

A photograph of a museum exhibit. In the foreground, a yellow and green train car is on display. A man in a dark jacket and blue jeans is leaning against the side of the train car, looking at it. In the background, other people are visible, and the ceiling is high with several bicycles hanging from it. The floor is light-colored and polished. A green semi-transparent banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

**CREATE AND
DELIVER GREAT
EXPERIENCES**



Kathy Fox, Exhibition Producer, Garrett Donnelly, Exhibition Designer and Deb Tout-Smith Curator, Cultural Diversity install the tram from the Opening Ceremony of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

STRATEGY

Create exhibitions that are engaging, surprising and authoritative.

ACTIONS AND RESULTS

As part of *Festival Melbourne 2006*, the cultural festival of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, Museum Victoria offered a diverse program of exhibitions and activities across the three museums.

Melbourne Museum's *Mummies: Ancient Egypt and the Afterlife* attracted nearly 150,000 visitors.

A new long-term exhibition opened at Melbourne Museum, *Marine life: Exploring our seas*.

Greek Treasures: from the Benaki Museum in Athens at the Immigration Museum was highly successful, attracting a large number of first-time visitors.

Scienceworks launched *Mission Earthling: Discover the Human Body* exhibition and the redesigned *Nitty Gritty Super City*.

Museum Victoria celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Eight Hour Day with the display of Trade Union Banners at Melbourne Museum. Museum Victoria jointly developed *It's About Time: the Eight Hour Day, 1856-2006* – a travelling exhibition tracing the history of the Eight Hour Day movement and the emergence of working time as a key contemporary issue.

STRATEGY

Provide websites that offer high-quality content and are easy to navigate.

ACTIONS AND RESULTS

An evaluation of website usability was undertaken to inform website redevelopment. Upgrading of the existing website was undertaken to ensure best accessibility, usability, relevance and maintenance practices.

New content for the website included new sites for CSIRAC and IMAX.

STRATEGY

Use innovative display methods to convey the wealth of our collections and knowledge.

ACTIONS AND RESULTS

The Virtual Room is a unique place for the visualisation of scientific and historical ideas, and associated objects. Four new shows were developed for Virtual Room during the past twelve months: *Victoria goes Expo*, *Einstein's Universe*, *The Deep*, and *Dive into Diabetes*.

STRATEGY

Provide a range of activities that appeal to a broad audience including: tours, field trips, performances, presentations, lectures and publications.

ACTIONS AND RESULTS

Melbourne Museum hosted a range of activities to engage a diverse audience including: school holiday activities such as Karak, Karak, Aqua Pack, Sensational Sails and Fishy Fun; and presentations including the *Perfect Catch* and Australian Indigenous culture performances. A range of workshops was held including Family and Adult Design Workshop. Events such as the L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival and the Victorian Producers' Market and Global Songs also drew in visitors from diverse backgrounds and interests.

At the Immigration Museum, *Immigration Adventures*, *Kids festival* and *Ancient Greek* were offered as part of the school holiday program. Cultural festivals were held including a Pacific Islanders' Festival, Irish Festival and Bosnian Festival.

Scienceworks offered performances such as *Super Sleuth*, *Name of the Game*; as well as activities such as *Lifting Prints*; *You are the Witness*; and *Classic Catches*. Other events hosted included the *Model Solar Car Challenge* and *Machines in Action*.

Museum Victoria also produced a range of publications including: *Memoirs of Museum Victoria*, *The Aboriginal Photographs of Baldwin Spencer*, *Colliding Worlds: First Contact in the Western Desert*, and *Phar Lap: A True Legend*.

CASE STUDY: COMMONWEALTH GAMES PROGRAM



Victoria's hosting of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games in March was a wonderful occasion for the State and Museum Victoria was proud to play a significant role in the Cultural festival, *Festival Melbourne2006*.

As part of Festival Melbourne2006, Museum Victoria staged an extensive program of exhibitions and activities.

Museum Victoria also hosted a Commonwealth Games *Live Site* at the Melbourne Museum Plaza, offering visitors an opportunity to enjoy the excitement of the Games on the big screen.



MELBOURNE MUSEUM SPIRIT OF THE GAMES

18 March to 23 July 2006

This exhibition allowed visitors to go behind the scenes of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony. Using props, costumes, lighting, behind the scenes footage, music and icons of the Opening Ceremony, the exhibition enabled visitors to relive the drama and excitement of the night and see the sort of planning and coordination that an event of such a scale demands. Museum Victoria worked with the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee to develop the exhibition.

Spirit of the Games opened to the public less than 72 hours after the ceremony and included over 300 objects used in the ceremony. The exhibition was launched by HRH The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, KCVO, ADC on Saturday 18 March.

COMMON GOODS

6 February to 7 May 2006

Common Goods featured work made in Victoria especially for the Commonwealth Games by artists from South Africa, Malta, Mauritius, Maldives, Sri Lanka, India, Samoa and New Zealand. Techniques included telephone wire weaving, darning, carving and lace-making. This exhibition was presented in collaboration with Craft Victoria.

CARVE

16 March to 25 March 2006

CARVE brought together artists from the Commonwealth nations of Canada, New Zealand and Australia to examine contemporary practices of traditional indigenous carving. In workshops open to the public, the artists created new work and demonstrated the role of traditional technique, motif and custom in their practice.

BIGANGA: KEEPING TRADITION

Opened 4 March 2006

This exhibition demonstrated traditional and contemporary Victorian Aboriginal art and culture through the creation and use of possum skin cloaks. The cloaks are of great spiritual, cultural and artistic importance.

MELBOURNE MUSEUM LIVE SITE

15 March to 26 March 2006

From opening night to closing night, the Melbourne Museum Plaza was home to the *Live Site* – an open public space with a giant screen that allowed visitors to watch live broadcasts of the Commonwealth Games. A range of activities and events took place in the Plaza during this time to enhance the *Live Site* experience.



(Above left)
The Leunig duck which featured in the Opening Ceremony.



(Above centre)
Uniform detail from the Spirit of the Games exhibition.

(Above right)
The Spirit of the Games exhibition at Melbourne Museum.

As part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, the Victorian Producers' Market on 18 March attracted over 7,000 visitors, and the Culinary Pro Am held over the last week of the Games, attracted up to 400 people each night.

On Sunday 19 March, the highly successful *Global Songs* was held in conjunction with the Melbourne Millennium Chorus, while on the final day of the Games, *Hedge-mony*, a human maze, attracted over 2,500 visitors across three performances. *Hedge-mony* was a Red Cabbage Production and part of the 2006 Next Wave Festival.

MELBOURNE MUSEUM HOLIDAY PROGRAM

First-term Victorian school holidays coincided with the Commonwealth Games. One activity of the school holiday program focused on *Karak*, the red-tailed cockatoo who was the official mascot of the Commonwealth Games. Children learnt about the bird's nests and food and how they can help save this endangered species.

SCIENCEWORKS

Sportsworks: the ultimate challenge was refurbished in 2005 and was greatly enhanced before the opening of the Commonwealth Games. The exhibition features over 20 interactive experiences to provide the ultimate sporting challenge.

During the Commonwealth Games, Scienceworks partnered with Coates Hire to produce the Coates Cube experience at Birrarung Marr. Over 16,000 people attended the gravity shows developed by Scienceworks staff and many more visited the display.

IMMIGRATION MUSEUM COMMONWEALTH PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARDS: BEST OF THE BEST

17 February to 30 July 2006

This exhibition featured the best of the Commonwealth Photographic Awards since 2000. The photographs and stories capture the spirit and diversity of the Commonwealth. Established in 1999 by the Commonwealth Press Union and the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association, this competition is open to residents of all Commonwealth nations.

MELBOURNE MUSEUM

Enjoyed by close to 700,000 visitors each year, Melbourne Museum is one of Melbourne's favourite cultural destinations. A broad-based State museum with a national and international focus, Melbourne Museum's exhibitions and events cover the natural and physical sciences as well as social history and cultures.

Themes explored within the exhibitions include Australian society, Indigenous cultures, the human mind and body, a range of science disciplines, technology and the environment. Through its exhibitions, Melbourne Museum aims to provide an interactive and exciting visitor experience to the broadest possible audience.

Major features of Melbourne Museum include:

- Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre explores issues relating to the experiences, rights and perspectives of Australia's Indigenous people.
- The Forest Gallery, a living gallery with temperate trees over 20 metres tall, thousands of other plants and a wide variety of living creatures including insects, birds, fish and snakes.
- Phar Lap – one of Melbourne Museum's most popular exhibits.
- The Children's Gallery, exhibitions and activities designed for three to eight year-olds.
- A Touring Hall for large travelling exhibitions.
- The Melbourne Museum Shop offers a wide variety of giftware, Museum merchandise, books and educational materials.
- The Discovery Centre enables the public to access information about the Museum's collections and research materials.
- IMAX Melbourne.
- Sidney Myer Amphitheatre, a 150-seat outdoor arena.
- The Age Theatre, a 214 seat theatre.

LONG-TERM EXHIBITIONS EVOLUTION GALLERY

This gallery features two long-term exhibits. *Dinosaurs in Time* is an exhibition exploring the history of life on Earth, from ancient microfossils to trilobites, dinosaurs, mammals and plants. *Darwin to DNA* explores the processes and mechanisms of evolution and how our understanding has changed through the study of DNA.

MIND AND BODY GALLERY

This gallery explores the wonder and fascination of the human mind and body, and includes exhibitions about the structure and function of the body and significant medical achievement.

Bodyscape and *Body Parts* exhibitions were redeveloped to become *The Human Body* exhibition that opened in September 2005. A temporary exhibition space was also created in this gallery. A new permanent exhibition on the mind and brain is scheduled to open in late 2007.

AUSTRALIA GALLERY

The Australia Gallery explores the lives of people, and the communities in which they live. Through a range of fascinating objects, stories and performances, the Australia Gallery aims to provide a greater insight and understanding of Australia's non-indigenous history and culture. The Australia Gallery features three permanent exhibitions and a specially created temporary exhibition space which is often used to house Melbourne Museum's assortment of design-based exhibitions.

Melbourne – Stories from a City explores the history of Melbourne, its people, neighbourhoods, workplaces and cultures.

Windows on Victoria features eight key historical events that have made a lasting impact on Victorian society since European settlement.

Phar Lap – A True Legend is the home of the legendary Australian racehorse Phar Lap. The exhibit pays tribute to Australia's most famous racehorse and the country's first media star, featuring racing statistics, memorabilia and historical footage of Phar Lap.

TE PASIFIKA GALLERY

Developed in partnership with the Pacific Islander community, *Te Vainui O Pasifika* displays watercraft objects from nearly every country in the Pacific.

BUNJILAKA

Bunjilaka is the Aboriginal Centre at Melbourne Museum. It aims to present, interpret and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, philosophies and issues, with a focus on south-eastern Australia. Bunjilaka reflects the strong partnership between Museum Victoria and Aboriginal communities across Victoria. It has a variety of temporary touring exhibitions and three permanent exhibitions including:

Koori Voices recounts the stories of Aboriginal people in Victoria. It is a celebration of the survival of Aboriginal culture and the ways Aboriginal people have continually sought to maintain autonomous lifestyles, in spite of oppressive policies and welfare regimes.

Belonging to Country explores the complex relationships between Aboriginal people and land and waterways throughout Australia. The spiritual, economic and political connections are explored through a selection of objects from the collections.

Two Laws explores Aboriginal perspectives on knowledge, law and property. Artworks, artefacts and video examine the differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous laws and perceptions.

SCIENCE AND LIFE GALLERY

The Science and Life Gallery features exhibitions that explore digital technology, biodiversity, geology and invertebrate biology, and how these have changed our perceptions of the world.

Southern Diversity is a discovery of Australia's unique plants and animals. A parade of Australian animals, including 41 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and three extinct mammals, the Eastern Hare-wallaby, the Thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger) and the Pig-footed bandicoot, leads visitors towards the displays of over 3000 specimens, including mounted birds and mammals, cast reptiles and frogs, pinned insects and soft-bodied marine species.

The Virtual Room uses innovative imaging technology to enable visitors to see around, above, below and through digital objects and moving images and is one of the only places in the world where you can be transported to different times, places and realities. An interactive and innovative 3D experience, visitors can chase virtual dinosaurs as they move around the exhibit or learn more about more complex systems such as the planet Mars or virtual heritages such as Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Bugs Alive! is an exciting, hands-on exhibition that allows visitors to get up close and personal with the microscopic world of insects. A first for an Australian museum, *Bugs Alive!* amplifies, enlarges and time-stretches the micro world of bugs so visitors can learn about their habitats, life cycles, social lives and how much humans depend on them. The display of live Tarantulas, held under quarantine conditions for the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, makes this the only museum in Australia where visitors can see an exhibition of this nature.

The *CSIRAC* exhibition celebrates an international icon of the digital age. *CSIRAC* is the world's only surviving, intact, first-generation stored-memory computer and is recognised as a National Engineering Landmark.

Marine life: Exploring our seas - Victoria's seas contain spectacular habitats and marine life, many of which only occur in southern Australia. Featuring footage, rare photographs, a giant squid and other rare specimens, this exhibition takes visitors on a journey through Victoria's unique underwater worlds. This exhibition also demonstrates the research activities of Museum Victoria's world-renowned scientists, showcasing displays of never-before-seen sea creatures drawn from the Museum's extensive marine life collections.

CHILDREN'S GALLERY

The Children's Gallery has been designed especially for three to eight year old children. The exhibitions and hands-on activities have been designed to provide visitors with a stimulating, educational and fun experience.

The Big Box exhibition, *1,2,3 Grow*, provides an exciting environment for children to discover the many different ways that plants, animals and humans grow and change during their lives.

FOREST GALLERY

The Forest Gallery is a living example of Victoria's tall temperate forests. The gallery houses thousands of trees and plants, from more than 120 different species, and is also home to approximately 20 different vertebrate species, including snakes, birds, fish and frogs. The gallery's exhibition *Forest Secrets* is designed to convey a range of stories about forest life and how this environment changes over time. As Melbourne Museum's only 100-year exhibition, the Forest Gallery provides the promise of growth and change for generations to come.

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TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

TOP DESIGNS 2005

4 March to 10 July 2005

This annual exhibition showcased outstanding works by media, technology and design students, as a component of the *VCE Season of Excellence*, and was organised by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

EUREKA MOMENTS!

4 June to 21 July 2005

Presented by the Australian Academy of Sciences, this exhibition featured highlights from 50 years of Australian Science.

MUMMIES: ANCIENT EGYPT AND THE AFTERLIFE

24 June to 2 October 2005

This show was based around fascinating insights into death rituals and beliefs in Ancient Egypt as told through the story of Keku, a wealthy young woman who died 2,700 years ago. Organised by the Australian Museum, Sydney and the National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden, The Netherlands.

VAST TERRAIN: EXPLORING UNCOMMON GROUND

28 July to 6 November 2005

This show featured cutting edge products and designs from Robert Foster, Andrew Last and Frank Bauer, who have positioned Australia at the forefront of aluminium design. Curated by FORM Contemporary Craft and Design, Western Australia.

THE 7TH AGDA NATIONAL BIENNIAL AWARDS EXHIBITION

6 to 21 August 2005

An exhibition of the 7th AGDA National Biennial Awards organised by the Australian Graphic Design Association.

FRINGE FURNITURE

23 September to 9 October 2005

Produced by the 2005 Melbourne Fringe Festival, this exhibition presented a dynamic selection of contemporary interior furnishings by artists, designers and architects from across Australia.

MORRIS & CO.

25 November 2005 to 12 February 2006

This touring exhibition from the Art Gallery of South Australia featured a sumptuous display of furniture, carpets, tapestries, wallpapers and tiles from the workshops of William Morris, one of the most influential British interior designers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

TOP DESIGNS 2006

1 April to 18 June 2006

This annual exhibition featured works by media, technology and design students, as a component of the *VCE Season of Excellence*.

VICTORIAN TRADE UNION BANNERS: A PROUD TRADITION

Opened 18 April 2006

This exhibition celebrates the 150th anniversary of the extraordinary achievement of the Eight Hour Day in 1856, when Melbourne construction workers won the right to work an eight hour day. Their achievement was recognised as a world first.

HOMO FABER: MODELLING ARCHITECTURE

Opened 1 June

Displays as diverse as models of Gaudi's Sagrada Familia Church and tiny models made from sea shells were exhibited with work by 20 of Australia's leading architects. Organised by the Spatial Information Architecture Laboratory at RMIT.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS IN BUNJILAKA

SKY RAISING MAGPIES

Opened 11 February 2005

A very different kind of Holden utility. Developed by a Gunai/Kurnai collaborative team led by Lake Tyers resident artist and teacher Catherine Larkins, the decorated ute uses the magpie as a symbol of territorial boundaries and the strength of family and community relationships in East Gippsland.

COUNTRY STYLE, COUNTRY YOUTH

30 June 2005 to 5 February 2006

This was an exhibition of paintings by Yorta Yorta Mhutti Mhutti artist Craig Charles that highlighted the importance of Indigenous young people from urban and country areas.

GUNNAI YUKAN (MOTHER) STORIES

10 February to 18 June 2006

The exhibition of recent works by Ray Thomas was largely inspired by his mother's early childhood memories. Many of the paintings are linked to stories of family life at the Aboriginal community of Lake Tyers.

BIGANGA: KEEPING TRADITION

Opened 4 March 2006

The exhibition demonstrated traditional and contemporary Victorian Aboriginal art and culture through the creation and use of possum skin cloaks. These cloaks are of great spiritual, cultural and artistic importance.

KUKAN YACKAN BOORAI (GRANDMOTHER, MOTHER, CHILDREN)

Opened 22 June 2006

Many artists from across Gippsland - some very young, some emerging and some established - are featured in this exhibition from Gunai/Kurnai country.

VISITOR PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Visitor programs are thematically linked to Museum research, collections and exhibitions. These programs are devised to enhance audience engagement, stimulate informal and intergenerational learning, and foster interaction between visitors, Museum staff and volunteers.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Regular events at Melbourne Museum include daily tours of the Royal Exhibition Building as well as Museum Highlights tours, weekend activities and presentations. Museum Victoria's lecture program includes staff presentations as well as lectures co-produced with a range of partners. These partners included: Anthropological and Archaeological Society of Victoria, Australian Geographic, Deakin University, Latrobe University, Maths Association of Victoria, National Geographic and University of Melbourne. As part of its partnership with the CAE a range of workshops were held in conjunction with the *Morris and Co.* exhibition. A key feature of the annual Calendar of Events is an expanded program for school holidays and long weekends – periods that comprise 29% of the year.

DESIGN – ACTIVITIES, LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

As part of the Victorian Government's State of Design Initiative, Museum Victoria presents a range of design-focused programs that promote an appreciation and understanding of the design process. Over 5,000 visitors participated in hands-on activities that engaged participants with the design processes featured in *Morris & Co* and *Vast Terrain*. In July and August 2005 and June 2006, Design Outreach Workshops developed in partnership with industrial designers Jan Flook and Stephen Mushin, were conducted at Fountain Gate, Highpoint and Chadstone Shopping centres. The lecture program featured Paul Simmons, from Timorous Beasties, and multi-award winning industrial designer Karim Rashid. A forum for emerging designers, *Craft and Design as a Career* was held in collaboration with Craft Victoria. During the L'Oreal Fashion Festival *Ready To Wear Again* brought together selected designers and fashion and textiles students to create contemporary fashion from recycled clothing and material. Twelve schools from East Gippsland, Golden Plains and Wangaratta participated in *Future Cities*, a regional primary school workshop focused on design and sustainability.

DNA LAB

During the 2005 and 2006 winter school holidays, Museum Victoria scientists set up a mobile DNA Lab in the Science and Life Gallery. Museum visitors directly engaged with scientists as they undertook research into the origin and evolution of Australia's owl and lizard populations. Family activities that help to develop visitors' understanding of these scientific processes were also a key component of the DNA Lab.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

During National Science Week, an integrated Museum Victoria program was offered at Melbourne Museum and Scienceworks. Highlights at Melbourne Museum included the Crosbie Morrison Memorial Lecture by Rob Gell and daily talks by Museum Victoria scientists in the Science Lounge. Program partners included the Australian National University and ANZAAS, who presented *How? and Why? Australian scientists answer kids' questions*.

THE BIG DRAW 2005, DRAWING AUSTRALIA

Three new programs, *Discover Drawing*, *The Big Draw* and *Drawing on Nature*, were introduced as part of Adult Learning Week and the Drawing Australia program. The program brought together artists and scientists and highlighted the history of natural science and scientific illustration within the Museum by focusing on the *Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria* commissioned by Professor Frederick McCoy and current research projects by Dr John Long. Melbourne Museum received the Macquarie University Vice Chancellor's Drawing Innovation Award for participation in *The Big Draw Australia 2005*, a nationwide program designed to engage people of all ages in cultural heritage through drawing.

ROMP 'N STOMP

Now in its third year, this program targets pre-school children and offers activities focused on developing physical, cognitive and imaginative skills. The event is co-presented with the following partners: Early Learning Management Services, Kindergarten Parents Victoria, Lady Gowrie Child Centre Inc, Multicultural Resource Centre, Playgrouping Victoria and Playworks. Attendance of over 3,000 participants on the day was more than double the standard daily visitation figure for the time of year.

MARINE LIFE

During the January holidays, hands-on activities and a presentation were developed to link with *Marine life: Exploring our seas*. Activities explored marine camouflage and basic taxonomic morphology. *Perfect Catch*, written and presented by Museum staff, focused on the behaviours and habitats of giant squids.

COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS

Since its introduction in 2004, this program has invited community members to share their collections and passion for collecting. Thirty-six community organisations and individuals participated in the 2005/06 season.

ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDING

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens precinct is a rare, intact reminder of the 19th century international exhibitions movement, which showcased the products of the industrial revolution, promoted the wonders of the technological age and fostered a global exchange of products and ideas.

The building and the exhibitions proclaimed to the world that Melbourne was an international city, with the wealth to spend on lavish display. The content of the exhibitions also had a transforming effect as the people of Victoria were exposed to the latest manufactures from all over the globe.

Constructed in 1879–1880, the Royal Exhibition Building was the centrepiece of the International Exhibition of 1880. Since that time, the Royal Exhibition Building has been the site of many great events in Melbourne, including the opening of the first Australian Federal Parliament, the first Australian War Museum, and a venue for the 1956 Olympic Games.

In July 2004 the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens was inscribed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO's *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. The Royal Exhibition Building has outstanding universal value as the only surviving Great Hall from a significant international exhibition. It symbolises the fundamental purpose of the exhibition movement and retains a high level of authenticity both architecturally and in its continued use as an exhibition venue. The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens is the first built site in Australia to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Also in July 2004, the site was one of the first three places to be listed on the new National Heritage List and is established and maintained by the Australian Department of Environment and Heritage under the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Today, the commercial business of operating the Royal Exhibition Building as a venue for hire continues to grow with large scale events such as The Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, the bi-annual Bridal Exhibition, University of Melbourne Exams and the long running Hot Rod Show all staged at the venue.

Stakeholders, including Museum Victoria, continue to develop management plans for the World Heritage site. These highlight areas of responsibility, desirable projects and possible funding sources. To this end, Museum Victoria is finalising a Master Plan for the Royal Exhibition Building, which will outline the long-term vision for the areas of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens World Heritage site that are managed by Museum Victoria.

VISITOR PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS TOURS

Daily tours are conducted by Melbourne Museum staff on a regular basis, except during a small number of events. During this report period, over 3,500 people took part in the tours on offer.

SELF-GUIDED WALK

A self-guided walk of the Carlton Gardens World Heritage Precinct, developed by the Museum and the City of Melbourne, was launched by Cr John So, Lord Mayor, City of Melbourne at the Royal Exhibition Building Open Day. The walk highlights 35 individual points of interest in the precinct and is available from City of Melbourne Visitor Information Centres and Melbourne Museum.

OPEN DAY

On Sunday 31 July 2005 the inaugural Royal Exhibition Building Open Day was held with over 8,000 people in attendance. Key partners for the event were the City of Melbourne and Heritage Victoria. This special public event celebrated the many lives of the Royal Exhibition Building and its inscription on the World Heritage List. Visitors participated in displays, guided tours, lectures, traditional games and performances. As well as Museum staff, a range of community groups and organisations participated in the presentation of the day's program of events, including the RAAF Museum, Melba Conservatorium of Music, Vintage Cycle Club Victoria, Victorian Hot Rod Association and the Australian Antiquarian Horological Society.

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IMMIGRATION MUSEUM

In 2005/06 the Immigration Museum strongly positioned itself as a significant cultural attraction by building on its previous success as a unique celebration of this country's multicultural history. The Museum attracted over 126,000 visitors through its strategic and targeted programming and profile-raising activities.

The Museum was again recognised as a significant cultural attraction in Victoria and Australia, winning the 2005 National Tourism Award and being inducted into the Victorian Tourism Awards Hall of Fame for Heritage and Cultural Tourism. The high profile international exhibition *Greek Treasures: from the Benaki Museum in Athens* attracted extensive media coverage and a large number of visitors, while presenting an outstanding example of a strong partnership between the Benaki Museum in Athens, the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney and Museum Victoria.

The Immigration Museum's *Community Connections* program featured three community exhibitions and three community festivals. This program involved important collaborations with and participation by Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse communities. This program was awarded the Arts Leadership Award for Best Community Project in Victoria.

LONG TERM EXHIBITIONS

Five permanent galleries house historical objects and stories that are enhanced by multimedia technology and interactive facilities.

LEAVING HOME

This gallery explores the reasons why people leave their home country, through a sophisticated presentation of sound, objects, photographs and moving images.

JOURNEYS OF A LIFETIME

All immigrants are linked by the common experience of a journey, regardless of their time of arrival. Located in the spectacular Long Room, the Journeys Gallery features a 16-metre replica ship, highlighting the long sea journey many migrants endured on their way to Australia.

In July 2005 the new interactive *Origins: Immigrant Communities in Victoria* was launched, providing multi-lingual information on over 70 communities using data drawn from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

IMMIGRANT STORIES AND TIMELINE

Framed within chronological segments, this gallery explores diverse personal experiences of migration and settlement in Victoria that cross time and culture. The stories, which are rotated annually, are complemented by a historical timeline highlighting key events in Australia's immigration history, as well as the impact over time of immigration on Victoria's indigenous peoples.

GETTING IN

This gallery explores the policies, processes and attitudes that have shaped Australian immigration, looking at reasons why people have been granted or refused entry to Australia. The exhibition is rich with objects, documents, images and text and includes one of the Museum's most significant artefacts – the scrapbook of philanthropist Caroline Chisholm. *Getting In* also features an award-winning interactive theatre experience that allows visitors to participate in the process of selecting immigrant applicants across three time periods, according to the policy of the day.

CUSTOMS

This gallery tells the story of the Old Customs House, the history of the building and stories of people who worked here, and its importance to Victoria's economic growth.

COMMUNITY GALLERY

The Community Gallery provides an important forum for presenting temporary exhibitions generated by Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

IMMIGRATION DISCOVERY CENTRE

The centre provides resources for the study of Australia's immigration history and the social and cultural development of Australian society. It is also a resource for those researching their own family history. The Ecumenical Migration Centre library is housed in the Centre.

TRIBUTE GARDEN

Located in the Festivals Courtyard, the Tribute Garden records for posterity the names of over 7000 families who have made the journey to Australia.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

STATION PIER: GATEWAY TO A NEW LIFE

Opened 4 October 2004

For hundreds of thousands of Victorians, their arrival at Station Pier was the gateway to a new life. This exhibition explores why this Melbourne landmark has become such an evocative symbol of Victoria's immigration.

SPEAKING WITH CLOTH: CERITA DALAM KAIN EAST WING GALLERY

11 April to 28 August 2005

Speaking with Cloth: Cerita Dalam Kain exhibited a selection from the important Abbott Collection of Indonesian and East Timor textiles. Through the collection of rare cloths dating from the late 18th to the 20th centuries and contemporary interviews with Indonesian people, the exhibition explored many of the important issues facing contemporary Indonesian culture. This exhibition was on tour from the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

GREEK TREASURES: FROM THE BENAKI MUSEUM IN ATHENS EAST WING GALLERY

10 October 2005 to 28 May 2006.

The international exhibition *Greek Treasures: from the Benaki Museum in Athens* represented an outstanding example of a strong partnership between the Benaki Museum in Athens, the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney and Museum Victoria. The exhibition was launched by Mr Andrew Demetriou, CEO of the AFL.

COMMONWEALTH PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARD: BEST OF THE BEST GROUND FLOOR FOYER

Opened 17 February 2006

This exhibition of photographs featured the best of the Commonwealth Photographic Awards since 2000. The photographs and stories captured the spirit and diversity of the Commonwealth.

BOLLYWOOD DREAMS EAST WING GALLERY

Opened 29 June 2006

A photographic exhibition by Jonathan Torgovnik that explores the power of cinema in India. The exhibition was launched by the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser AC.

COMMUNITY EXHIBITIONS

30 YEARS IN THE MAKING: VIETNAMESE IN AUSTRALIA

5 June 2005 to 29 January 2006

Officially launched by Hon Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister of Australia, this exhibition was developed in collaboration with the Vietnamese Community of Australia (Victoria Chapter) and celebrated 30 years of Vietnamese immigration to Australia.

WELCOME TO MY HOME: THE STORIES OF TWELVE BOSNIAN AND HERZEGOVINIAN REFUGEES

31 August – 27 November 2005

Community partners: Bosnian Cultural & Art Group. This exhibition presented the stories of 12 Bosnian- Herzegovinian refugees who made Australia their home. The stories explored the meaning of home, the emotional trauma caused by losing your home and the difficulty in rebuilding a new home in a different land. The exhibition was launched by Mr Robert Tickner, CEO, Australian Red Cross.

FIRST ELEVEN – ABORIGINAL CRICKETERS AHEAD OF THEIR TIME 8 December 2006 – 26 March 2007

Community partner: West Wimmera Shire Council and the Johnny Mullagh Cricket Centre.

In 1868, a group of Aboriginal men from the plains of western Victoria became the first Australian cricket team to tour England. This exhibition explored the team's extraordinary journey from obscurity to fame and back, as well as the positive and negative influences of European culture on their lives and communities. The exhibition was launched by Mr Derek Kickett, former AFL player and descendant of the First XI cricketers.

FROM KIMONO TO SUSHI: THE JAPANESE IN VICTORIA Wed April 5 2006 to Sunday July 9 2006

Community partner: The Japan Club of Victoria.

Despite the restrictions of the White Australia policy, there has been a surprisingly long presence of Japanese migrants in Australia. This exhibition, developed in collaboration with the Japan Club of Victoria, profiled the stories of these 'quiet achievers' – individuals who have made an impact on social attitudes and business life in Victoria over the past 150 years. The exhibition was launched by Mr Shisei Kaku, Consul General for Japan to Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

The Immigration Museum's *Community Connections* program featured three community exhibitions and three community festivals. This program involved important collaborations with and participation by Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse communities. This program was awarded the Arts Leadership Award for Best Community Project in Victoria.

VISITOR PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Programs on offer are thematically linked to Museum research, collections and exhibitions. These programs are designed to enhance community engagement; foster involvement of families, distinct communities and older adults; and reflect the issues and interests of our culturally diverse society.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

The Museum's regular *What's On* includes tours, films and children's activities that accommodate the needs of adults, tourists and families. As part of the Immigration Museum's partnership with the CAE, a series of workshops was held between October 2005 and April 2006, focusing on the *Greek Treasures* exhibition. Key features of the annual Calendar of Events are the Museum's special events and programs, such as cultural festivals, which encourage participation and attract members of the public who would not normally visit the Museum.

COMMUNITY CULTURAL FESTIVALS

Each year the Immigration Museum partners with three specific communities to develop and present community festivals.

The *Irish Festival* in October attracted in excess of 1,600 people. The organising committee comprised eight community volunteers from five different organisations.

Seven hundred and fifty people attended the *Bosnian Herzegovinian Festival* in November. The organising committee comprised 19 community volunteers from five different organisations. To comply with the youth engagement strategy, four of the organising committee community volunteers were under 25 years of age. These participants undertook key roles of responsibility during the festival, such as translating and acting as the Master of Ceremonies for the cooking demonstrations and courtyard stage.

The *Pacific Islander Festival* in February - over 600 people attended the event, even though the day was interrupted by heavy rain. The program involved 40 individuals and groups from 11 different communities, including Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Nauru, Maori, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and the Torres Strait. In addition to organising community displays in the Long Room, Staff from the Indigenous Cultures Department of Museum Victoria attended and displayed a small range of collection items without provenance. Community members who participated in or attended the festival assisted the Museum to identify several of the objects whose provenance was previously unknown.

KIDS FEST: ANCIENT GREECE

Over 970 visitors attended *Kids Fest: Ancient Greece*. Established four years ago, *Kids Fest* is an annual summer event that introduces families with children under 10 years of age to the Immigration Museum.

LECTURES AND SYMPOSIA

In July, the Immigration Museum hosted the *Invisible Immigrants Post-War British Migration to Australia* symposium, in partnership with the Australia Centre, Melbourne University and School of Historical Studies, La Trobe University.

In February, Dutch community organisations, the Erasmus Foundation and Templo Doeloe, in partnership with the Museum, presented *Dutch Migration to Australia: The Case of the Indisch Dutch*. The event celebrated of the 400th anniversary of Dutch Australian bilateral relationships and included a lecture, discussion and book launch.

As part of the Immigration Museum Community Gallery exhibition, *From Kimono to Sushi: the Japanese in Victoria*, a series of lectures was presented by the Japan Club of Victoria and the Institute for Public History, Monash University.

SHIP REUNION

The *Clippers to Steamers Ship Reunion*, held in August, featured a speaker from the Public Records Office of Victoria and included factual presentations on featured ships. On the day, audience members reminisced and shared their personal migration stories and family histories.

COMMUNITY EXHIBITIONS AND FESTIVALS PROGRAM LAUNCH

In May, the Immigration Museum's Community Exhibitions and Festival Program for 2006/07 was launched by Hon John Pandazopoulos, Minister assisting Premier on Multicultural Affairs. The event showcased the upcoming community exhibitions and festivals program and recognised and thanked community partners who had been involved in previous programs.

SCIENCEWORKS MUSEUM

Scienceworks is a dynamic and interactive science and technology museum incorporating the Melbourne Planetarium, the Victoria University High Voltage Theatre and the Spotswood Sewerage Pumping Station.

Through hands-on exhibits, live demonstrations, activities and shows, Scienceworks' visitors are encouraged to 'get a grasp of science and technology'.

During the 2005/06 year, Scienceworks had another successful year of above target attendance figures with more than 390,000 visitors. This is an excellent result, considering the impact of the Commonwealth Games on other venues throughout Melbourne and the change of school holidays in the first term.

LONG- TERM EXHIBITIONS

MAIN WEST GALLERY

HOUSE SECRETS

The exhibition *House Secrets* looks at the science and technology behind many of the familiar objects in our homes.

MAIN SOUTH GALLERY

SPORTS WORKS

This extensively refurbished exhibition was reopened to the public in September 2005. The exhibition has a completely new look and the content has been revised. Exploring the science and technology of sport, the exhibition has been extremely well received by all visitors.

MEZZANINE LEVEL

NITTY GRITTY SUPER CITY

A thoroughly refurbished exhibition reopened to the public in March 2006. This exhibition is targeted towards young children and encourages participation in a variety of activities designed to improve their understanding of the world.

SPOTSWOOD SEWAGE PUMPING STATION

MUCK BUNKER STORMWATER EXPERIENCE

This interactive exhibition looks at the issues surrounding the stormwater system. It focuses on pollution causes and what can be done to improve the quality of the water in the system.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

MEGAWATT

12 February 2005 to 4 September 2005

This exhibition explored the role of electricity in our everyday lives through 40 interactive displays.

EATEN ALIVE: WORLD OF PREDATORS

16 February 2005 to 10 July 2005

This interactive exhibition examined the behaviours, adaptations and technologies that predators use to catch prey. Giant animatronic predators and a realistic 3D shark cage enhanced the visitor experience of seeing how some of the more interesting predators obtain their food.

MISSION EARTHLING

23 July 2005 to 15 May 2006

This interactive exhibition from Scitech explored the human body from the perspective of an alien.

WHODUNIT? MURDER MYSTERY AT MENAGERIE PARK

14 September 2005 to 2 April 2006

Previously displayed in 1999, this exhibition from Scitech had its second season at Scienceworks. After introducing visitors to a range of forensic science techniques, participants were encouraged to have hands-on experience by using clues to solve a murder mystery.

STARS TO SATELLITES – THE ART AND SCIENCE OF NAVIGATION

19 December 2005 to 27 April 2006

This small exhibition from the National Maritime Museum of Australia accompanied the *Cruise the Constellations* planetarium program run over the summer months.

ILLUSIONS AND VISUAL PERCEPTION

10 March 2006 to 15 June 2006

Based on the theme of 'visual illusions', this exhibition showed visitors how the same principles underpinning the human brain's operation can be manipulated to create visual illusions.

MATHAMAZING

13 April 2006 to 1 October 2006

Returning for the third successful season (previously 1993 and 2000), this popular mathematics-based exhibition from Qwestacon received an excellent public response, particularly from schools.

TOP SECRET: LICENCE TO SPY

Opened 27 May

This exhibition was developed as a collaborative project between Scienceworks and Scitech and explores the world of espionage and spying through a number of interactive exhibits.

MELBOURNE PLANETARIUM

The Melbourne Planetarium had a total visitation of 148,166 including 50,566 school students and teachers. A new show *The Problem with Pluto* was developed in-house and launched on 11 April 2006.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY HIGH VOLTAGE THEATRE – THE LIGHTNING ROOM

This facility continues to build audiences with 78,188 people attending a show - including 18,452 students. A new schools show was developed, *Electrical Energy, Safety and Lightning Show*, as well as a new public show, *Lightning Strikes*.

VISITOR PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Programs offered are thematically linked to Museum research, collections and exhibitions. The programs are designed to enhance audience engagement, stimulate informal and intergenerational learning, and foster interaction between visitors, Museum staff and volunteers.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

The regular *What's On* at Scienceworks comprises daily tours of the Pumping Station and Heritage Collection Store, weekend activities, science shows, and presentations in the Planetarium and Lightning Room. As part of its Community Partnerships program, Scienceworks continued its support of the Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia by hosting the association's Annual General Meeting. A feature of the Association's AGM is a range of talks and demonstrations that are open to the public. A key feature of the annual Calendar of Events is the expanded program for school holidays and long weekends – periods that comprise 29% of the year.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Visitor Program's team developed a range of activities and events to coincide with Museum Victoria's overall program for the Commonwealth Games. One unique opportunity was a partnership between Coates Hire and Scienceworks. Coates Hire commissioned Scienceworks to develop and present an interactive display and science show using Coates industrial equipment as part of the Birrarung Marr Commonwealth Games program. The event was extremely successful, with 16,000 people viewing the gravity science shows presented by Scienceworks staff in the Coates Cube over the twelve days of operation.

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

As part of Adult Learners Week, Scienceworks partnered with Hobson Bay City Council to host a public lecture by Emeritus Professor David Aspin on Life Long Learning.

MACHINES IN ACTION DAYS

These events involve the operation and display of heritage agricultural machinery included in the Museum Victoria Working Machines Heritage Collection. The Museum has formed a range of partnerships with community based steam appreciation societies who also present displays on these days, including Altona Miniature Railway, Eltham Steam and Stationary Engine Preservation Society and Yarra Valley Machinery Preservation Society. The Museum's Working Machines travelled to regional Victoria to take part in the 43rd Echuca Steam Horse & Vintage Rally in June.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

During National Science Week, an integrated Museum Victoria program was offered at Scienceworks and Melbourne Museum. Highlights at Scienceworks included a *Machines in Action Day*, which focused on the science of steam and included the participation of the Australian Skeptics program, who explained the science behind the paranormal. A unique aspect of the National Science Week program is the Museum's partnership with BASF to present the BASF Kids' Lab. Held every Saturday during August 2005, these chemistry workshops were free for Scienceworks visitors.

MODEL SOLAR VEHICLE CHALLENGE – STATE AND NATIONAL FINALS

In partnership with Monash University, Scienceworks regularly hosts the state finals of this active learning science and technology program. In 2005 the Museum hosted both the state and national finals. In October 2005 over 1,500 participants from 65 schools competed in the state finals, with total attendance for the weekend at 4,677. In November 2005, over 300 students from 35 schools competed in the national finals, with total attendance for the weekend at 2,361.

CELEBRATE 888 – PERFORMANCE SEASON

As part of the Celebrate 888 program, Scienceworks partnered with Melbourne Workers Theatre to present *We Built This City* in the Spotswood Pumping Station from 26 April - 6 May 2006. The production was a major community theatre work celebrating the strength and great skill of builders in Melbourne who rightly proclaim that 'We Built this City'. Directed by Donna Jackson and featuring music by Mark Seymour, the production had a season of eight public performances and was seen by over 2,000 people.

MUSEUM VICTORIA TOURING EXHIBITIONS

DESTINATION AUSTRALIA: PORTS OF IMMIGRATION

Development of this exhibition commenced and is based on the successful *Station Pier: Gateway to a New Life* at the Immigration Museum. The exhibition will commence its tour in September 2006 at the Old Parliament House, Canberra.

TOYS: SCIENCE AT PLAY

Collaboratively developed between Scienceworks and Scitech Discovery Centre, Western Australia, this exhibition finished its season at the Powerhouse Museum in July 2005 and is now installed at Questacon, The National Science and Technology Centre in Canberra, until the end of July 2006.

MEGAWATT

The Scienceworks season finished in September 2005. This exhibition was then on display at the Bendigo Discovery Centre until early April 2006. Some components of the exhibition were displayed at the Science and Technology Centre of the Shepparton Secondary College from April to June 2006.

TWINED TOGETHER: KUNMADJ NJALEHNJALEKEN

Melbourne Museum received a grant from the Visions of Australia Touring Exhibition Program to manage a 10-venue tour of *Twined Together: Kunmadj Njalehnjaleken*. This exhibition celebrates the distinctive fibre work of Kunwinjku-speaking Aboriginal women from Western Arnhem Land and was developed by Museum Victoria in partnership with Injalak Art and Crafts Association.

The national tour was launched in regional Victoria at the Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale, and was enjoyed by 1500 visitors between 3 March and 23 April 2006. The exhibition then travelled to Shepparton Art Gallery where it was shown from 7 June to 16 July. The tour will visit Geelong, Darwin, Cairns, Brisbane, Bathurst and Warrnambool before ending in Adelaide in 2008.

TOURING VERSION OF THE VIRTUAL ROOM

During 2005 the Museum purchased the second Virtual Room from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional Development for use as a touring exhibit. The first site to take the touring Virtual Room was the Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT) in Auckland New Zealand. The Virtual Room was on show from 10 December 2005 to 30 July 2006.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

ONLINE PUBLISHING

As part of the overall vision of Museum Victoria to “reach out to an increasingly diverse audience”, the Museum Victoria Website Strategy 2006-09 has established the following vision for the MV website:

Museum Victoria’s website will be recognised throughout Australia and the world for innovative resources that engage, inform and educate a broad range of users. The ‘core’ website will allow easy access to venue- specific information and details relating to our collection areas, whilst the ‘content’ sites will contribute to our communities’ access and understanding of all Museum Victoria’s disciplines while continuing to lead by example in the areas of accessibility, usability and engagement.

Museum Victoria has commenced a website redevelopment project that aims to establish the foundations for achieving that vision. The goal of the project is to improve Museum Victoria’s delivery of web-based content and services and to provide an efficient, comprehensive platform for future development. This includes the establishment of new software, technical infrastructure, workflows, policies and standards.

Amongst the year’s many projects, key achievements include:

- PaDIL (Pests and Diseases Image Library) - Offering high-quality colour diagnostic images and information on pests and diseases, PaDIL helps protect against invasive threats to Australia’s plant health. www.padil.gov.au
- IMAX – A new IMAX website was developed and launched. Providing access to film information and session times, education material and bookings, the new site was developed in accordance with Museum Victoria’s technology and standards, where previously it was managed as a separate entity. www.imaxmelbourne.com.au
- Eight Hour Day – Produced by Museum Victoria as a component of the Eight Hour Day collaborative program, the site offers event information, historic and educational material, and audio-visual resources. www.8hourday.org.au
- Continued development of the *Hot Topics* publishing system, with 80 new articles added during the year. www.museum.vic.gov.au/hottopics/

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