and groups. This led to new ventures in 1992, especially the Blackout Australia Day concert at Pipemakers Park with Aboriginal musicians, poets and dancers and paved the way for the Koorie Gardening Apprentice Scheme.

The involvement of people is very much a key emphasis in our museum. This became clear when the Committee of Management sat down to work out a 'Mission statement', which was later adopted at the museum's Annual General Meeting. This resulted in a brief summary of our main purpose 'Melbourne's Living Museum of the west is a community museum which actively involves the people of Melbourne's West and others in documenting, preserving and interpreting the richness and depth of the region's social, industrial and environmental history'.

In keeping with this purpose, the Living Museum moved into the area of environmental education, including training sessions for primary teachers and in-service workshops for VCE teachers. We developed our links with the new Victoria University of Technology and other tertiary institutions and began a program of marketing to schools by intensive visiting. We continued to give talks and guided tours of our historic factory site and tours of the river and the region, by boat and/or bus. More and more groups and individuals from the other side of town, especially retired people, are discovering our museum and our Visitor Centre.

The workshop 'Appreciating Melbourne's West', held at our Visitor Centre, attracted a range of people who discussed their perceptions of our region and enjoyed the excellent address given by Sue Clifford, of the 'Common Ground' movement in England, as well as short talks by various community speakers. Sue's ideas on valuing local environments are very relevant to our work.

The concept of our Living Museum continues to intrigue and inspire others who are interested in museum development. We have had a number of inter-state visitors and have been in contact with arts organisations in several states.

Peter Haffenden paid a visit to Darwin, at the invitation of the Australia Council and produced a photo-documentation of the May Day festival there. Western Australia is currently reviewing their Museums policy and we have had a meeting with Kay Halahan, the Minister for the Arts in Western Australia, Andrea Hull, their Director, and Ministerial advisor Chris Keely. We have had a number of visitors from Canberra and Sydney and a visitor from New Zealand.

At the local level, we get a steady stream of research inquirers, people donating material they have written or would like the Museum to keep, people buying local publications, members of local historical societies. We attend the quarterly meetings of the West Central Group of Historical Societies and keep in touch with their members on an informal basis.

Links with local councils are building up, as councils see the value of the services we can provide. For example, we produced a three-panel display for the City of Keilor, relating to the Overnewton Gatehouse and our archaeologist Gary Vines undertook an archeological survey for the Melton sewerage scheme. We anticipate developing these links further through the walks booklet we will be producing in 1992.

The Museum has made progress on several fronts in building up our capacity to generate revenue. The museum's consultancies in the areas of industrial archeology and history and community arts are especially important, but we have also generated revenue from talks, tours & workshops, from hiring out our space at the Visitor Centre and from the sale of publications. A 'business review' is included in this annual report and will give some idea of the approach taken in 1991.

We are conscious of other developments in our region - the extremely high unemployment, the closure of major factories, the survival and growth of the Victoria University of Technology, the chemical fires on Coode Island. We have also noted with regret the loss of the position of Regional Arts officer, the lack of funding for the continuance of the pioneer bibliographic project 'Westdoc'. There are many problems ahead, as well as exciting developments. I would especially like to thank the Museum Committee of Management for their support and the staff for their hard work and commitment.

Olwen Ford
Museum Director

Radio slots green lesson



● As project officer at the Melbourne Living Museum of the West, Mr Mark Dawkins will talk-back radio programs on conservation and environment issues at 3WRB.

THE Melbourne Living Museum of the West, in Maribyrnong, has received two \$2500 grants from the Department of Conservation and Environment.

The money will be used:

- To produce programs about conservation and the environment with themes and projects relevant to the west of Melbourne, and for information sheets to accompany the radio programs, translated into community languages; and

- To promote environmental education for people with physical and intellectual disabilities.

The projects should begin in April.

Museum project officer Mr Mark Dawkins said the grant was less than the museum had requested.

"We are happy with the amount because we realise times are tough. Both the projects will have to be reduced — although hopefully each will stimulate some interest within the community," he said.

Mr Dawkins said the radio programs would

have talk-back and would run once a week for half an hour.

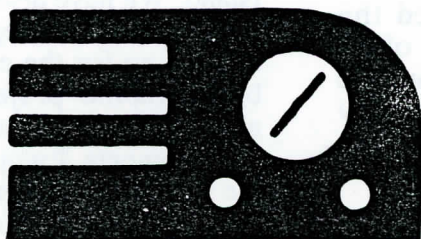
A spokesman for the second project, Mr Gary Vines, said that no one had previously given much thought to disabled people, conservation and the environment.

"A trained local social worker, Mrs Helen Laffin, will be working with people with disabilities to

identify whether these programs are adaptable to the disabled," Mr Vines said.

The Maribyrnong group was one of 69 community-based groups in Victoria to receive

\$255,700 through the Department of Conservation and Environment's community grants program.



Radio: example of outreach & community involvement

The Living Museum Show, the Museum's radio program on 3WRB, is now over one year old and continues to be heard every Friday morning from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Over 100 guests have appeared on the program which, amongst other things, operates as one of the few opportunities for the community of the Western Suburbs to have access to broadcasting.

An example of the stories covered in the show was the series of stories and interviews on the subject of Coode Island. The first coverage given this topic was an interview with members of the Hazardous Materials Action Group discussing the proposal by the Port of Melbourne Authority's decision to remove their emergency response unit from Coode Island - this program went to air two weeks before the first of the two major fires on that site. Since that time programs have continued to report on the issue, including updates on the deliberations of the enquiry panel. This coverage recently drew glowing compliments from the Mayor of Footscray, Councillor Graham Johnson and local police.

The Museum's involvement in radio extends beyond the presentation of a weekly three hour program. Museum projects with a direct association to radio have attracted grants totalling \$20,000. thus far. The project funded by the Stan Willis Trust, which has as its product a regular weekly health program, has had approval in principal from WRB management and also has six Community Health Centres directly involved with a number of others likely to be contributors. The final meeting before the program goes to air is scheduled for 10th April 1992. The radio component of the George Seelaf project is in the final stages of editing and should be aired very soon. The Museum is also soon to produce a series of environment programs with the participation of local environmental and conservation groups. While it is not a project objective that a permanent environmental show be an outcome this is seen as a desirable side effect.

The Museum has also made various contributions to the administration of what is said to be the most listened-to FM community radio station in Melbourne. Mark early on became involved in the programming committee of the station and was appointed the chairman

of that committee. At 3WRB's last annual general meeting he was elected vice-president.

The intention of that involvement was to facilitate an increased participation of various sections of the western region community. This strategy has begun to yield results with the health program about to go to air, discussions with the Victoria University of Technology, the involvement of various Neighbourhood Watch groups, opportunities for secondary school students to present the results of their research, contributions from some of the arts groups in the region, from local writers and academics, from Aboriginal researchers, educationists and musicians, from the petrochemical industry and some of the local environmental groups.

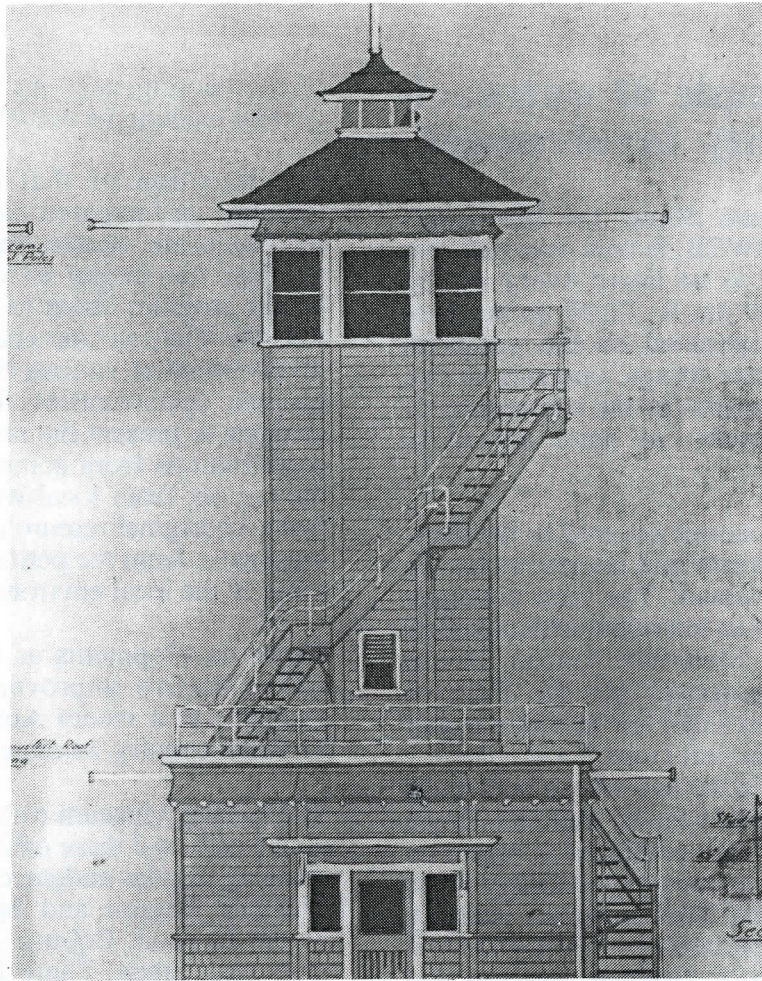
These developments as well as various other administrative improvements were valuable evidence at a recent Australian Broadcasting Tribunal enquiry, relating to 3WRB's licence.

The Living Museum Show is attracting many phone calls and these calls and letters indicate a growing regular audience from throughout the Western Region and beyond - notably St. Kilda, Elwood, Coburg, Richmond and other inner city areas. There has even been a call from Tasmania. This growing audience has translated into many new subscribers to 3WRB and some sponsorship from local businesses.

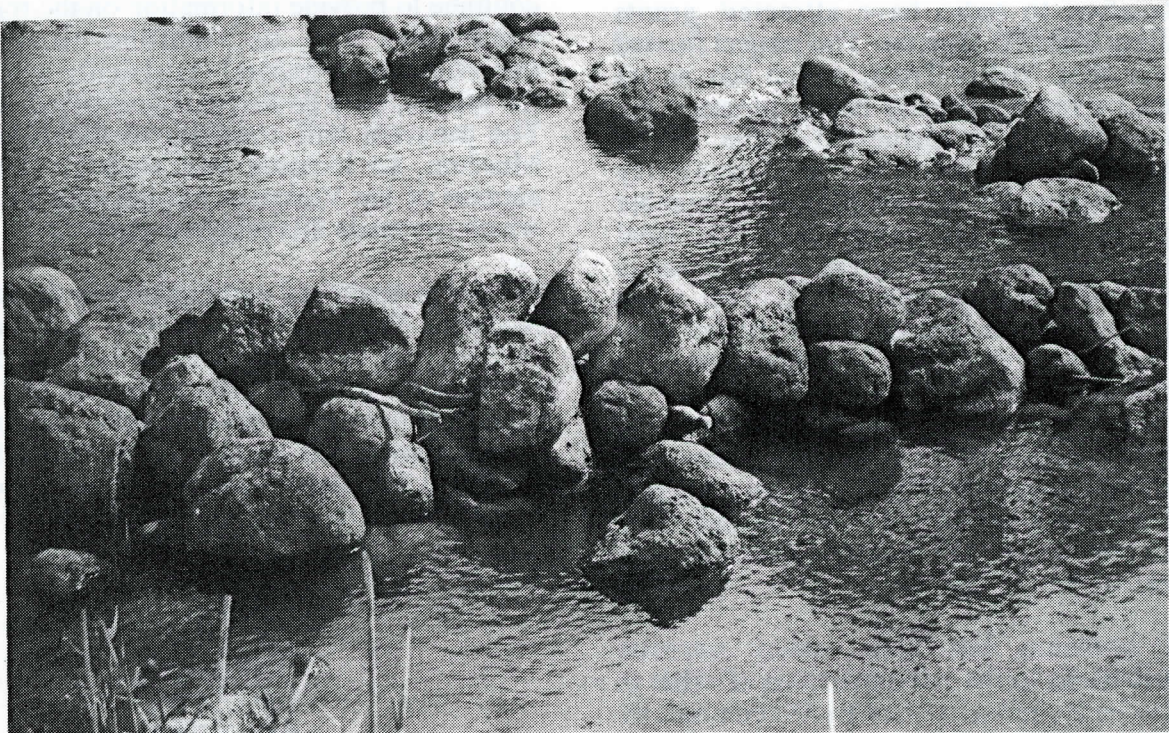
The immediate future of the program is to continue to provide information on the region's community and to continue to pursue opportunities to expand community access to the station, both as listeners and broadcasters. The program will continue to highlight the Museum, its location and products and the support of the Victorian Ministry for the Arts which has made this program possible.

We invite members' participation in the Living Museum Show. Outreach and community involvement will continue to be the basis of our involvement in radio and we are sure that most members have connections with community organisations that would benefit from some publicity for their activities. Please contact Mark Dawkins to make use of this facility.





The Dockhead tower for control of port activities, erected c.1910 by the Melbourne Harbour Trust. The base of this was identified in the Docklands Heritage Study.



Aboriginal fish trap, Brewarinna, New South Wales.

Resource Centre

The Resource Centre has been provided with additional facilities through such donations as an additional map cabinet from Melbourne Water and through purchase of filing cabinets. Contributions of artifacts, photographs, historical documents and other material has added to our resources related to the region, and our ability to interpret the region through displays, publications and by providing material to other researchers. Most of this material has been private donations and includes a display and documents about the West Gate Bridge collapse, ceramic insulators made at the Maribyrnong Pottery, tools from the Sunshine Harvester Works, personal reminiscences and photographs of places in the region and a 'Bundy' time clock.

Analysis of research inquiries indicates that the bulk of our research inquiries continue to come from secondary and tertiary students and teachers, but also individual researchers, e.g. researchers of family history and local history, and private consultants. Those using our collection for the purposes of research often receive considerable help from museum staff, in the form of advice on sources, background information and where to find additional material.

Examples of use of Museum material may be found in the book *Australian Studies: An Investigative Approach*, by Michael Slessar, published by the VCTA and *Windows on the West: Research guides for VCE students*, (Women; Work; Migrants) published by Victoria University of Technology - Footscray Institute of Technology and the Western Metropolitan Region Ministry of Education. This latter publication has sections on 'information organisations', including an outline of Melbourne's Living Museum of the West. *Working Victoria: A VCE Guide to the Study of Work*, by Amanda Bede, Victoria Peel and John Arnold, published by Longman 1991, has a substantial section (ten pages) on the resources held and produced by our museum.

Work booklets

Our 'Interpreting the Cultural Environment' project which involves preparing four booklets on historical aspects of work in the region is progressing, with the research and writing components completed. Editing and preparation of artwork is now under way.

Research Consultancies

Gary Vines has been busy with a number of commercial consultancies which have both earned additional income for the Museum, and allowed us to expand the range of research we are conducting both in and out of the region. The Docklands Heritage Study was a major commission with Andrew Ward and Peter Milner for the Docklands Task Force. The findings demonstrated the important surviving heritage of the area including several historic buildings such as the VLine Carriage Workshops which began life as Wright & Edwards carriage works at Braybrook Junction, and the potential archaeological sites of the Dudley Flats slum settlements.

Archaeological surveys have been carried out in Craigieburn, the Sunbury Mental Hospital and Melton while our influence has been extended to New South Wales through a short project assessing the Brewarrina Aboriginal fish traps. Gary was asked to work on these stone fish traps in the Darling River on the basis of his expertise in dry stone wall construction.

A further project which demonstrates the influence of the Living Museum's study of industrial heritage in Victoria was a commission through the Historic Buildings Council to conduct a survey of factories in Melbourne's northern suburbs and towns along the north eastern railway. This survey has identified over 400 sites and provided useful comparison with the Western Region Industrial Heritage Study undertaken by Gary Vines and Andrew Ward for this museum, so that the two studies together now provide almost 75% coverage of Melbourne's industrial heritage.



From left: Acting Melton Mayor Cr Margaret Wood, Melton Secondary College VCE student Tamie Frampton, Project Co-ordinator Gary Vines and Noel Fethers, great great-granddaughter of Margaret Pinkerton with the time capsule retrieved at the cairn site last week. Photo: Eric Waterman.



Bill Clifton (Newmarket Saleyards Historic Sub-Committee), Jenny Lee (Melbourne City Council) Tjip Faber (Major Projects Unit), Elizabeth McKinnon (artist/designer), Joyce Clifton (Newmarket Saleyards Historic Sub-Committee) at the launching of the history panels, Lynch's Bridge project.



Premier and Museum Patron, Joan Kirner, speaking to Joyce and Bill Clifton at the launching of the history panels, Lynch's Bridge Project, 1 September 1991.

Art / Design Consultancies

Lynch's Bridge Project

Elizabeth McKinnon completed her work on the Newmarket Saleyards History panels, begun the previous year. They were launched on September 1st by the Premier Joan Kirner at the Lynch's Bridge Community Day. 2,000 copies of a brochure designed by Elizabeth McKinnon were also produced and have been distributed widely. The brochures reproduce the ten history panels as well as the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor's message, a bike path map and an introduction. This work led to a new consultancy with the Major Projects Unit, being the Epsom Road Underpass Mosaic Mural. The mural is being constructed at Lynch's Bridge with assistance from the students and staff of Kensington Community High School.

Union Square Arts Project

Union Square is part of the Victoria University of Technology, Footscray campus. With funding from the VUT, Footscray Campus Arts Acquisition Committee and the V.U.T. Footscray Campus Union Board, Elizabeth McKinnon has been working closely with Russell Wilson the V.U.T. Footscray campus Union Programs and Services Manager. The Arts Project involves design and construction of artwork by Architectural Ceramics students from Monash University, Caulfield Campus; design and construction of garden furniture with local 'Image Makers' Big Fish; involvement of Footscray Campus in some aspects of design and construction of garden furniture; and the planting of a herb garden.

Life and Times of George Sealaf.

Radio Series

Over forty interviews were completed in June and July 1991 by Elizabeth McKinnon and Mark Dawkins with people who knew George, ranging from primary school mates to union officials and communist party comrades; people who knew him as Trades Hall Arts Officer, after his retirement from the Union in 1973; people who worked with George in the Footscray community with regard to Festivals, the arts, health and the aged. The interviews have been taped and extracts from the interviews form the basis of the Radio Series, 'Hello, Fellow Slave'. This radio series is being produced with the assistance of the 'Stick Together Show' presenters at 3CR and will go to air on 3WRB and 3CR. The Community Cultural Development Unit of the Australia Council provided funding for this project and are keenly interested in the outcome.

Exhibition

Another element of this project is the exhibition, entitled 'All You Need Is A Biro'. This is a photo portrait exhibition and will be completed in 1992. A grant of \$5,000 from the Sidney Myer Fund is an important contribution to development of this exhibition and further grants are being sought to cover the costs involved.

Community News Tuesday October 15 1991

An environmental showpiece

THE Living Museum at Pipemakers Park, Maribyrnong, is a showpiece of what the western suburbs can be proud indeed.

It combines picnic and barbecue facilities, a range of displays in its visitors centre, self-guided trails and boat trips which translate into one of the best environmental show-cases in Melbourne.

Located on the original site of the Maribyrnong pipemaking factory, the living museum has attracted much interest.

Testimony to this interest is last week's \$5000 donation by Myer Highpoint.



The money will be used to create a tribute to Ascot Vale and western suburbs identity George Sealaf, former leader of the Australian Meat-workers Union and one of the most colorful and hard-working historians in the west. Myer Highpoint's store manager Julie Sporton (left) is pictured handing the cheque to Libby McKinnon from the living museum.



'Two River Cruise', Heritage Week 1991, with Peter Somerville and Robert Mate Mate, leaving from Pipemakers Park.



Exploring the wetlands of our region, with Melbourne's Living Museum of the West, Heritage Week, 1991.

Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre is proving to be a form of outreach to people from many parts of Melbourne who had previously had no contact with the Living Museum. These include groups of retired people and students from secondary and tertiary levels, as well as families, walking groups and individual visitors.

The Visitor Centre and Pipemakers Park itself (because of the Museum's presence) have become a venue for seminars and workshops on environmental education, e.g. the Frog seminar, organised by the Department of Conservation & Environment, community consultation on re-development of local sites and regional gatherings, such as the "Appreciating the West" seminar, with speaker Sue Clifford, from the Common Ground movement in England.

The Museum's headquarters is still the only place in Melbourne's western region where people can gain an overview of the region, through the displays and audio-visuals, the brochures available and the publications (books, postcards, posters, broadsheets, kits) which can be purchased from the Living Museum's bookshop.

Interpretation

The Museum has further developed its interpretation plan for Pipemakers Park and has contributed recommendations to Melbourne Water regarding treatment of the old 'Top Factory' building and a possible nature trail at Pipemakers Park. Melbourne Water has provided some funds towards development of this nature trail.

Guided tours and the Museum's displays and publications on the site, the river valley and the region are the main approaches to interpretation, together with slides and videos. Interaction with visitors is an important part of interpretation and we often find that those visiting include people who have been closely involved with local industries.

Tours

In 1991 it became evident that the Visitor Centre is becoming recognised as a valuable stopping point on regional tours, e.g. London Transport Bus Co., Pakenham Bus Co.; school tours, e.g. City of Footscray Secondary College, and a focal point for walking groups. Those chartering the boat 'Blackbird'

frequently also make a booking for a visit for a guided tour or introductory talk. A number of organisations making group bookings this year are repeat visits.

The Museum conducted its own regional tour during Heritage Week, with a tour of wetlands of Melbourne's west, beginning at Pipemakers Park, with speakers from the Department of Conservation & Environment and Melbourne Water and a guided walk through the wetlands of Pipemakers Park with the help of Brimbank rangers and local frog and bird observer experts.

Displays

Applications to a range of funding bodies have resulted in grants towards developing or extending Museum displays, especially a grant from the Helen M. Schutt Trust to develop a display on chaff mills of Melbourne's west, with a special focus on the Schutt & Barrie chaff mill at Footscray and its weighbridge office. A number of organisations lent displays during 1991 - Department of Conservation & Environment on Wetlands; Materials Research Laboratories, in conjunction with the La Trobe Library - 'West of the Yarra: Up Maribyrnong Way'; Western Region Commission; Keilor Council, Sunshine & District Historical Society.



Photo from the MRL display

LIVING MUSEUM PUBLICATION SALES JAN 1990 - DEC 1991



Living Museum monthly publication sales figures for the 24 months between January 1990 and December 1991.

The marked rise in the last five months of 1991 shows the result of a strong marketing effort leading with the Museum's latest publication, *Landscapes Recycled*.

Business Review

1991 was not an easy year for anyone and the Living Museum was not unaffected by the tough times experienced by all as newspaper articles described one tale of economic gloom after another. Overall the Museum experienced a deficit although it appears to be a manageable deficit.

Learning to apply 'business plan' techniques in order to increase efficiency and survive in an ever-decreasing economy has been a bit like learning to sail a yacht out on the ocean with the winds growing stronger and the occasional squall coming in on the starboard bow.

The lessons we have learnt in managing our yacht have been somewhat over-shadowed by the strength of the squalls but they are significant in the overall picture.

It has been emphasized by the various funding bodies for some time now that we and other arts organisations must learn to become more self-sufficient. The good news is that the proportion of our income that we have earned has increased significantly. This is important to note because it is this area of earned income that will most likely be the most effective buffer against reduced funding in the long term.

We were already strong in this area in 1990, although it was not shown effectively in the published accounts. Earned income was about 20% of income in 1990, quite an achievement for a small to medium museum.

Earned income comes mainly from three areas - research consultancies, publication sales and talks, workshops and tours. Income from workshops and tours more than doubled from just over \$3000 in 1990 to \$7,000 in 1991. Publication sales also doubled from about \$8,000 to somewhere in the vicinity of \$18,000 while research consultancies earned more than \$30,000.

This earned income rose to about 30% of total income for 1991, far beyond all hopes and projections. The fall-off in income was in the grants area as was predicted by the funding bodies.

The increase in research consultancies has come about for several reasons. One of these is the need to focus more in this direction, another is the availability of work that fits within the museum's aims and objectives and most

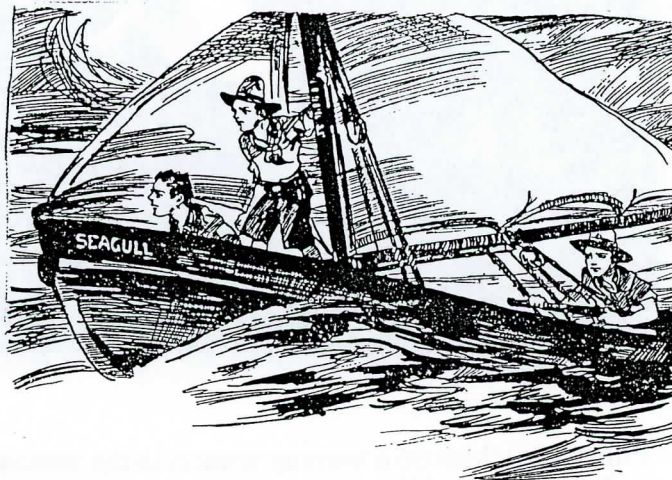
importantly is the accumulation of skill, expertise and professionalism in its eight year existence.

Talks, workshops and tours have increased because more people have heard about us and are interested in visiting the Museum and many who have been bring back a new group with them, for example, teachers who bring a class one year come back the following year, despite the cuts in funding in schools for such activities. All these increases have been made in the face of tighter choices by many who came.

Publication sales rose when we used a new product as the spearhead in an aggressive marketing campaign. The Museum's new book, *Landscapes Recycled*, led the sales by taking about \$7,000. The book on Maribyrnong took about \$1,000. And people bought \$600 worth of photos. Basically we took the books to the customer, by going out to see bookshops, libraries and teachers. This was a costly exercise but we have learnt a lot about selling books. The graph on the opposite page shows clearly the effects of applied marketing.

So how do we see the future? Can we maintain this push into self-sufficiency? The times are obviously very unpredictable and over-confidence in such an era can only be irresponsible. We have kept up with the times relatively well for an organisation whose main focus is not business but to be a museum. We have had a few bumps in the last year, but we are certainly not alone in that. Fortunately we have dealt with the dilemmas of surviving while maintaining our aims and objectives as a museum early enough to get a grip on the current 'challenges'. We are quietly confident if anyone can make it through these torrid times we will be with them.

Peter Haffenden





Primary school children have a session with Melbourne's Living Museum of the West at Pipemakers Park.



Primary teachers do a training session in the wetland area of Pipemakers Park, as part of an Environmental Education in Classrooms Program, conducted by John Laffin.

Education Program

Teacher education

1991 saw the first successful applications to the Education Ministry for funds towards professional development of teachers. This meant the Living Museum was accredited as an organisation offering professional development programs. One grant was for in-service sessions for VCE teachers. The other, through the Victorian Environmental Education Association, was for a series of workshops for primary school teachers, with an emphasis on environmental education. The first of the VCE teachers programs was in September 1991 with an emphasis on land use and changing environments. The series for primary teachers operated in co-operation with the group 'Environmental Education Programs in Classrooms'. Two series of eight in-service workshops for primary teachers were held in the latter part of 1991. These included field-work sessions in the wetlands area of Pipemakers Park. An Earth Studies regional network group ran a session for teachers at the Museum, involving Museum staff as well as using the Museum's space and facilities. Teachers were among those attending the Department of Conservation and Environment Frog seminar earlier this year.

The Museum has provided an informal support system for interested teachers who came to use the Museum's resources and also conducted in-service sessions for teachers at their school.

Services to students

The Living Museum has sought to make the Education Program self-funding by charging for services, such as talks and guided tours for primary and secondary students (especially Australian Studies Year 11), workshops/seminars for teachers and tertiary students and hire of the Visitor Centre for conferences. The income generated from this source more than doubled during 1991. The number of students taking part in such visits for the period March-May 1991 was a considerable increase on the same period last year.

In addition the Museum has been preparing a series of booklets on particular areas of work - textiles, rural industry, quarrying, animal by-products and sets of primary source material suitable for Australian Studies (Units 1 and 2). All these products have made use of material generated by the Museum, as well as other sources and have been funded by agencies such as the Victorian Ministry for Planning & Housing, the Sunshine Foundation etc.

Links continued with the Footscray campus of the Victoria University of Technology, especially the teacher education students. For the first time, the Museum staff provided sessions for students at Western Institute-VUT. Museum staff continued to consult closely with staff at School Support centres, who assisted in the preparation of Museum submissions for funding and in the development of in-service programs. Building up contact with schools in the region was mainly the responsibility of one staff member, who visited several schools each week over a period of some months.

Publications

Landscapes Recycled

The main publication of the Living Museum in 1991 was the book *Landscapes Recycled: The Changing Environment of Melbourne's West.*, by Chrisy Dennis. This is closely geared to the requirements of the VCE Environmental Studies course and is also very relevant to the VCE courses in Geography, History and Australian Studies. A review in the Geography teachers' journal, *Interaction*, described the book as 'a much needed and valuable resource dealing with Melbourne's Western Region ... Maps, diagrams, photographs are liberally and effectively used in the text ... the book can be used as a starting point for further investigation or as a quick reference.'

Reports

The Museum published *Worth its Salt: A Survey of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Cheetham Saltworks* by Brett Lane and Gary Vines and this study has evoked considerable interest. In response to demand, the Museum arranged for limited re-reprints of a number of reports it had published previously. These included: *Melbourne's West: An Introductory History*, by J.Lack and O.Ford, *Chaff Mills in Melbourne's West* by G.Vines and *Built to Last: Drystone Walls in Melbourne's West* by G.Vines.

Brochures

Melbourne Water funded re-printing of three brochures relating to this museum's work - Pipemakers Park, the Meat Trail and the Pipe Trail. The Museum displays and distributes a number of brochures from other organisations, including the City of Williamstown, the Shire of Melton, the Werribee Historical Society.



Robert Mate Mate, Aboriginal Project Officer, Koorie Project. on the banks of the Maribyrnong River, Pipemakers Park.



Robert Mate Mate and Gary Vines with rangers at a training day, Point Cook.

Koorie Project

Since August 1991, Robert Mate Mate has been the Aboriginal Project Officer for Melbourne's Living Museum of the West. The Lance Reichstein Foundation and the Stegley Foundation have provided grants for his position. To date, he has been involved in various community and educational activities. He has appeared on the Museum's radio show on 3WRB and has talked about the tribal boundaries and dialects of the Marin Baluk who were family groups of the Wurundjeri and inhabitants of the area west of what is now Melbourne. Robert has also commented on contemporary issues pertaining to Aboriginal Australia.

In co-operation with Peter and Warwick Somerville of Maribyrnong River Cruises, Robert has taken part in tours and cruises of the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers and has spoken about the Aboriginal history of the two rivers. Participants in these cruises have included people from the southern and eastern suburbs of Melbourne and teachers from across Melbourne's western region.

An important part of Robert's work is identifying Aboriginal sites in Melbourne's west, for example, the site of a fish trap at Braybrook - the demarcation of the fresh water and the salt water, and corroboree grounds in Footscray, Williamstown and Essendon.

At training days for rangers at Brimbank and Point Cook, Robert has provided background information on the local tribes, their dialects and customs and significant archaeological sites. He has given talks to young people, including school students, and has assisted several school and university students and teachers in their investigations regarding Koorie history. He worked with Koorie students at Wales Street Primary School, Thornbury on a dramatic presentation of the Wurundjeri creation dreamtime story.

Contact with the *Sun-Herald* led to an article utilizing research by Robert on Peter St. Albans, the first Aborigine to ride in and win the Melbourne Cup in 1876. Robert has written up the story of Peter St. Albans in a display at the Museum's Visitor Centre.

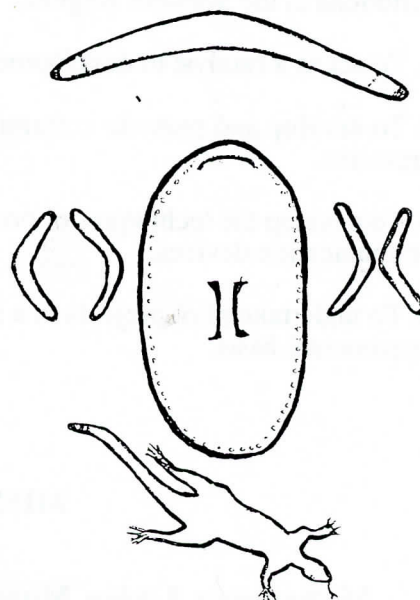
Robert has been in touch with a number of Aboriginal organisations across the metropolis, including the Wurundjeri Tribal Council, Dandenong; Enmaraleek, Broadmeadows, and indigenous groups such as the 500 Year

Committee which consists of Aboriginal people from South and Central America.

Through the grants from the Reichstein and Stegley Foundations, Melbourne's Living Museum of the West is developing its resources on Aboriginal culture and history. These now include books, kits, posters and artifacts and are currently on display in the Visitor Centre. Patricia Harrison of Dandenong, an elder of the Wurundjeri tribe, has made a traditional basket from native grasses and reeds for this museum and we have purchased items made by members of the Corranderrk Koorie Co-Op, at Healesville.

Robert's major project is to produce a booklet which will focus on the Woiworung language spoken by the Wurundjeri peoples and will use the extensive research he has undertaken in a range of archives. This product will be especially appropriate for educational adaptation and will be available by mid 1992 together with information sheets and resource guides.

The Koorie Project Committee has played an important role throughout the project and we thank Cheryl Vickery, Larry Walsh, Wayne Atkinson, Vicky Nicholson, Melissa Brickell, Viki Rutter, and Di Beevers for their input, advice and support.



'Invitation to a ceremony'
Drawing by Robert Mate Mate

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The purposes for which Melbourne's Living Museum of the West Incorporated is established are:-

1. To establish a permanent ecomuseum within the context of Melbourne's Western Region, a concept whereby the total community, its environment and its heritage are considered as part of the Museum, focussing the main emphasis on the people of the region rather than on artefacts, and operating from one or more fixed bases throughout the region.
2. To develop a greater understanding of the history and culture of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples and the environment of Melbourne's Western Region.
3. To record and present the history of working people in Melbourne's Western Region, up to the present day.
4. To involve the people of the region in the collection, research and presentation of this history,
5. To use a wide range of presentation methods, including exhibitions, video, publications, theatre, public events, and other participatory activities.
6. To be a multi-cultural museum.
7. To create a mobile museum service for Melbourne's Western Region.
8. To relate the historic sites and structures of the region to the story of the people of the region.
9. To develop a Heritage Resource Centre for the region.
10. To undertake linking and bridging activities with other groups, projects and institutions in the Western Region.
11. To act as a catalyst to development of ecomuseum activity in Australia.
12. To develop and promote community museum activity which is interactive and innovative.
13. To develop the techniques of presenting exhibitions and related activities as effective communication devices.
14. To undertake pilot projects in a number of areas within the ecomuseum context on an experimental basis.

MISSION STATEMENT 1991

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West is a community museum which actively involves the people of Melbourne's west and others in documenting, preserving and interpreting the richness and depth of the region's social, industrial and environmental history.

