



annual report
JULY 2022 -
JUNE 2023

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West

Documenting and preserving the stories and the images
of the people and places of Melbourne's West since 1984

ACTIVITIES OF AN ECOMUSEUM

The Living Museum of the West Visitor Centre is situated on the unceded sovereign land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We also work on the unceded lands of the Boonwurrung and the Wathaurung people of the Kulin Nation.

We recognise their continuing connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Cover image: The Museum's new website 2023

This page: Fire set for elders meeting event with Reconciliation Victoria.

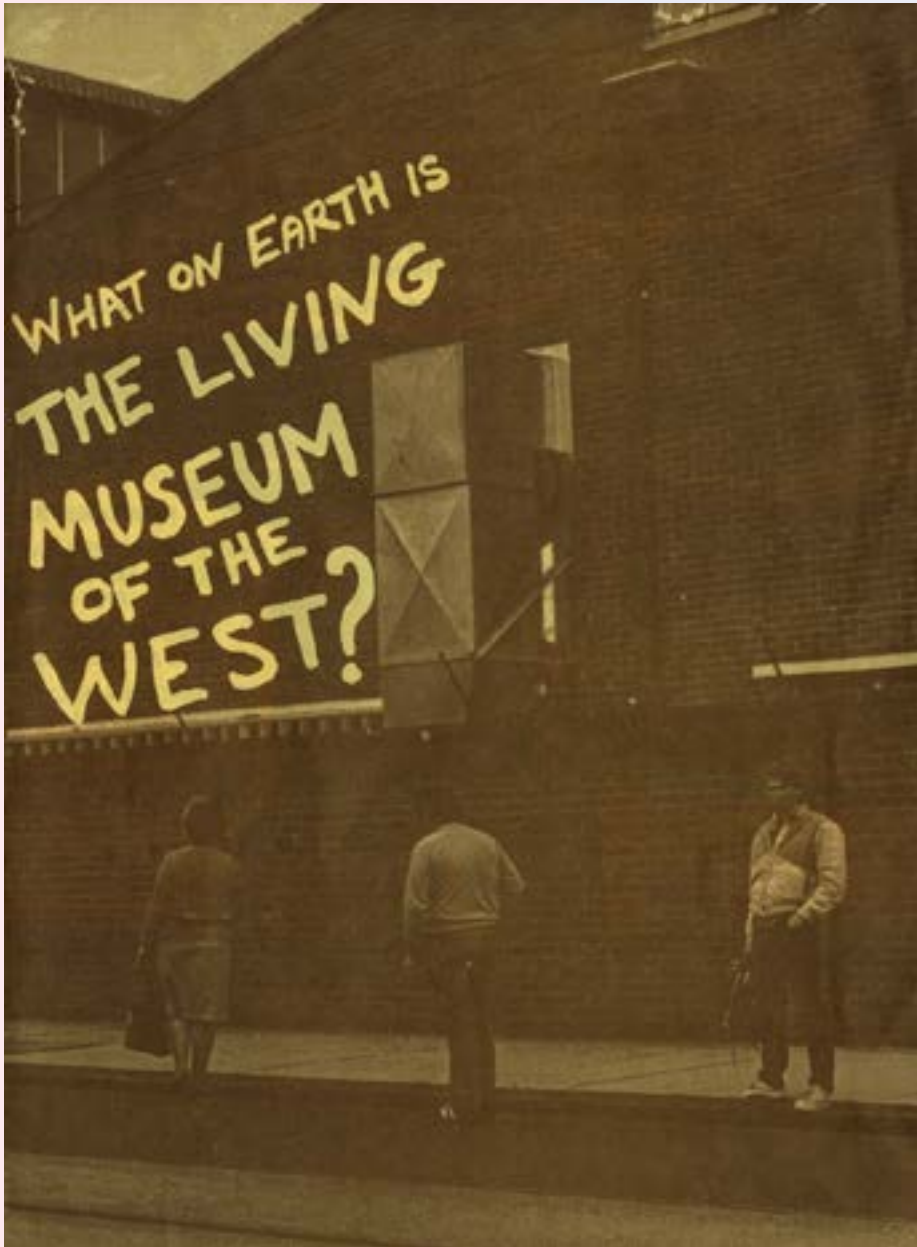




All-day excursion and workshops with Annunciation Primary School students from Braybrook.



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About Us

The western region of Melbourne comprises a unique landscape that was studied and managed by its First Nations people for more than 65,000 years. Due to its unique ecology, geology and geographic location, in the 1800s Melbourne's western region became the industrial heartland of Victoria, and arguably Australia through processes of war and dispossession. Today it is one of the most multi-culturally diverse regions in Australia.

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West was established in 1984 to document and tell the stories of the peoples and places of Melbourne's west. Based in Pipemakers Park, it is an inclusive museum and the only 'ecomuseum' in Australia.

The term 'ecomuseum' was developed by the International Council of Museums in the early 1970s. It is a term used to describe a museum whose primary concern is understanding the identity of a place and its inhabitants, their heritage, and their future. It seeks participation from the community to form its collection and program to serve their ongoing needs.

"An ecomuseum [...] is foremost a community and an objective: the development of that community." - Hugues de Varine, director of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) 1964 to 1974

Our living ecomuseum is dedicated to celebrating the cultural and environmental stories and traditions, and the artistic expressions of all the peoples living in Melbourne's west. We create a vibrant place where the rich tapestry of our community is honoured through collection curation, our socio-cultural and artistic program, storytelling and performance.

By collaborating with local artists, community members, and cultural organisations, we ensure the authenticity and inclusivity of our exhibits and events. We are guided by a commitment to sustainability, and strive to be a model of environmental stewardship, allowing us to contribute to the vibrant and sustainable future of Melbourne's west.

President's Report

With the ongoing support of Council, our team of volunteers, staff, members and associates the Living Museum continued to operate and achieved important milestones during the reporting period, July 2022 - June 2023. It also overcame significant challenges throughout the year.

The financial year began with news that extensive termite damage to the Visitor Centre building in Pipemakers Park would require the Museum to vacate the building by early April 2023 to allow for structural assessment and repairs. As the Museum has been based at the Visitor Centre since 1988 moving presented an enormous challenge. The Museum's focus and activity shifted from the delivery of its programs and projects towards accomplishing the tasks required to move and establish operations at the Maribyrnong Library. This is where the Museum will be based until mid-2024 while the Visitor Centre building is repaired and refurbished.

The process of moving effectively disrupted the work of the Committee, staff and volunteers, and the Museum's programs, for more than 6 months from December 2022 through to June 2023. Moving to a smaller and completely different space presents ongoing challenges in delivering our planned exhibitions, events and programs.

The process of moving involved developing a plan and a system to document, pack and shift the Museum's entire holdings - including the collection, library, furniture, equipment; setting up operations at a significantly smaller location; and organising safe, offsite, storage facilities.

Luckily, Museum volunteer, Sol Skeletor, has a background working with libraries and studying systems and archive management. Sol led the process of designing an interactive 'box and item' spreadsheet system accessible via mobile phones. This enabled our team of volunteers to work together to sort, pack, document and keep track of the Museum's holdings



*Flooding of Pipemakers Park 14 October 2022.
Photo Chas Manning.*



Multicultural cooking demonstration and sharing of food, Pipemakers Park, December 2022.

across 3 sites: rooms at the Maribyrnong Library; external storage facilities in Raleigh Road; and shipping containers in Pipemakers Park. We have continued to use this system while based at the Library. It enables us to quickly locate and thereby retrieve archival material across the three sites, which in turn enables us to continue the important work of digitising the Museum's collection and providing research material to the public while based at the Library.

Despite the move to Maribyrnong Library taking up most of our staff and volunteers time and effort during the reporting period, the Museum continued to operate completing various activities and projects. Many of these are documented and described in the following pages.

Council assisted the Museum with the move to the Library, providing invaluable resources including: local off-site storage facilities; the use of rooms; storage sheds at the Library; and storage containers in Pipemakers Park. By covering these associated expenses, they allowed the Museum to retain a stable and healthy financial situation. Council also provided the Museum with much needed additional moral support throughout the process of shifting our operations. We would like to thank all of the Maribyrnong Councillors; the CEO, Celia Haddock; and Community Services Directorate Staff for their support throughout this process including the Director of Community Services, Lucas Gosling. We would especially like to thank the Managers of Libraries, Arts & Culture, Michael Byrne (2022) and Alix Massina (2023); the Co-ordinator of Arts & Culture, Kate Shearer (2022-2023) and Co-ordinator of Library Services, Joanne Smith (2023).

In Pipemakers Park, Michael Patti continued his environmental research projects finding rare and critically endangered remnant plant species. Next door, at Jack's Magazine, Andy Calvert provided regular tours of the site, with a display and table of publications set up by Melanie Avent. Other activities include: participation in Open House Melbourne; the reprinting of the Still



The Museum's IT Officer, Melanie Avent.

Here exhibition catalogue, organised by Pam Mulready; and the display of the exhibition at Footscray Library to support the launch of Bain Attwood's book about First Nations activist William Cooper. The Museum also hosted several school excursions, two artist residencies—local photographer Spencer Nguyen and artist Nick Hubicki, provided a venue for community workshops and meetings, and staged several exhibitions which has led to new partnerships. In November 2022, we provided space for an exhibition and talks by Trocadero Art Space, who were temporarily displaced from their usual location, and in July 2022 an exhibition showing not-for-profit design team OFFICE's Retain Repair Reinvest feasibility study of the Ascot Vale Housing Estate, alongside a 1986 film produced by the Living Museum documenting residents of the Ascot Vale Public Housing estate producing a play about life on the estate.

In September 2022, the Museum secured \$110,000 State Government funding to commission OFFICE to design a bespoke internal refurbishment of the Visitor Centre and upgrade of the Museum's facilities while Council's repair program occurs in 2023. OFFICE will work with the Maribyrnong City Council's building team and manage the internal refurbishment on behalf of the Museum. This will provide our visitors, staff and volunteers an enhanced visitor experience, and increase our potential to host and support community activities. Chas Manning helped to develop the idea and Joan Spiller helped to write the application which was enthusiastically supported by Maribyrnong City Council's Arts & Culture and Community Wellbeing team.

In October 2022, the Museum narrowly escaped a major flooding event of the Maribyrnong River. On the same night the Museum's former director (1997-2007) and then current Committee Secretary, Peter Haffenden, passed away. Peter was a mentor to so many people and was very much loved. Peter helped shape the Museum from when he first became involved in 1984 and is largely responsible for its continuation today. He continues to be dearly missed by many. A memorial service for Peter was held at the Museum in November and attended by more than 300 people. A truly community event, the Museum staff, volunteers and a local network of people and organisations, including



The Living Museum Visitor Centre foyer 2022.

Council, rallied to stage this event. The Mayor, Councillor Anthony Tran and Melba Marginson were MCs. Speakers included: The Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan OAM, Abbot of the Quang Minh Temple; the Museum's inaugural Director, life member and long time associate Olwen Ford; and the Museum's former Cultural Officer and current cultural advisor Uncle Larry Walsh. The Museum has established a "Peter Haffenden Future Projects Fund" and has so far received over \$2,500 in donations towards new projects that will be determined in consultation with Phoebe and myself.

At the Museum AGM, in November 2022, Andy Calvert joined the Committee as Secretary, local heritage advocate and author Pam Mulready, and long-time Museum volunteer and former resident artist Benjamin Wood, also joined the Committee. The caretaker of Jack's Magazine, Andy has enormous knowledge of the local munitions and manufacturing industries. Andy worked closely with Peter and Jennifer Kelynack on Peter's major exhibition 'the Logic of Logistics' which was completed in April 2023, is currently being printed and will be launched later in 2023.

Throughout 2022-2023, we worked closely with the Swinburne University Design Bureau who were commissioned to design a new website for the Museum. This work was completed in July 2023 and will provide a fantastic new marketing tool for the Museum well into the future. The new website includes the integration of the Museum's online catalogue with the international database eHive, which will attract new and international audiences to the Museum's archive. This feature is due to the work of Museum volunteer, Matthew Davis who initiated this process and integrated the database and catalogue with Omeka and prepared the transfer to eHive.

After the move to the Library was completed in early April 2023, the Museum's team focus became the application process of 2023-2026 Triennial funding. This required development of various documents including an Annual Plan (2023-2024), and a three-year Strategic Plan 2023- 2026). We were joined by volunteers Alex Flux and Joan Spiller in this process and with all hands on



Peter Haffenden with local geological samples in the Museum foyer, July 2022. Photo, Chas Manning.

deck a successful proposal to continue as triennial partners was submitted in mid-June 2023. The Museum maintained opening hours of three days a week at the Library through to June 2023 when staff working arrangements changed. After securing funding for her animation project, Melanie opted to become a volunteer and will continue to assist the Museum on Thursday's. Chas also opted to reduce his hours to one day a week, and will become a volunteer in November. Triennial funding and ongoing partnership with Council will allow the Museum to appoint a part-time Operations Co-ordinator to assist the committee and volunteers to deliver the Museum's three-year Strategic Plan to: provide access to the collection, archive, spaces and places; deliver an engaging and inclusive cultural and artistic program; ensure good governance and accountability; and to build capacity and increase our sustainability and impact.

I'd like to thank our team of 2022-2023 including fellow Committee members Melba Marginson, Tony Le Nguyen, Pam Mulready, Andy Calvert and Benjamin Woods; our wonderful volunteers, Sol Skeletor, Alex Flux, Joan Spiller, Michael Patti, Spencer Nguyen, Alex Ettling, Phoebe Haffenden, Roger Rasool, Sheila Moss, Kirby Fary, Yongping Ren, Melchior Bajada, and Melchiorre Bajada, from Sunshine Historical Society, Jack Parady, Sahm Keily, Cloe Mula; and also last but not least our amazing casual staff members, Chas Manning and Melanie Avent, without whom the move from the Visitor Centre to the Library would not have been possible, we are eternally grateful. Your hard work and dedication has enabled the Museum to survive and to thrive through this particularly difficult year.

Kerrie Poliness
President, Committee of Management
Melbourne's Living Museum of the West



Acknowledgements

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West is grateful for support received in 2022 - 2023 from the following:

City of Maribyrnong Triennial Arts Funding

Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Stronger Communities Grant Program (by invitation from local Federal MP)

Living Local, Suburban Grant Program, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

City of Maribyrnong 'Love Your Local' Community Grant Program

Partnerships:

Maribyrnong City Council; West Space; Footscray Community Arts Centre; Quang Minh Temple; Public Records Office Victoria; The Department of Veterans Affairs; Footscray Historical Society; Footscray Community Arts Centre; Grassy Plains Network; National Trust; Inner West Branch of the National Trust; Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley; The Western Region Group of History Societies; Reconciliation Victoria; The Silent Witness Network (TSWN); Open House Melbourne; The Boon Wurrung Foundation; Wurundjeri Tribal Council; Moondani Bullock and Special Collections at Victoria University; School of Design, Swinburne University of Technology; School of Communications and Design, RMIT University; Faculty of VCA & MCM, University of Melbourne; West Space; Victorian Volcanic Plains Biosphere; Footscray City High School; Trocadero Projects; Amazing Games Pack 12 Games.

The Museum would like to acknowledge the ongoing support from the following people:

Uncle Larry Walsh, Dr N'aweeet Carolyn Briggs AM, Olwen Ford, Gary Vines,

The Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan OAM, Peter Somerville OAM, Elizabeth Drozd OAM,

Isobel Morphy-Walsh, Karen Jackson, Dan Mitchell, Bernadette Fitzgerald,

Prof. Carolyn Barnes, Prof. Roger Rasool, Dr Lisa Radford, Dr Rafaat Ishaak, Joan Spiller,

Arnold Zable, Kim Burrell, Melanie Avent, Sol Skeletor, Alex Flux, Michael Patti, Spencer

Nguyen, Maelor Himbury, Lorraine Radcliff, Felicity Watson, Hugh Bassett, Alex Ettlting,

The Honourable Judy Maddigan and Dr Mark Williams.



Museum staff members Chas Manning and Melanie Avent (getting into the spirit of Halloween) with Committee Secretary, Andy Calvert, October 2022.

Personnel 2022–2023

Committee of Management

Executive Members

Kerrie Poliness, President
 Tony Le Nguyen, Vice President
 Melba Marginson, Treasurer
 Peter Haffenden, Secretary (until October 2022)
 Andy Calvert, Secretary (from November 2022)

Committee Members

Mathew Davis (until November 2022)
 Pam Mulready (from November 2022)
 Benjamin Woods (from November 2022)

Associates

Founding Director and local history advisor: Olwen Ford
 First Nations Cultural Advisors: Uncle Larry Walsh, Dr N’aweeet Carolyn Briggs AM, Isobel Morphy Walsh, Mandy Nicholson, Karen Jackson.
 Heritage Buildings: Gary Vines, Olwen Ford, Hugh Bassett, Felicity Watson
 Heritage and Archives: Judy Maddigan, Kim Burrell
 Physics (audio visual tech): Prof. Roger Rassool
 Environmental: Michael Patti, Megan O’Shea, Debbie Reynolds, Grassy Plains Network.
 Contemporary Art: Matthew Davis, Lisa Radford, Raafat Ishaak.
 Design and Landscape: OFFICE (Simon Robinson and Steve Mintern) and Jennifer Kelynack

Staff & Volunteers

Staff

Administration assistants:
 Chas Manning and Melanie Avent

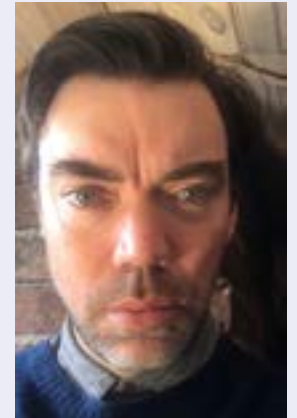
Museum Volunteers

Sol Skeletor
 Melchior Bajada, and
 Melchiorre Bajada
 Nicholas Burrige
 Andy Calvert
 Matthew Davis
 Alex Ettling
 Kirby Fary
 Alex Flux
 Olwen Ford
 Phoebe Haffenden
 Maelor Himbury
 Sahm Keily
 Jennifer Kelynack
 Gene Mcinnes
 Sheila Moss
 Pam Mulready
 Chloe Mula
 Spencer Nguyen
 Jack Pardy
 Michael Patti
 Sam Perryman
 Lorraine Radcliff
 Yongping Ren
 Joan Spiller
 Michael Thornton
 Gary Vines



*Museum committee and staff members clockwise from top left: Ben Woods, Melba Marginson, Pam Mulready, Tony Le Nguyen, Matthew Davis, Peter Haffennden, Kerrie Poliness, *Melanie Avent, * Chas Manning and Andy Calvert.*

Museum committee and staff 2022-2023



Highlights

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West

In 2022-2023 we have:

- Relocated the Museum Visitor Centre operations to Maribyrnong Library
- Secured funding to enhance the refurbishment of the Visitor Centre
- Maintained regular public open hours from one day a week to three days a week
- Secured ongoing operational funding as a Council Triennial Partner 2023-2026
- Secured funding for the project 'Dreamtime Cooking'
- Completed the major exhibition project, 'The Logic of Logistics'
- Completed the process of production of a new website
- Developed an item tracking system to enable ongoing operations and community access to archives while based at the Library
- Made substantial progress towards integrating the Museum Collection databases and digitised items with 'eHive'
- Reprinted the Still Here exhibition catalogue
- Produced a three-year Strategic Plan
- Welcomed 10 new volunteers: Jack Pardy, Alex Flux, Sheila Moss, Melchorre and Melchor Bajada, Chloe Mula, Kirby Fary, Sahm Keily, Yongping Ren and Spencer Nguyen.
- Presented 4 exhibitions featuring 11 artists, as well as various Museum displays
- Held 5 cultural events and many meetings involving different organisations
- Facilitated 2 artists in residencies, and ongoing research residencies.
- Hosted 2 local school all-day tours and 7 workshops
- Staged an 'Open House Melbourne' event
- Maintained partnerships, and collaborated with 16 organisations.
- Contributed to the Maribyrnong Heritage Advisory Committee
- Provided substantial research and cultural heritage advice to Council
- Increased Instagram followers to 1,480
- Maintained the interactive self-guided walking trail in Pipemakers Park
- Developed a proposal for digitising "The Advertiser" (Footscray), obtaining wide community support for future delivery
- Responded to dozens of research inquiries over the year and supported the development of new and existing projects



*Community Planting Day in Pipemakers Park
Vacated Visitor Centre, April 2023.*

Highlights

Clockwise from top left:

Students from Annunciation Primary School, Braybrook, attending an all-day excursion and workshops at the Museum and in Pipemakers Park.

Artists exhibiting in Trocadero Art Space's exhibition "Two Little Houses" at the Visitor Centre chatted with locals about their work.

The Silent Witness Network holding a workshop for survivors of family violence at the Visitor Centre.



Museum Operations and Place

Disaster Management

On the morning of the devastating 2022 Maribyrnong River's flood event, volunteers and friends of the museum rushed to the museum to assist in the protection of the Visitor Centre and Archive. As the water level was slowly rising our team of staff and volunteers calmly identified items of importance and safely relocated them to committee member Kerrie Poliness' home in Footscray. Thankfully the Museum escaped the flood and the collection and offices were safe.

The items that were identified as priority and relocated were the negatives of our photographic archive, tape recordings that were yet to be digitised, and our hard drive system containing the Museum's entire digital collection. This process was a strong reminder of what makes up the core of the Museum's archive and the importance of our ongoing work in digitisation. Further consideration will be made during the redesign process of the museum to account for potential disasters such as this into the future.

The Museum would like to thank all who helped and expressed concern during this time.



Left: White-faced heron with flood water in the Park. Photo by Chas Manning.

The waters receded in the historic Bluestone Building leaving behind a thin layer of mud.



Museum Operations and Place Relocation of Visitor Centre



Visitor Centre, February 2023.
The process of sorting and planning began in August 2022. By February 2023 the entire Visitor Centre became taken over by the process.





Museum Operations and Place

Relocation (continued)

With reduced pest management over the course of the lockdowns in Melbourne, termite damage became a significant issue for the Museum. At the beginning of the 2022-2023 financial year, it was discovered that the damage to the Visitor Centre in Pipemakers Park was extensive, and would require vacating to allow for the Maribyrnong City Council to do the necessary work to ensure the safety and preservation for the continued operation of the building. The Council kindly offered the Museum a temporary space in the Maribyrnong Library. This would allow for the continuation of operations until the Visitor Centre building was repaired, however this move to the library would need to be completed by April 2023.



The announcement had immediate consequences for the Museum's operations. While staff and volunteer efforts would normally go towards project and program facilitation, the situation demanded they focus their energy on ensuring the move could be completed in a

The temporary relocation required sorting, cleaning, documenting, wrapping, packing and moving more than 500 (50 litre) boxes and 200 items.

Images clockwise from above: Ben Woods finds an unusual artefact, a volunteer repurposes a broken compactus, Andy Calvert dismantling a munitions industry display of Jack's Magazine, Sol Skeletor tries out a uniform from the Maribyrnong Explosives Factory.

Photos by Chas Manning.

Museum Operations and Place

Relocation (continued)

a background in systems management, and experience working with library collections. Sol's expertise was drawn upon in this time. She worked with the management team to create a system that allowed us to know the location of each item within the collection. This allowed us to gain an updated idea of what sits in our collection and assisted in the move to the library and the offsite storage facilities provided to us by the Maribyrnong Council.



The temporary relocation required sorting, cleaning, documenting, wrapping, packing and moving more than 500 boxes and 200 items.





The temporary relocation required sorting, cleaning, documenting, wrapping, packing and moving more than 500 boxes and 200 items.





Vacated Visitor Centre, April 2023.





Images clockwise from above:

Melanie Avent working in one of two rooms at external storage, where 400 boxes, 200 items and Museum displays and equipment are currently stored.

After the last items were shifted some of the Museum volunteers who helped with the move gathered at the empty Visitor Centre building for refreshments.

L-R: Maelor Himbury, Michael Patti, Chas Manning, Sol Skeletor, Kerrie Poliness, Phoebe Haffenden, Melba Marginson and Chloe Mula.



Museum Operations and Place

Visitor Centre Refurbishment Plans

During this reporting year the Museum has secured funding from the Living Local Suburban Grants Program (\$100,000) and commissioned the not-for-profit design team, OFFICE, to design and integrate a bespoke refurbishment for the Museum. Currently it is expected that the project will be launched in April 2024, after the Museum returns to the building in March 2024.

The Museum's Visitor Centre was established in 1988 in one of the historic buildings in the Park. At that time the building was extended and fitted-out specifically to accommodate the Museum's Offices and Resource Centre as a Visitor Centre in the Park.

Enhancing the repairs, reconstruction work and the replacement of damaged fittings and fixtures by Council, this project involves a consultative and strategic redesign and upgrade of the Melbourne's Living Museum of the West's Visitor Centre. It involves the design of purpose-built community spaces, including a kitchen, meeting areas, library, archive and research centre, exhibition space, retail and office areas whilst respecting the historically significant nature of the building. It includes budget for some complimentary bespoke construction of fittings and the purchase of equipment and furnishing. The refurbishment will improve amenity and allow the Living Museum of the West to more effectively host events, activities and projects, attract more visitors and increase partnerships with local organisations and businesses.

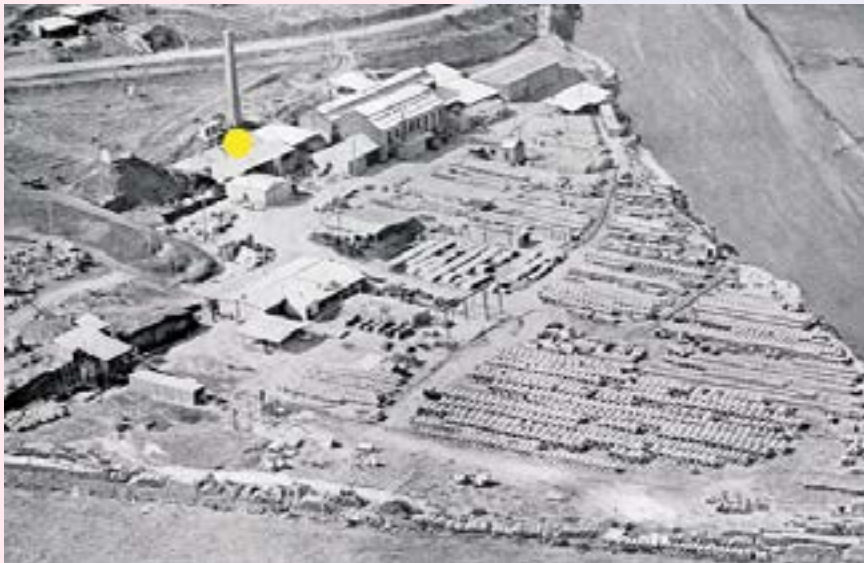


Image from above: Aerial view of Pipemakers Park and historic buildings, OFFICE indicating transit zones. And indicating the location of Visitor Centre building when Hume Pipes factory was in production, C1930s.

Museum Operations and Place

Visitor Centre Refurbishment Plans (continued)

As a part of OFFICE's first phase concept design report, the team provided drawings noting common areas of interest between the anticipated scope of works for council's structural upgrades and the internal fit-out of the Museum. As a part of this report, the history of the site was also considered and external design elements were recommended in order to better connect the Museum to the park and the Historical Bluestone Building beside it.

An important aspect of the Visitor Centre refurbishment project is the integration of a Community Kitchen. The Museum's current kiosk window / kitchen area is in need of significant structural repair work. OFFICE has recommended that the structural upgrades involve a minor expansion of the new walls of the kitchen space to enable broader functionality. This work will greatly increase potential future projects and activities to occur. \$12,000 of the project budget has been allocated to integrate specific, upgraded, fittings with Council's program of works which will reinstate the severely damaged kitchen area, transforming it into a standardised usable space.

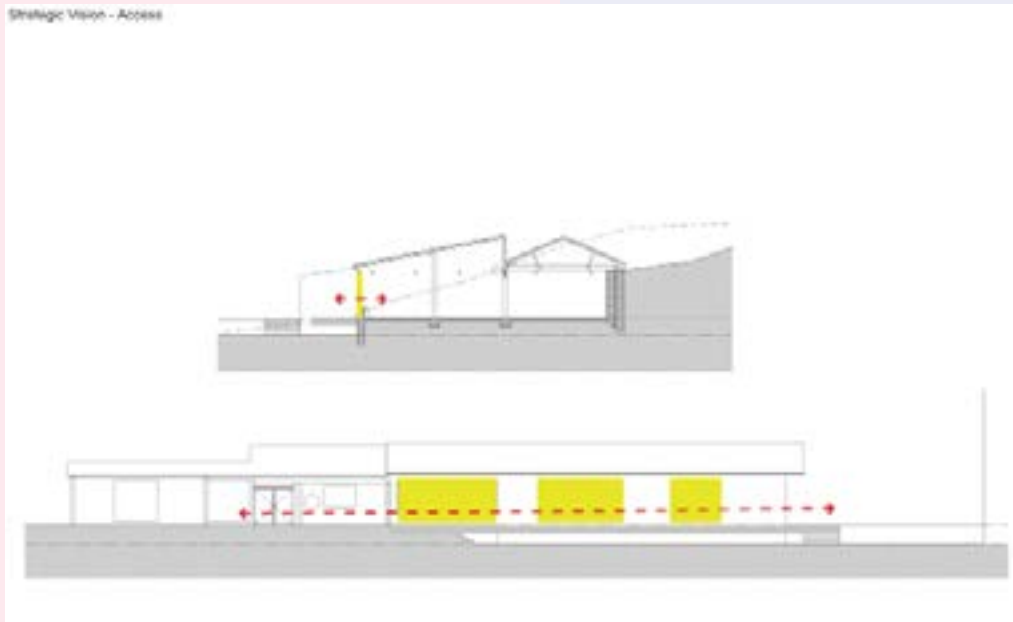
This project is designed to maximise investment through the strategic improvement of this public asset, leveraging essential structural repairs to incorporate a customised refurbishment of the Centre as a multi-functional community space.

Team:

Committee, Operations Co-ordinator, OFFICE design team.

Funding:

Financially supported by DJPR – Office for Suburban Development – Suburban Revitalisation Program – Living Local, Suburban Grants Program



OFFICE is a not-for-profit multidisciplinary design and research practice based in Melbourne. Our projects span the intersections of built form, research, discourse and education. As a registered charity, the studio's operations, processes and outputs are bound by a constitution to make projects for the public good. This alternative mode of practice interrogates our relationship to the built environment as architects and landscape architects; how might we work within the limits of our profession to develop ethical projects that hold social, cultural and environmental integrity?



Museum Operations and Place

In Pipemakers Park

Since 1987, the Museum has played a key role in designing Pipemakers Park. It has always worked to develop and enhance the Park to convey the connection between the cultural heritage of the region through visitor experience in Pipemakers Park. The Museum's program and work at the Resource Centre and Visitor Centre extends out into the park, playing an important role in developing stronger community relationships with place and identity.

Throughout the year the Museum has assisted in: council plans to repair and upgrade the historic Bluestone Buildings and the Top Factory; conducted several school excursions; hosted cooking workshops; historical walking tours and community environmental working groups amongst other things.





Museum Operations and Place

At Maribyrnong Library

In 2022, An existential crisis demanded that our workers and volunteers respond to unprecedented circumstances. The termite infestation, followed by the flood and later the loss of our Champion Peter Haffenden, presented one of, if not the most challenging periods of the Museum's history.

The termites were first identified in March 2022, however the extent of the infestation was then unknown. Following investigation it became apparent that major treatment and repairs were required, demanding that the Museum relocate from Pipemakers Park to other suitable premises.

We undertook a full costing for leasing an alternative venue, and the logistics of long-term storage and relocation. However, the Maribyrnong City Council and their Arts and Cultures team responded positively to the circumstances, and offered the Museum accommodation at the Maribyrnong Library, Highpoint, for the duration of the remedial works on the Pipemakers Park Visitor's Centre.

With some challenges in operational limitations, it was an important life-line for the Museum and its volunteers. We are very grateful for the great assistance provided to the Museum by the Council, on this enormous task, requiring the operational relocation and storage of our entire collection. The facility provides for 3 offices, a kitchen, external container storage, and part-time access to a large adjacent meeting room and smaller offices, in the Library's Community Meeting Space.

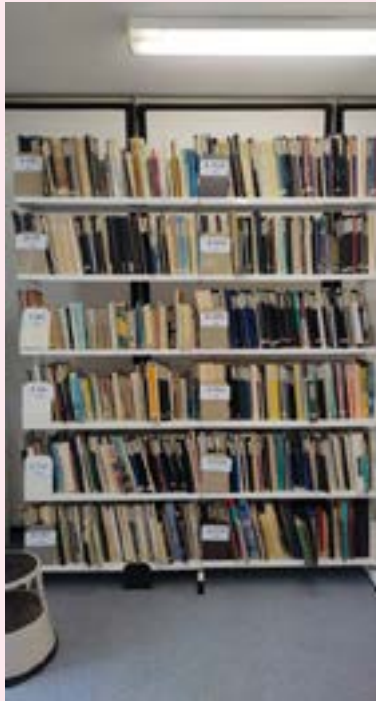
This proximity of the facilities to the Highpoint branch of the Maribyrnong Library and the community, close to Pipemakers Park and the Kennards storage facility, offered us an excellent short term solution, for our opera-



Photos by Chas Manning.

Museum Operations and Place

At Maribyrnong Library



tions, volunteers and events. The area provided allows for the accommodation of high use materials, digital recordings and equipment, and areas for meetings, exhibitions and events.

Again much consideration was required to relocate operations into smaller work areas and storage spaces; demanding collections be archived and located off-site at long term storage facilities. The Foyer offers a window frame for “featured artworks” in a small exhibition space, the Museum entrance showcases our publications. We have a dedicated digital room and an operational area and small library, surrounding reception and a small office, and kitchen. We have access to the Community Meeting spaces on Thursday and Friday and at other times, through a council booking system.

High risk digital materials and photographic archives have been secured in the new facility and the RAID hard drive system is now fully reinstated and functional, and we are now established a secure WiFi system for our computers, volunteers, and systems.

The limitations of smaller spaces for the Museum’s operations, is in some ways compensated by the access to the Community Meeting Room spaces, and the facilities they afford. The digital projector and relocatable small tables, provide for meetings and workshops for diverse groups. The adjacent external garden area provides for social space and events. All of this will enable us to maintain our connection to Schools, groups and the diverse communities of the West.



Photos by Chas Manning.

Archive / Collections Management

Systems management & development

ID	Description	Location	Status	Date
37	Cabinet 10 drawer 4, misc Military etc	Box 83	Project	2-2
38	Cabinet 10 drawer 1-3, skins and maps	Box 84	Project	12-8
39	Cabinet 10 drawer 1, historical sketches	Box 85	Project	1-2
40	Cabinet 14 Drawer 3 projects	Box 86	Project	2-3
41	Box 10 part label	Box 87	Project	2-5
42	Box 10 part label	Box 88	Project	2-6
43	Cabinet 15 drawer 1, 2001-2003 final assets	Box 89	Project	2-6
44	Cabinet 15 drawer 1, 2006 programs	Box 90	Project	2-6
45	Box 10 part label	Box 91	Project	2-6
46	Cabinet 15 drawer 2 and 3, local geological heritage	Box 92	Project	9-2
47	Cabinet 15 drawer 5 + 4, education kit/ general products	Box 93	Project	10-3
48	Cabinet 15 drawer 4, miscellaneous	Box 94	Project	2-7
49	2010	Box 95	Project	2-7
50	Cabinet 15 drawer 3, records	Box 96	Project	2-7
51	2010	Box 97	Project	2-7
52	Cabinet 15 drawer 4, skins	Box 98	Project	1-9
53	1984	Box 99	Project	10-3
54	Cabinet 16 drawer 2, skins	Box 100	Project	1-3
55	1984?	Box 101	Project	1-3
56	Cabinet 16 drawer 4, administrative art	Box 102	Project	1-3
57	Cabinet 16 drawer 2, miscellaneous	Box 103	Project	1-3
58	Cabinet 16 drawers 3&4, miscellaneous	Box 104	Project	1-3
59	Cabinet 20 drawers 1&2, various properties (internal projects, plans and a Cabinet 21 drawer 1, skins)	Box 105	Project	1-3
60	Cabinet 21 drawers 3&3, infrastructure & cultural programs	Box 106	Project	1-3
61	1980-88	Box 107	Project	1-3
62	Cabinet 12 first half of drawer 1, arts etc	Box 108	Project	2-9
63	1980-88	Box 109	Project	1-4
64	Cabinet 12 second half of drawer 1, first half of drawer 2, grant applications	Box 110	Project	1-4
65	1980-88	Box 111	Project	1-4
66	Cabinet 12 second half of drawer 2, first half of drawer 3, projects 1990-98	Box 112	Project	1-2
67	1980-88	Box 113	Project	1-2
68	Cabinet 12 second half of drawer 3, first half of drawer 4, parks etc	Box 114	Project	10-3
69	1980-88	Box 115	Project	10-3
70	Closed governmental specimens collections manifests	Box 116	Project	1-6
71	All antine (many prints) Pipemakers (1988)	Box 117	Project	1-6
72	1988-88	Box 118	Project	1-6
73	1988-88	Box 119	Project	1-6
74	1988-88	Box 120	Project	1-6
75	1988-88	Box 121	Project	1-6
76	1988-88	Box 122	Project	1-6
77	1988-88	Box 123	Project	1-6
78	1988-88	Box 124	Project	1-6
79	1988-88	Box 125	Project	1-6
80	1988-88	Box 126	Project	1-6
81	1988-88	Box 127	Project	1-6
82	1988-88	Box 128	Project	1-6
83	1988-88	Box 129	Project	1-6
84	1988-88	Box 130	Project	1-6
85	1988-88	Box 131	Project	1-6
86	1988-88	Box 132	Project	1-6
87	1988-88	Box 133	Project	1-6
88	1988-88	Box 134	Project	1-6
89	1988-88	Box 135	Project	1-6
90	1988-88	Box 136	Project	1-6
91	1988-88	Box 137	Project	1-6
92	1988-88	Box 138	Project	1-6
93	1988-88	Box 139	Project	1-6
94	1988-88	Box 140	Project	1-6

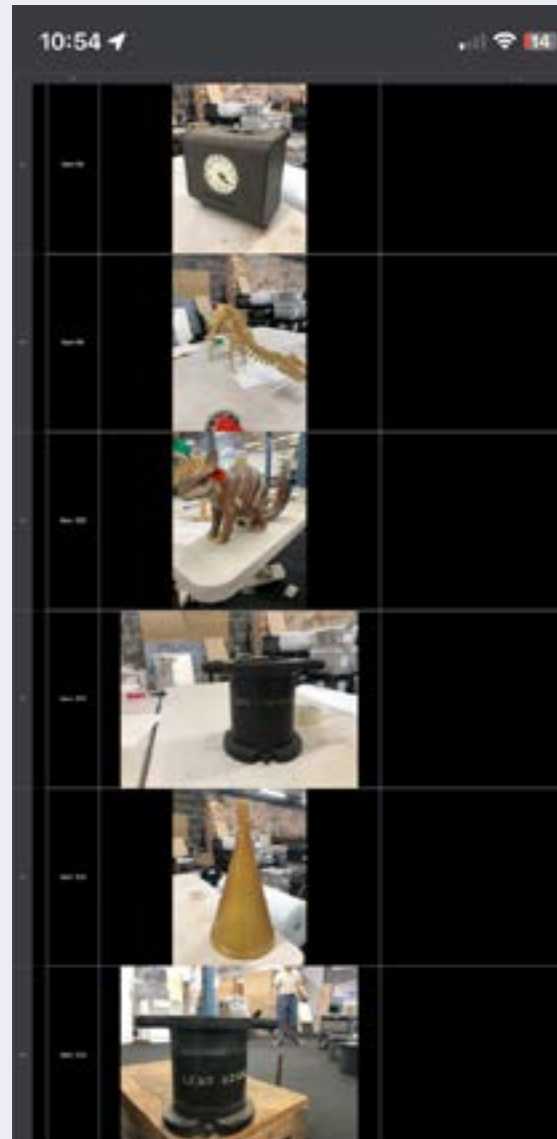
Computer screen grab of the shared Google Spreadsheet used by volunteers and staff to record and track the location of the Museum's boxes and items,

To enable moving the Museum from the Visitor Centre to the Maribyrnong Library and other offsite storage locations, there was an immediate need to develop and implement a new system to manage the archival and relocation process. A special collection relocation management system was created with the great help of Sol Skeletor, who applied her knowledge and expertise to the development of a working system to enable the shift.

This operation demanded a full audit of our collections and special items, for their specification to determine the most suitable destination for them in the short and longer term. It also required identifying at risk items, items requiring preservation, and items that could not be saved due to deterioration. Unfortunately, we found that some of our material in a shipping container had been damaged due to mould, and we were unable to save everything. Where items could not be saved, they were digitally recorded. This illustrated clearly the importance of suitable accommodation for the preservation and conservation of historical collections and artefacts as they are irreplaceable. The audit also enabled us to make special precautions in packing, transportation and storage.

Google Spreadsheets provided the mechanism to document, classify and organise the coordination of the relocation. Plans for both the Visitors centre and Pipemakers Park, enabled us to sort and store collections and artefacts for their temporary archive or ongoing operational access and retrieval. Colour coding and physical sorting enable us to batch items and collections for stocktaking, packing, transport, storage or relocation. The system

Item ID	Item Name	Category	Description
126	Item 126	Equipm...	Kodak printer
127	Item 127	Other	Pull down munition display
128	Item 128	Equipm...	LMWMAC002
129	Item 129	Equipm...	LMWMAC001
130	Item 130	Other	Pull down munitions display
131	Item 131	Equipm...	Ronco printer
132	Item 132	Equipm...	Ronco printer
133	Item 133	Equipm...	Ronco Printer
134	Item 134	Other	Double pull out munitions d
135	Item 135	Other	Assorted map and posters
136	Item 136	Other	History of the land patterns
137	Item 137	Display	Dig maps
138	Item 138	Display	Assorted posters
139	Item 139	Display	Leaf tree digital work drawn
140	Item 140	Artifact	Assorted test tubes storage
141	Item 141	Artifact	Historic Maribyrnong river d
142	Item 142	Artifact	Trophy plaque anglers boat
143	Item 143	Display	Assorted photos west coast
144	Item 144	Artifact	Unlabeled paintings (3) painting
145	Item 145	Other	George seal art cabinet
146	Item 146	Other	expensive archival artifact w
147	Item 147	Display	Henderson's piggery foac ar
148	Item 148	Other	Potters dig where you stand
149	Item 149	Artifact	Explosive schematics origi
150	Item 150	Artifact	Large photographs to sort u
151	Item 151	Artifact	Explosive schematics origi
152	Item 152	Artifact	Explosive schematics origi
153	Item 153	Artifact	Aerial map 1945
154	Item 154	Equipm...	adjustable curtain rods and
155	Item 155	Equipm...	orange and black roll graph
156	Item 156	Equipm...	sticky back cone file for dia
157	Item 157	Display	Pobblebonk 2 panels (of 10)
158	Item 158	Display	Pobblebonk 2 panels (of 10)
159	Item 159	Display	Pobblebonk 2 panels (of 10)
160	Item 160	Display	Pobblebonk 2 panels (of 10)
161	Item 161	Display	Pobblebonk 2 panels (of 10)
162	Item 162	Equipm...	Glass long vase (#1)
163	Item 163	Display	Framed photo of river flood
164	Item 164	Equipm...	Glass long vase (#2)
165	Item 165	Display	Labels for displays various f
166	Item 166	Artifact	model of Castle Raleigh's c
167	Item 167	Artifact	anglers tavern, c 1960's pair
168	Item 168	Artifact	Raleigh's punt, c 1960's pair
169	Item 169	Artifact	Framed Photograph of grou
170	Item 170	Artifact	Framed Photograph of grou
171	Item 171	Artifact	Framed photo of group of p



Archive / Collections Management

Systems management & development

allowed us to know where items from our collections would be located, before, during and after the move.

Teams of volunteers worked collaboratively to pack and process materials, ensuring their safety and security for storage of relocation. Volunteers came from the Western Metropolitan Group of Historical Societies, the Silent Witness Network and across the community to assist in an arduous process, in conditions that were often dusty and difficult. Packs of Silica gel and bubble wrap were used extensively to pack and store artefacts in waterproof stackable packing boxes for long term storage or transportation to the Maribyrnong Library, Highpoint.

Mobile phone screen grab of the shared Google Spreadsheet. Volunteers and staff used their phones to photograph and upload images of items to the shared spreadsheet before wrapping and packing boxes. We are now able to refer to the spreadsheet to identify the content and location of boxes and wrapped items in storage.

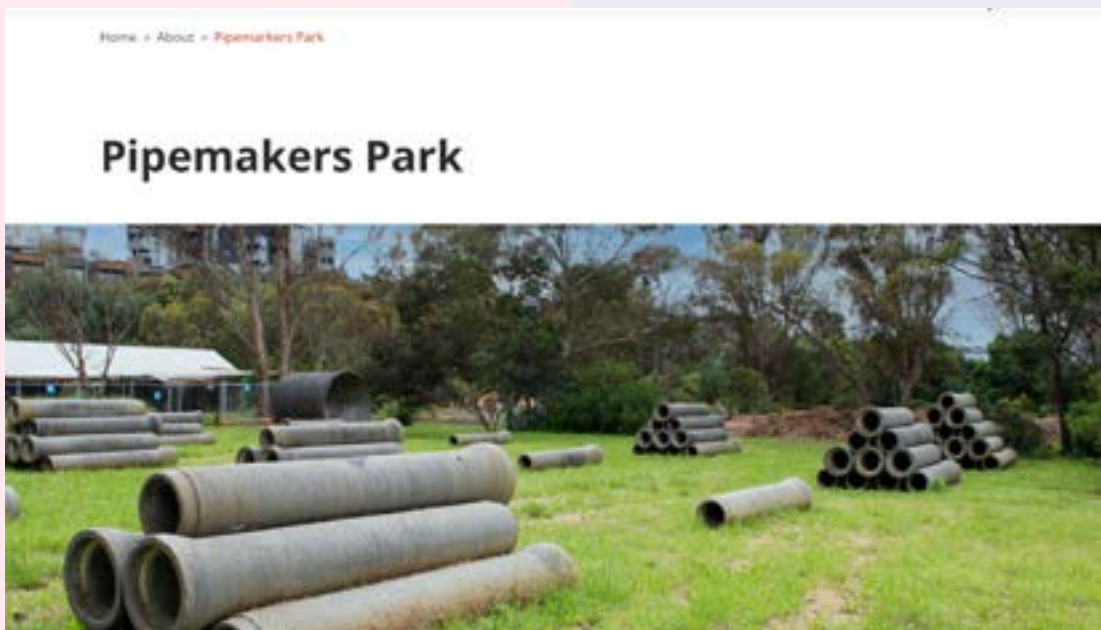


Archive / Collections Management

New Website Development

The Museum had its new website made live on May 4th 2023. The new website was designed in a way to improve the accessibility of the Museum and its resources, particularly with its integration with the new electronic catalogue, eHive.

Spearheaded by The Design Bureau Swinburne, this modernization of our website is streamlined and appealing while still containing all important information from previous versions of the site. It will also boast new online forms that will make donating, volunteering and applying for shows and residencies easier than ever.



Pages from the Museum's new website.



Archive / Collections Management

eHive development

As part of its ongoing efforts to preserve and improve access to its collections, The Living Museum is pleased to announce that, building on the work of Matthew Davis, it has completely converted and published its current online catalogue to the eHive platform.

While the current catalogue has proven to be an important entry-point for researchers at the Living Museum, and allowed the Museum to provide access to its catalogue online, this new catalogue will build on these features. It offers the museum's archiving team improved cataloguing and collection management administration workflows as well as more advanced search functionalities.

Owing to increased storage capacities, the eHive catalogue allows the museum to present examples from the digitised oral history, audio, video and photographic collections for the first time. Further, this new system has the capacity to be seamlessly integrated into the Museum's new website, allowing users to easily navigate between the Museum's online exhibitions and publications and the catalogue.

Importantly, eHive will allow the museum opportunity to network its catalogues with other institutions locally, interstate and internationally. eHive allows researchers to access resources from galleries, libraries and museums from around the world. The eHive system allows for easy sharing of data with the National Library of Australia's Trove, offering a national platform for users to access the museums catalogue.

Page from the Museum's interface on eHive.





Cultural and Artistic Program

Exhibitions

OFFICE

Retain, Repair Reinvest exhibition X Estate of Change Film
Living Museum Visitor Centre
30th July - 28th August

Not-for-profit design and research studio OFFICE re-exhibited their project Retain, Repair, Reinvest: Ascot Vale Estate Feasibility Study alongside a documentary produced by the Living Museum and the Ascot Vale Public Housing Tenants Group in 1986.

Retain, Repair, Reinvest is a strategy for evaluating the refurbishment potential of existing public housing. It is an alternative to the “destroy and rebuild” model for the Homes Victoria Ascot Vale Renewal project. The design proposal is to bring the existing housing block up to contemporary standards of living while retaining both the local residents and the heritage significant buildings.

The film shown alongside the project followed the production of a play titled Estate of Change performed by the West Theatre Company and local residents depicting life on the Estate.



Photos by Chas Manning.

Cultural and Artistic Program

Exhibitions (continued)

Trocadero exhibition

Title : TWO LITTLE HOUSES

Saturday 19th November - December 15th

Organised by Amie Green and Trocadero

Artists - Matilda Davis, Amie Green, Rumer Elisabetta Guario, Handbag Full of Worms, Madi Mercer, Ruby McCumiskey, Olive Snell, Morgan-Lee Snell and Emily Spratt.

Troc volunteer photographer credit - Kim Sachs.



Two Little Houses was a group exhibition organised by Trocadero Projects at the Museums Visitor Centre space. The show aimed to explore craft, decorative art and textile as objects of personal, social and cultural history.

Featuring handmade objects and textiles, mixed-media dioramas, and detailed drawings by local artists, this exhibition explored the dichotomy of public artistic practice and private, personal art-making. Two Little Houses considers a room as a shrine to oneself and a self-curated space.

Cultural and Artistic Program

Exhibitions (continued)

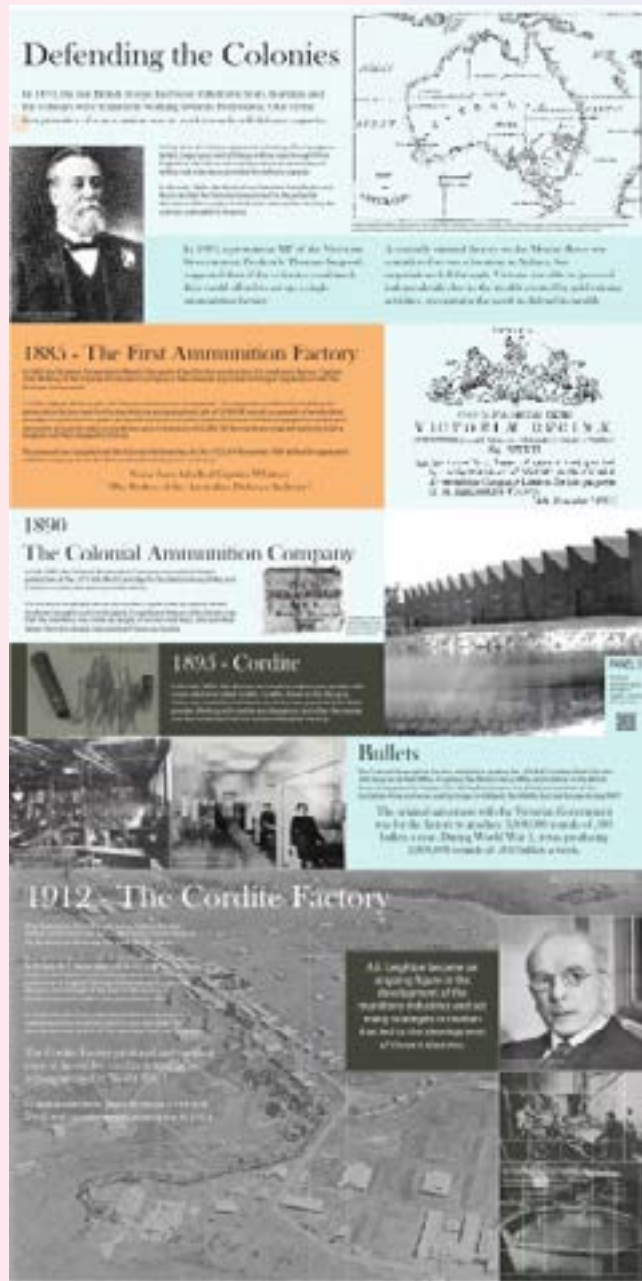
“The Logic of Logistics- story of munitions” Research & Production (Launch of this exhibition is forthcoming, late 2023)

This new major museum exhibition tells the story of how Australia became a nation capable of defending itself independently, and the people behind that story. We learn about the intervention and influence of individuals whose vision, determination and skill contributed to the incredible growth in the size and quality of Australia’s own munitions industry; the scientists and the workers, including many women, who established a thriving, innovative and independent manufacturing industry. It is about the people who planned that process and designed the products.

This story is important because, although the many battles of both world wars have been described often and vividly, there appears to be no description of the mechanics of the productive machinery which enabled the expansiveness required to facilitate those battles. The role of the production of ‘ordnance’ — the large shells, tanks, armoured cars, railway lines, aircraft parts, submarines, big guns — has been similarly neglected. How were they made and by whom?

The tools of industry are rarely, if ever, considered in the stories and records of war but the ability to produce them, source the requisite materials, research the forging metallurgy, and provide the capacity for meeting the demand are fundamental to defending a country.

Developed by Peter Haffenden, Jennifer Kelynack and Andrew Calvert and supported by state government funding through the Office of Veterans Affairs in 2022.



Panel 3 of 10 of the exhibition.



Cultural and Artistic Program

Exhibitions (continued)

*“The Logic of Logistics- story of munitions”
Research & Production (continued)*

This new major exhibition features ten, 1m x 2m high portable panels printed on to fabric. It will be launched in early 2024 and will travel to schools, libraries and other venues.

A website is also being produced by the Museum to accommodate the vast quantity of detailed research compiled by Peter Haffenden and Andrew Calvert during the production of the ‘Logic of Logistics’.

Initially it will be funded via the Museum and the most urgent information uploaded to the new website prior to the launch of the exhibition in July. The exhibition panels each feature a QR code linking to web pages which will be developed and expanded to include audio interviews, video footage and other materials through future project funding.

Team: Operations Co-ordinator, Committee and volunteers, Jennifer Kelynack, Andrew Calvert and Kerrie Poliness.



*Top: Peter Haffenden and Andy Calvert discussing aspects of the exhibition research.
Photo by Chas Manning.*

Left: Panel 4 & 5 (of 10) of the exhibition.



Cultural and Artistic Program

Artist / Cultural talks

Open House Melbourne Talk and Tour

Living Museum Visitor Centre and History of the Land Garden 30th July 2022

The Living Museum was included in Open House Melbourne's 2022 program. We had the Museums Visitor Centre open to the public on the Saturday of the Open House weekend and were able to run two groups for a talk and tour taken by Kerrie Poliness. The talk began inside the Visitor Centre and spoke generally to the history of the area and the Museum and its context within the site of Pipemakers Park before continuing as a guided tour of the historic buildings and the History of the Land garden throughout the park.



Photos by Chas Manning.

Cultural and Artistic Program

Artist / Cultural talks (continued)

*Trocadero - artist talk
15th December 2023*

images credit Kim Sachs

35 people attended the workshop and artist talk

To conclude Trocadero's exhibition, an artist talk and workshop was organised. A number of artists included in the exhibition discussed their work with curator Amie Green. The talk was well attended and there was great involvement by the audience in the discussion that was strongly encouraged.

*Trocadero - artist workshop
15th December*

A still life drawing workshop was facilitated by the artist, Handbag Full of Worms. This casual drawing workshop aimed at engaging the creative muscle through drawing. Handbag Full of Worms gave direction to beginners, and advice to those already familiar with drawing.



Photo by Chas Manning.





Cultural and Artistic Program

Education programs / events

All day School excursion

Annunciation Primary School, Brooklyn (whole school)

July 21, 2022

Museum Visitor Centre, Pipemakers Park and Wetlands

The Museum's staff and volunteers hosted the entire Annunciation Primary School from Brooklyn for a full day excursion. Throughout the day students participated in a native animal mask making workshop held inside the Museum's Visitor Centre, as well as a guided tour through the History of the Land Garden and the Frog Hollow Wetlands.



The area surrounding the Museum's Visitor Centre in Pipemakers Park has been designed for use as a learning environment, and tool for understanding. Since Covid 19, school excursions at Pipemakers Park have become less frequent. It was exciting to see the Park being used for this purpose once again for this large group of local primary school students.

Students and staff from Annunciation Primary School, Braybrook, attending an all-day excursion and workshops at the Museum and in Pipemakers Park.



Cultural and Artistic Program

Education programs / events (continued)

*Maribyrnong Secondary College Excursion
October 7 2022*

Museum Visitor Centre, Pipemakers Park

Maribyrnong Secondary College visited the Museums Visitor Centre as a part of their Yr 9 program, exploring the surrounding areas of their campus.

As a part of the visit, Museum staff and volunteers gave a talk to the students about the history of the Museum and Pipemakers Park, as well as what made up the contents of the archive at the Living Museum.

The group was shown through the various displays at the Visitor Centre and were able to sit and watch a selection of documentaries on different subjects relating to the western suburbs produced by the Museum.



*Students and staff from Maribyrnong Secondary College,
attending an excursion and talk at the Museum and in Pipemakers*

Photos by Chas Manning.



Cultural and Artistic Program

Workshops and Community events

*Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley
Community planting day - with Daniel Mulino
and Anthony Tran*

*12th of July 2023
Museum Visitor Centre (morning tea), Pipemakers Park*

The Living Museum was able to host a Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley community working day in Pipemakers Park in which Federal Member for Fraser, Daniel Mulino, and the Mayor of the City of Maribyrnong, Anthony Tran attended.

Maribyrnong Ranger Martin Forster was able to give participants and Daniel Mulino a tour of the park and wetlands, informing us of the history of the park and its significance to the local community.

This day gave platform for local community members to discuss issues they thought of importance to them.



*Council Ranger, Martin Forster, led a talk
and tour of the wetlands in Pipemakers Park.*



Cultural and Artistic Program

Workshops and Community events (continued)

Harvester Oration Dinner event 7th of December 2023

Olwen Ford and Kerrie Poliness were invited to attend the Harvester Oration event, in Tottenham, by the Federal Member for Fraser, Danel Mulino.

They were both presented with flowers at the event in regard to their work at the Living Museum.

Katy Gallagher, addressed the first Harvester Oration since the election of the Albanese Labor Government. And also the first Harvester Oration post-COVID. Katy's Oration was titled 'The Urgent Case For Gender Equality in Australia'. Katy was presented with a gift of Olwen's book, Harvester Town.

The Harvester decision, of which this event is named after, is entrenched not only in our history - but also in Australian culture and our national psyche. It transcends those who have spoken in the past and those will deliver this oration in the future.

It underpins a movement of collectivism and provides guidance for all of us to reflect upon. It also acts as a point in time from which we can measure progress. I was reminded of this just last week during the Senate debate on Labor's industrial relations legislation, that as true believers our work in this space is never done. That we continue to develop and respond to our struggle for justice and a fair go. And that we cannot take our eyes off protecting the rights and conditions of working people because our opponents will never stop working to undermine them.

- Katy Gallagher, Harvester Oration, 2022



Left to right: Elizabeth Drozd OAM, Kerrie Poliness, Olwen Ford and Melba Marginson.



Cultural and Artistic Program

Workshops and Community events (continued)

The Silent Witness Network (TSWN) Workshops

*Living Museum Visitor Centre,
Pipemakers Park and Maribyrnong Library*

MLMW Staff, Committee, Volunteers, and TSWN

The Silent Witness Network (TSWN) worked in partnership with the Museum to conduct community workshops at Maribyrnong Library and in Pipemakers Park. Throughout 2022, a suite of activities were aimed at the women from Filipino, Vietnamese, Indian, and Chinese communities in the City of Maribyrnong. The goal was to encourage these communities to connect amongst themselves and establish genuine intercultural friendships, promote community well-being and safety, and celebrate diversity thereby enriching the wider community.

The whole Maribyrnong community benefits greatly from having women leading confidently in their families, neighbourhoods, and groups. One of the principal aims is to provide practical support to women who would be presenting with challenging issues relating to social isolation, mental health, and family violence. The hope was and is to empower the women to use the networks created by the project to assist them with their individual and family needs.



Cultural and Artistic Program

Workshops and Community events (continued)

*The Silent Witness Network (TSWN) Workshops
Art therapy and plant propagation workshop
November 19th 2022*

*Living Museum Visitor Centre and Pipemakers Park
MLMW Staff, Committee, Volunteers, and TSWN*

This day-long event was the first part of a series of workshops hosted by the Silent Witness Network at the Living Museum. Various communities were invited to participate in a free group art therapy session in the morning, and a guided plant propagation workshop in the afternoon. The attendees also experienced a preview of Trocadero's exhibition, 'Two Little Houses' meeting with some of the local artists and discussing their work.

A very social and casual lunch was provided with a range of Filipino foods on offer. Both morning and afternoon workshops were very well received and calls for repeat events were made by many of the women attending.



Cultural and Artistic Program

Workshops and Community events (continued)

*The Silent Witness Network (TSWN) Workshops
Multicultural cooking workshop
'International rice dish cooking'
December 10th 2022*

*Living Museum Visitor Centre and Pipemakers Park
MLMW Staff, Committee, Volunteers, and TSWN
Nasra Ali, Nora Simkin - workshop facilitators/cooks*

This multicultural cooking workshop was a very well attended event hosted by TSWN over the course of a day at the Visitor Centre. The concept of the day was to invite a number of people to gather and cook and their cultures dish of choice that incorporated rice. What resulted was a peaceful social event of sharing and learning.

As the event was in December, a Christmas carol karaoke was organised to the joy of the participants. Through a Volunteer Materials grant the Museum was able to purchase several induction cooktops and a rice cooker to facilitate this event and any future events that will incorporate cooking.



Multicultural cooking demonstration and sharing of food, Pipemakers Park, December 2022.

Volunteer, Phoebe Haffenden, and Museum committee member, Ben Woods, kick off christmas carol kareoke.





Cultural and Artistic Program

Workshops and Community events (continued)

*Dreamtime Cooking - funding secured for events in 2023-2024
City of Maribyrnong 'Love Your Local' Community Grant Program*

Pipemakers Park - outdoor cooking demonstrations.

MLMW Committee, Melba Marginson, MLMW Operations Coordinator, First Nations chef, volunteers and TSWN networks.

In July 2022, Committee members Peter Haffenden and Melba Marginson planned to develop a series of cooking demonstrations and workshops in Pipemakers Park featuring local indigenous plants and herbs to be led by a First Nations chef.

This led to them to submit a proposal on behalf of the Museum to Council's 'Love Your Local' Community Grant Program. 'Dreamtime Cooking' will include 3 events, held in Pipemakers Park, targeting local multicultural community participation. One will be held in late 2023 and two more in early 2024.

Dreamtime Cooking will be staged outdoors in Pipemakers Park and will involve the sharing of food and stories. Although each event will be larger it will be staged similarly to TSWN multicultural cooking demonstrations held in December 2022.



*Images from top:
Maribyrnong City Council, Mayor, Sarah Carter and Melba Marginson.
TSWN multicultural cooking demonstration and sharing of food held in Pipemakers Park,
December 2022.*



Cultural and Artistic Program

Workshops and Community events (continued)

*The Silent Witness Network (TSWN) Workshops
Cultural Origins Story Telling Session
February 11th 2023
Maribyrnong Library Community Meeting room 1
11.30 am to 2.30 pm*

The first event at our new temporary home at the Maribyrnong Library, TSWN utilised the library's large community meeting room to facilitate a Cultural Origins Story Telling Session.

The Museum has collected the stories of hundreds of people since 1984 and is excited to support and partner with TSWN to develop more events like this. The session was led by story tellers, Anna Manuel and Gloria Gu.



Image captions here.....





Cultural and Artistic Program

Workshops and Community events (continued)

*TSWN Family safety leadership course
May 13th 2023*

*Maribyrnong Library Community Meeting room
A whole day training event.*

TSWN utilised the library's large community meeting room at our new temporary home at the Maribyrnong Library, to facilitate a whole day event dedicated to leadership training around family violence.

A large group of 35 men and women from multicultural backgrounds attended the event which was advertised through TSWN networks.

Image captions here.....



Cultural and Artistic Program

Workshops and Community events (continued)

*FMV (Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley)
Christmas Party - 7th December 2022*

Living Museum Visitor Centre, Pipemakers Park

The Museum hosted The Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley's Christmas Party, continuing its friendships with local environmental groups and providing facilities for other non for profit organisations.

Many of the members of FMV are also Museum members. The close association goes back to the formation of Pipemakers Park in the 1980s.

This event was organised by Museum member, volunteer and FMV committee member, Sol Skeletor.



Cultural and Artistic Program

Workshops and Community events

*Public memorial for Peter Haffenden
3rd November, 2022*

Living Museum Visitor Centre and Pipemakers Park

On the same night that the Maribyrnong river flooded, Museum's former director (1997-2007) and then current Committee Secretary, Peter Haffenden, sadly passed away. Peter helped shape the Museum from when he first became involved in 1984 and is largely responsible for its continuation today. As Peter was a mentor and friend to so many people in the community the Museum decided to hold a public memorial at the Visitor Centre in Pipemakers Park.

The memorial that was held in November was attended by more than 300 people. Truly a community event, the Museum staff, volunteers and a local network of people and organisations, including Council, rallied together to coordinate this large event

The Mayor, Councillor Anthony Tran and Melba Marginson were MCs. Speakers included: The Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan OAM, Abbot of the Quang Minh Temple; the Museum's inaugural Director, life member and long time associate Olwen Ford; and the Museum's former Cultural Officer and current cultural advisor Uncle Larry Walsh. The Museum has established a "Peter Haffenden Future Projects Fund" and has so far received over \$3,900 in donations towards new projects that will be determined in consultation with Peters daughter, Phoebe, and partner, Kerrie Poliness.

Photos by Chas Manning.



Cultural and Artistic Program

Other activities

Peter Haffenden, our Secretary and Champion of the West

“Power of Peace” Award

In celebration of the United Nations International Peace Day, on the 21st of September 2022 our Secretary, Peter Haffenden was awarded the “Power of Peace” from the Centre of Melbourne Multi-Faith and Others Network (COMMON), at an event held in Ascot Vale. This award is given to people who endeavour to spread peace and harmony throughout the community. This award is given to people who endeavour to spread peace and harmony throughout the community.

Peter’s tireless efforts to connect and celebrate the community and stories of the inner West of Melbourne remain a shining example for others to follow. Due to his illness, Peter could not attend the event, so their President, Abe Schwarz, visited his home in Footscray to present the award to him in the presence of family and friends.



Left: Abe Schwarz speaking at the Centre of Melbourne Multi-faith and Others Network (COMMON), at an event held in Ascot Vale.



Above: Peter Haffenden at home receiving the award.

Cultural and Artistic Program

Other activities

*Reprint of Still Here Exhibition Catalogue, April 2023
Initiated by the Museums Committee of management*

In April 2023, the Committee agreed that the Museum should fund a small reprint (100 copies) of the much sought after catalogue to the exhibition, *Still Here: A Brief History of Aboriginal People in Melbourne's West*, which was originally published in 1996. The catalogue contains the text of the exhibition in full, and many of the images from the exhibition. It was produced with the Museum's then Cultural Officer, now a local elder, Uncle Larry Walsh. This reprint was made available for sale at the Bain Attwood discussion with Daniel James held at the Footscray Library.

*Still Here exhibited alongside Authors talk.
Bain Attwood discussion with Daniel James at Footscray library
3rd of May 2023*

The original 1996 Exhibition *Still Here* was presented alongside Bain Attwood's discussion with Daniel James at the Footscray Library about his recent book on the life of William Cooper. The exhibition helped provide more information around the western suburbs indigenous history for participants seeking further context to the talk.

*Images from above left:
Committee member Pam Mulready organised the reprinting of Still Here and publication display at the Footscray library event.
The Museum's exhibition Still Here produced with Uncle Larry Walsh in 1996 consisting of 10 panels was designed to fit in the back of a car and be set up anywhere. 28 years on it is still unique, highly relevant and used for events such as this.*





*Images clockwise from above:
A selection of photographs by Spencer
Nguyen. Image by Nick Hubicki taken at the
Top Factory. Nick in action with his camera,
documenting the Top Factory.*



Research and Research Services

Researchers and Artists residencies

Spencers Nguyen - photographer in residence Project with Peter

Local resident and photographic student, Spencer Nguyen, spent a lot of time interviewing and photographing Peter Haffenden and also documenting the people working at and the Museum.

Several of Spencer's photographs of Peter featured in his end of year RMIT exhibition in Fitzroy.

Nicholas Hubicki - ongoing artistic residency

Nicholas Hubicki has continued his photographic research residency whilst the Museum was in between homes and packing and sorting its archive. Hubicki was able to focus his attention on the areas around the Museum and will continue to slowly develop his project in the lead up to our return to Pipemakers Park in 2024.

'My work is interested in the subtle and overt relationship between object, site and memory. In particular, the work is derived from cultural and historic research where objects/sites of apparent 'banality' are resuscitated by the photographic act into a new accord with both past and present.'

— Nicholas Hubicki

Research and Research Services

Researchers and Artists residencies

*Melanie Avent - research in residence - video game production
Artists: Kate Tandoc, Luke Rotella, Bree Herman, Melanie Avent*

*Research and development funding by Screen Victoria, project base
and research Living Museum of the West.*

Untitled Baseball Video Game - Research phase
(production development Screen Victoria) 2023 -2024

The “Untitled Baseball Game” (Working title) project is a digital interactive experience set in Footscray. The experience is being developed by “Amazing Games Pack 12 Games” a small government funded artist collective. The game, presently in the pre-production phase, aims to deliver a captivating interactive experience. In order to establish a strong cultural and historical foundation for the setting, the collective has appointed a historical advisor, Melanie Avent, to closely collaborate with Melbourne’s Living Museum of the West.

This partnership seeks to incorporate elements of the region’s history into the experiences’ world and narrative. The estimated development period for the game is two years, with the Museum providing ongoing research assistance.

*Left top: Diamond at Footscray Baseball club.
Below: Style test ‘Untitled Baseball Game’.*



Research and Research Services

Researchers and Artists residencies

Michael Patti - new ecological research

During the second half of 2022 Environmental Science student Michael Patti began using the Museum as a base for ecological surveys throughout Pipemakers Park. Michael has grown up coming to the Park and visiting the Museum. As a young man he helped us produce the exhibition *Pobblebonk* (2005), Michael knew exactly where to find various indigenous species of fish along the River which he helped us safely capture, photograph and then release.

Michael also has a strong connection to the site through his family members working at the old Hume Pipes Factory. Through his surveys last year, he followed the presence of a plant called, *Senecio runcinifolius*, which is not widely recorded in the Melbourne region that he has discovered in Pipemakers Park.

Throughout this year he has made new developments in his research, discovering and tracking three individual plants at Frog Hollow wetlands called *Senecio cunninghamii* var. *Cunninghamii* which are classified as endangered in Victoria.

Michael has been donating tools to the Museum with plans to set up a small Citizen Scientist lab that will allow students and ecologists to use the Museum as a base for ecological research in the Park and local area.

Image: one of three individual plants found by Michael at Frog Hollow wetlands called Senecio cunninghamii var. Cunninghamii which are classified as endangered in Victoria.





Research and Research Services

Research services

Top Factory - Pipemakers Park

On 8th February 2023, Living Museum committee members Pam Mulready and Kerrie Poliness met to discuss Council's plans for improvement of the nationally significant Top Factory site in Pipemakers Park with Paul Jane and Rod Clark from Council's Open Spaces team, and also Joanne Smith and Alix Massina from Community Wellbeing.

The Museum arranged for two former staff members, former director, Olwen Ford and former Industrial Archaeologist, Gary Vines, to attend the meeting and to contribute their significant knowledge and expertise of the site. Olwen and Gary co-authored the Pipemakers Park Conservation Plan and Analysis (1996), had been instrumental in planning, co-ordinating and securing funding for a program of conservation works to the Top Factory and other heritage building in Pipemakers Park, with Heritage Victoria and Parks Victoria (1998 to 2004). Kerrie Poliness had also been involved in this program.

The meeting included a site walk, and the Museum was asked to provide Council with its feedback on another consultants report and recommendations that had recently been commissioned by Council. Olwen and Gary both made significant contributions to this report document which was provided to Council on 6 March 2023.

Images clockwise from above left:

Olwen Ford at the site meeting on 8th of February, image by Chas Manning of Nick Hubicki documenting the Top Factory, 2 pages of the report prepared for Council by the museum team with Olwen Ford and Gary Vines.



Image above (1997) of approx. 150-revised 8 foot pipes left on site by Mum, used to design and construct the Pipe Stack artwork (1998-99)

Images below (1997) methods of covering drains and drains used to inform the 1998 works. The timber slab method was used in many locations.



Melbourne's Living Museum of the West - reporting to Maribornong City Council, 3 March 2023

Re: Top Factory (building 71, Pipemakers Park)

Questions from Council

- 1) Feedback to Council's recently Commissioned Heritage Report
- 2) Articulate the components of the process for retention/restoration that tell the story of how the pipes were made
- 3) Identify the pieces of machinery onsite that can be:
 - a) Removed and retained at a different location/user group
 - b) Removed and destroyed
 - c) Retained onsite
- 4) Provide background on the scope of works that was completed in 1998 when the facility was last opened.

Answers by Gary Vines, Olwen Ford and Melbourne's Living Museum of the West

1) Feedback regarding Council's Commissioned Heritage Report:

While the VHR listing describes the 'Bluestone buildings and part Bluestone building', the land is also registered, and presumably a permit is still required for any works, which would need to be justified in terms of the potential impact on significance to the Bluestone buildings and their setting. The whole site is also included in the Maribornong Heritage Overlay, as well as the VHR, but under clause 43(2)-2 of the planning scheme, heritage Victoria would be the permitting authority for any works regardless of whether the works are to the Bluestone buildings or some other part of the site.

Also, the heritage report makes no mention of the Victorian heritage inventory listing for the place. At least one nineteenth century structure was on the site of the pipe stacks and the Bluestone retaining wall along the east side may have stone blocks from this structure. Archaeological remains of this building, such as bluestone footings, as well as other archaeological features, are likely to remain. Therefore, any works, including demolition of part of the top factory, would need to be accompanied by a permit from Heritage Victoria and an archaeological management plan.

Marketing Report



Students from Annunciation Primary School, Braybrook, each made a local indigenous animal mask during the workshop at the Museum and Pipemakers Park. They found their animal in the exhibition Pobblebonk, observing and then playing out aspects of its behaviour.

The masks were designed by local artist Pam Tonkin in 2007.

In yet another challenging year interrupted by construction, relocation and floods we have continued to see the communities heightened engagement with what is local to them, reconnecting to public space with a deeper interest. This level of interest is something that the Museum plans to continually cultivate through the promotion of the History of the Land Garden, which is so interconnected with the Museum's functioning, as well as surrounding recreation areas.

This year has seen even more engagement with the park by the Museum through a range of events and activities. While temporarily relocated to the Maribyrnong Library we will be maintaining a presence in the park to further foster this engagement.

Throughout this year we have been able to maintain our public access of 3 days a week at the Maribyrnong Library. This relocation has meant we are still able to provide resources and space for a number of researchers.

Another advantage of being situated at the Maribyrnong Library has been our ability to create a Museum foyer space that is visible during the time we are closed but in which the Library is still open. This means that we are able to create displays and promote information relating to the Museum and its work that can be viewed over a much longer period of time.

As a small organisation with limited resources for marketing, it is crucial for the Living Museum to build community awareness through partnerships and networks, as well as social media and online platforms. We have committed to regular Instagram posting of daily museum activity and regular use of Art Bytes. We have



Marketing Report (continued)

created new and ongoing meaningful partnerships with organisations and colleague institutions including exhibitions, talks and workshops with guest curators, continued expansion of our volunteer program and ongoing member support.

Our new website, with eHive integration, provides for a much richer search experience for researchers and provides broader access to our collections through other connected organisations, and the National Library, Canberra, through TROVE.

Our website statistics demonstrate a strong and consistent demand for Museum publications and education resources accessible online with regularly high download numbers. The launch of our modernised website will be transformational for the Museum's identity communication and the accessibility of our content and activities- supporting both targeted research audiences and general community audiences.

In April 2023, the Museum produced a Strategic Plan for 2023 - 2026 which itself will provide an important marketing tool and serve as a guide to achieving our vision for the future. Achieving a second period of triennial funding will enable the Museum to employ staff to implement our 2023 -2026 Strategic Plan.

The Museum's previous annual reports can be downloaded from Annual Report page on the Museum's new website.



Finance Report

Finance Committee Report 2022-2023

This is the third year of Melbourne's Living Museum of the West receiving Triennial Arts Funding from the City of Maribyrnong, which increases our base operational grant from \$12,000 per annum to \$40,000 per annum. This has been instrumental in the Committee's ability to help widely improve the Museum's functioning, and we are incredibly grateful for Council's support and the ongoing stability that this funding provides.

The increased funding has allowed the Museum to continue to employ staff to maintain consistent opening hours, increase engagement, provide people with adequate research services, and develop better systems for our archive and office space. It has also allowed the Museum to commission the construction of a new website by the Swinburne Design Bureau, which was completed in April 2023 and will be launched later in 2023. The new website by Swinburne Design Bureau cost \$5,600 (inc GST), and was invoiced in September 2023, meaning the payment will appear in the 2023-2024 reporting period.

The process of integrating the Museum's financial systems with the Xero software was completed by Robyn Bouchier (then Treasurer) in March 2022. Robyn introduced Melba Marginson (co-Treasurer) and Kerrie Poliness (President) to the Xero software. Her assistance enabled the Committee to keep up to date with the Museum's finances and perform basic bookkeeping tasks such as the reconciliation of transactions, issuing invoices and receipts and producing reports such as profit and loss statements and balance sheets. In August 2023 the Museum engaged bookkeeper, Ross Griffith, to up-date the Xero in regard to super and payroll requirements and facilitate the Museum's BAS reporting.

In July 2022 the Museum received news that it would need to temporarily relocate because of the termite damage. The Committee was asked by Council to provide a detailed costing of the relocation of the Museum and its archive from March 2023 until March 2024, during termite mitigation works to the Visitor Centre. This included costing the safe storage and alternative accommodation required to facilitate the Museum's ongoing delivery of pro-

Peter Haffenden took staff on a research tour of Highpoint Shopping Centre. Photo by Chas Manning.



grams and operations both on site in Pipemakers Park and offsite.

The Museum's costing was presented at a Council meeting by Michael Byrne and Kate Shearer. All was approved except for the cost of employing additional staff to help facilitate the move. Consequently, the Committee made the decision to defer the engagement of a new Business Manager and retain the services of the two casual staff to assist the Committee and volunteers with the packing and moving. The Museum was generously offered temporary accommodation at rooms behind Maribyrnong Library by Council which we accepted.

In September 2022 the Museum secured \$100,000 (plus GST) from the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, Living Local, Suburban Grant Program, to engage NFP team at OFFICE to design and integrate a bespoke refurbishment of the Visitor Centre building to enhance Council's replacement, repair and reconstruction works program. In October 2022, the Museum secured \$25,000 (plus GST) from the City of Maribyrnong 'Love Your Local' Community Grant Program to deliver the Dreamtime Cooking project in 2023 -24. In June 2023 the museum received a \$2,880 (plus GST) Volunteer Community Grant from the Federal MP Daniel Mulino. And in 2022-23 the 'Peter Haffenden future projects' fund received \$3,136 in donations.

At the end of financial year 2023, \$99,000 (plus GST) has been received for the Living Local refurbishment project of which \$8,000 has so far been expended on the delivery of a 'concept plan' by OFFICE and \$2,000 on equipment (dishwasher and fridge) for the new kitchen. No monies have yet been spent from the Dreamtime Cooking project (\$25,000 plus GST).

In November 2022, the Museum was obliged to return the majority of funds in regard to a Museum marketing project, i.e. \$15,453 including GST. which had attracted \$20,000 in Creative Victoria funding in early 2021 as the project was not successfully completed on

'Material Fix', an artwork by Julie Sheils that replaced missing concrete seats in the Workers Garden in Pipemakers Park with replica's made of resin, glimmering in the twilight at Pipemakers Park.



time back in 2021. Although the Committee presented a strong case for an extension, as most of the work was completed, the request was denied.

At the end of financial year 2023, the Museum's total bank balance was \$202,237.

After taking into account all liabilities, i.e. unexpended project funds (\$90,000 Living Local, \$25,000 Dreamtime Cooking, \$3,136 PH fund, \$2,880, Dan Mulino grant,) at \$121,019; and after deducting other liabilities not yet paid but relevant to FY2023 (approx. \$3,586 superannuation; \$8,720.31 BAS, and \$5,600 Swinburne Design Bureau) i.e. \$ 17,906; the Museum's operational reserve funds remain above the previous year's projections (\$56,000) at around \$63,000 at the end of June 2023.

Finances have remained on track despite the additional expenses incurred by the move, including associated materials, equipment, stationary, safety gear and volunteer support. And also the ongoing wages of two casual staff to move and set up operations at the library in 2023. There was also an increase in annual insurance premiums by \$1,000.

The Museum's successful application to Council for ongoing triennial funding has secured a further three-years of funding at \$40,000 per annum. The Museum will employ an Operations Coordinator from December 2023 to help the Committee deliver its Strategic Plan (2023 - 2026), to coordinate the volunteer program, and assist the Committee to secure additional funding to employ additional staff onsite for when we return to the Visitor Centre in mid 2024.

Reporting on our Triennial Arts Funding requires engaging a registered accountant to independently verify accounts. We would like to thank Evan Lowenstein who has carefully assessed and prepared these financial reports.

**Melba Marginson
and Kerrie Poliness**

2022-2023 Finance Report

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380

**PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	This Year \$	Last Year \$
INCOME			
Project Income	2	25,965.30	30,934.45
Grants Received	3	41,615.00	40,800.00
Memberships		288.40	448.24
		<u>67,869.70</u>	<u>72,182.69</u>
OTHER INCOME			
Donations Received	4	3,990.00	159.09
Interest Received		16.68	16.57
Gross profit from trading		95.68	2,566.56
		<u>4,062.36</u>	<u>2,742.22</u>
		<u>71,932.12</u>	<u>74,924.91</u>
EXPENSES			
Accountancy Fees		1,200.00	1,500.00
Bank Charges		10.40	-
Bookkeeping Fees		-	200.00
Cleaning		77.28	330.00
Contractors		-	945.45
Conference Fees		263.64	-
Depreciation		3,125.30	663.64
Domain & Website		102.72	-
Insurance		3,241.32	2,834.20
Light & Power		2,071.71	2,702.67
Printing & Stationery		1,963.52	622.81
Project Expenses		31,871.25	36,712.46
Repairs & Maintenance		42.73	-
Security Costs		543.94	625.23
Staff Amenities		2,129.98	193.42
Subscriptions		957.20	1,112.75
Superannuation Contributions		3,585.97	3,824.20
Telephone & Internet		1,505.05	1,558.63
Travelling Expenses - Domestic		96.57	-
Wages		34,161.90	30,554.38
WorkCover		227.00	225.00
		<u>87,157.48</u>	<u>84,604.84</u>
Loss before income tax		<u>(15,225.36)</u>	<u>(9,679.93)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation
report of LOWENSTENS ARTS MANAGEMENT PTY LTD.
Page 1

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380

**PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	This Year \$	Last Year \$
Loss			
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		(15,225.36)	(9,679.93)
		<u>190,231.71</u>	<u>199,911.64</u>
Total available for appropriation		<u>175,006.35</u>	<u>190,231.71</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year		<u>175,006.35</u>	<u>190,231.71</u>

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2022-2023 Finance Report

**MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

Note	This Year \$	Last Year \$
SHARE CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Retained earnings	175,006.35	190,231.71
TOTAL SHARE CAPITAL AND RESERVES	175,006.35	190,231.71
Represented by:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
NAB 01848-5325	7,353.48	60,778.59
Bendigo Bank 1384-45655	194,790.27	62,178.86
Petty Cash	200.00	200.00
Bendigo Bank - 9610	123.03	-
Trade Debtors	1,175.85	2,053.00
Inventory-Historical at WDV	81,000.00	81,000.00
Inventory-Publications	1,200.00	1,200.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	285,812.63	207,410.45
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Fixed Assets		
Plant & Equipment	21,288.94	18,163.64
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(3,788.94)	(863.64)
	17,500.00	17,500.00
Total Fixed Assets	17,500.00	17,500.00
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	17,500.00	17,500.00
TOTAL ASSETS	303,312.63	224,910.45
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Unexpended Grants/ Project Funding	5 116,000.00	27,600.00
Superannuation Payable	3,585.97	2,218.80
PAYG Withholding	6 -	1,626.00
GST Payable (Refundable)	7 8,720.31	3,233.94
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	128,306.28	34,678.74
TOTAL LIABILITIES	128,306.28	34,678.74
NET ASSETS	175,006.35	190,231.71

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report of LOWENSTENS ARTS MANAGEMENT PTY LTD.

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**MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	This Year \$	Last Year \$
1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies		
This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared for use by the director and members of the company. The director has determined that the company is not a reporting entity.		
The financial report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.		
2 Project Income		
Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions	8,000.00	-
Other Fundings	17,965.36	30,904.45
	25,965.36	30,904.45
3 Grants Received		
Council - Triennial Art Partner Funding	41,616.00	40,800.00
	41,616.00	40,800.00
4 Donations Received		
Donations Received	-	159.09
Donations - Peter Haffenden's Projects	3,950.00	-
	3,950.00	159.09
5 Unexpended Grants/ Project Funding		
2022	-	27,600.00
2023	116,000.00	-
	116,000.00	27,600.00
6 PAYG Withholding		
Quarter ended - Jun PAYG Withholding	-	416.00
Dec 21 PAYG Withholding	-	802.00
Mar 22 PAYG Withholding	-	408.00
	-	1,626.00

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Womens uniforms from the Maribyrnong Explosives Factory.