

Strategic  
Direction  
Three

# Pursue the Development of Strategic Partnerships

## Performance Overview

- /// Three community exhibitions featuring Indigenous artists were displayed in the Birrarung space at Melbourne Museum, and three exhibitions developed in conjunction with Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse communities were shown at the Immigration Museum.
- /// Melbourne Museum hosted the conference *Seize the Day: Exhibitions, Australia and the World* in October 2006. Held in partnership with the Heritage Council of Victoria, the University of Melbourne, Monash University and Deakin University, this multi-disciplinary conference examined the social, cultural and economic context of international exhibitions.
- /// Museum Victoria hosted the *Many Players Many Parts* conference, which was the third national forum on performance in cultural organisations. Keynote speakers included Wesley Enoch, Theatre Director and Creative Director Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony and Tony Jackson, Senior Lecturer in Drama and Co-Director of the Centre for Applied Theatre Research, University of Manchester, UK.
- /// In December 2006 Museum Victoria hosted a successful workshop, *Conservation of Geological and Palaeontological Collections*, for conservators, collection managers and fossil preparators from Australian museums. The workshop was delivered by Chris Collins (Head of Conservation) and Lorraine Cornish (Senior Conservator) from the Natural History Museum, London. As the first event in this field in Australia, the workshop provided new information and promising networks between professionals working in allied disciplines on science-based collections.
- /// Exhibition sponsorship was received from the Melbourne Metropolitan Waste Management Group and Sustainability Victoria for the *Nitty Gritty Super City* waste exhibit. Leighton Malaysia and Leighton Australia supported the *Nyonya Kebaya: Women's Costume from Malaysia* exhibition.

## Partnerships

Museum Victoria is committed to developing long-term corporate and philanthropic partnerships, which greatly contribute towards the ongoing growth of Museum Victoria. Partners include corporate sponsors, philanthropic organisations and individuals, government funding bodies, media and suppliers.

Museum Victoria has established a number of partnership opportunities, including sponsorship of galleries, exhibitions, collections and programs. The annual event to thank supporters for their contributions in the past year was held in January in conjunction with the *Backyard Bug Circus* summer holiday program. Over 280 supporters of Museum Victoria attended the event. Guests included sponsors, patrons and government representatives.

### Research Partnerships

Museum Victoria has a strong research capability based on specialist skills, expertise and knowledge, a world-class collection and state-of-the-art facilities. The museum has an accomplished research track record, fostering participation in significant and productive collaborations. Research partnerships exist with various universities, research institutions, Australian and international museums and Victorian and Commonwealth Government agencies.

Museum Victoria is currently involved in several major research projects under the Australian Research Council's Linkage Grant scheme. These projects are being undertaken in partnership with the University of Melbourne, Monash University, the University of Queensland, the University of New South Wales, The Queensland University of Technology and University of Technology Sydney.

Museum Victoria has representatives on prestigious panels and boards, including the Australian Research Council's College of Experts and the University of Melbourne Research Quality Framework Advisory Committee. Together with associated research funding, these partnerships contribute significantly to the collection's development and promote Museum Victoria's research and reputation both within Australia and to the international research community.

### Program Partnerships

Museum Victoria maintains key partnerships with education and learning organisations such as the Department of Education, Catholic Education Office Melbourne, Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority, The Le@rning Federation and CoAsIt.

Partnerships with other organisations ensure that programs link directly with innovative new practices being undertaken by the education sector.

National Science Week programs were developed and presented in partnership with the Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, Department of Primary Industries and the Australian National University's Faculty of Science.

The successful Romp & Stomp program was presented in partnership with not-for-profit organisations such as Playgroup Victoria, Parks Victoria, Toy Libraries, Victorian Co-operative on Children's Services for Ethnic Groups and Early Childhood Management Services.

Public Programs staff presented at a range of professional forums and conferences coordinated by the Association of French Teachers, History Teachers Association of Victoria, Laboratory Technicians Association, Mathematics Teachers Association of Victoria, Modern Language Teachers Association of Victoria, Reggio Emilia Australia, Science Teachers Association of Victoria, Victorian Association of Teachers of English, Victorian Association of Teachers of Italian, Victorian Association of Social Studies Teachers, Victorian Adult Literacy & Basic Education Council, CoAsIt Network Goulburn North East Region and the Department of Education Barwon South Western, Eastern Metropolitan, Grampians, Southern Metropolitan and Western Metropolitan Regions.

### Community Partnerships

For over a century, Museum Victoria has been an important repository for the cultural heritage of Australia's Indigenous peoples. Museum Victoria recognises that this heritage is held in trust on behalf of Indigenous peoples, who regard the resource as forming part of their identity and living culture. Museum Victoria engages with Indigenous communities in conversations about the significance of their cultures, not only for Indigenous Australians, but also for all Australians.

Museum Victoria and its staff have a strong commitment to the achievement of reconciliation between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of the nation. Museum Victoria pursues reconciliation through the way it operates as an organisation.

Museum Victoria's Family History and Roving Curator Programs continued to facilitate Victorian Aboriginal community connections with the collections in 2006–07. A major project currently underway involves a review of the southeastern Australian Indigenous photographic collection and an update of associated information identifying contemporary Indigenous community and family contacts.

Long-term loans to Australian Indigenous cultural centres and keeping places in 2006–07 included the Krowathunkooloong Keeping Place in Bairnsdale, the Bangerang Cultural Centre in Shepparton, the Warradjan Cultural Centre in Kakadu, the Menmny Community Museum in Yarrabah, and the Nyinkka Nyunyu Cultural Centre in Tennant Creek.

Museum Victoria has formed a strong partnership with Melbourne-based group iMug, the Internet Macintosh Users Group. Computer experts from iMug and museum staff are working together to document and develop a representative collection of more than 200 items of hardware, software, trade literature and promotional material that records the history of the Apple Company. The collection was acquired by Museum Victoria during 2006–07 and was displayed at Melbourne Museum in December 2006.

## Museum Victoria Supporters

Museum Victoria undertakes various corporate and philanthropic partnerships. These partnerships greatly contribute towards the ongoing growth of Museum Victoria.

### Partners

#### Gold Partners

Commonwealth Bank  
The Sidney Myer Fund  
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The Grollo Family

#### Silver Partners

Cadbury Schweppes  
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The Ian Potter Foundation  
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Nestle Peters Ice Cream  
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#### Bronze Partners

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation  
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Peter Rowland Catering  
Rugs Carpets By Design

#### Supporting Partners

BP Oil Australia Limited  
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The Harold Mitchell Foundation  
JC Decaux  
Melbourne Port Corporation  
Mr Richard and Mrs Catherine Price  
The Russell and Mab Grimwade  
Miegunyah Fund Committee of the University of Melbourne  
SPI Powernet  
TRUenergy

#### Public Partners

Arts Victoria  
Australia Council for the Arts  
Australian Research Council  
City of Melbourne  
Commonwealth Government through the National Cultural Heritage Account  
Community Support Fund  
Department of Communication  
Information Technology and the Arts  
Department of Education and Training  
Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development  
Department for Victorian Communities  
Environment Protection Authority  
Heritage Victoria  
State Government of Victoria  
University of Melbourne  
VicHealth for Smokefree  
Victoria Police

### Patrons

#### Foundation Gold Patrons

Denton Corker Marshall  
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#### Silver Patrons

Baci  
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The Sarah & Baillieu Myer Family Foundation

#### Museum Victoria Patrons

Mr Peter and Mrs Marlyn Bancroft  
Mr Anthony Berger and Ms Marita Quinn  
Mr John and Mrs Janet Calvert-Jones  
Ms Joyce Flowers  
Mr Geoff Handbury  
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Mr Ralph and Mrs Ruth Renard  
Ms Rosiland Russell  
Ms Julie Skewes  
Ms Ricci Swart  
Mr Ralph and Mrs Barbara Ward-Ambler  
Mrs Lyn Williams AM  
Anonymous (2)

### Research Supporters

Museum Victoria undertakes an extensive research program with generous support from various funding organisations:

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria  
Arts Victoria  
The Australia Council  
Australian Academy of Science  
Australian Antarctic Division  
Australian Biological Resources Study  
The Australian Centre,  
University of Melbourne  
Australian Film Finance Corporation  
The Australian Geographic Society  
Australian Manufacturers Workers Union  
The Australian National University  
Australian Nuclear Science  
and Technology Organisation  
Australian Research Council  
Australian Transport Safety Bureau  
Australian Workers Union  
Big Island Pictures  
Community and Public Sector Union  
Corangamite Catchment  
Management Authority  
CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry  
Department of Communication,  
Information Technology and the Arts  
Department of the Environment  
and Water Resources  
Department for Victorian Communities  
Environment Protection Authority  
GE Healthcare  
Global Biodiversity Information Facility  
The Hermon Slade Foundation  
Hugh D.T. Williamson Foundation  
The Ian Potter Foundation  
iCinema, the University  
of New South Wales  
Industrial Relations Victoria  
International Council of Museums  
(ICOM) Australia  
Linnean Society of New South Wales  
Melbourne 2006 Office  
of Commonwealth Games Coordination  
Members Equity Bank  
The Menzies Foundation  
The Miegunyah Press  
Monash University  
The Myer Foundation  
National Cultural Heritage Account  
National Oceans Office  
Natural Heritage Trust  
The Norman Wettenhall Foundation  
Parks Victoria  
Port Phillip and Westernport Regional  
Catchment Management Authority  
Robert Salzer Foundation

RMIT University  
The Russell and Mab Grimwade  
Miegunyah Fund Committee  
Smart Water Fund  
Swinburne University of Technology  
The University of Melbourne  
The University of Queensland  
Victorian Trades and Literary Institute  
Victorian Trades Hall Council  
Women on Farms Gathering  
Heritage Group

### Honorary Appointments

#### Honorary Life Fellows

Granted to individuals of high academic distinction or public standing, considered to have made a significant contribution to the intellectual standing or other significant development of Museum Victoria.

Professor Margaret Cameron AM  
Professor John Coghlan AO  
Mr Graham Cunningham  
Mrs Amanda Derham  
Mr Bob Edwards AO  
Mr Jack Ellis  
Ms Phyllis Fry  
Ms Jill Gallagher  
Mr Terry Garwood  
Professor Jennifer Graves  
Mr Peter Hiscock AM  
Professor Rod Home  
Mr Steve Howard  
Mr John Kendall AM  
Dr Phillip Law AC AO CBE  
Professor Daryl Le Grew  
Ms Jenny Love  
Ms Tina McMeckan  
Dr Ray Marginson AM  
Dr Angus Martin  
Mr Graham Morris  
Mr Phillip Morrison  
Professor John Mulvaney AO  
Mrs Sarah Myer  
Professor David Penington AC  
Professor Marian Quartly  
Mrs Caroline Searby  
Mr Richard Searby  
Mr Ian Sinclair  
The Hon. Haddon Storey QC  
Professor John Swan  
Professor James Warren  
Ms Deanne Weir  
Dr Barry Wilson  
Mr Garry Woodard

### Curators Emeritus

Granted to curators who retire after having given distinguished service to Museum Victoria for a minimum of 10 years and have made a distinguished contribution in an appropriate curatorial or research field.

Mrs J. Hope Black  
Ms Suzanne Boyd  
Dr Thomas Darragh  
Ms Joan Dixon  
Dr Chung-Cheng Lu  
Dr Arturs Neboiss  
Mr John Sharples

### Honorary Associates

Granted to individuals who can be called upon to provide specialist professional advice and assistance to the Board, management or staff on an honorary basis.

History and Technology  
Major Royston (Bill) Billett  
Dr Andrew Brown-May  
Mr Maxwell Burnet  
Mr Eddie Butler-Bowdon  
Professor Kate Darian-Smith  
Dr Gwenda Davey AM  
Professor Graeme Davison  
Ms Rhonda Diffey  
Dr June Factor  
Dr Geoffrey Holden  
Dr Helen Light AM  
Mr Euan McGillivray  
Mr Peter Marsh  
Ms Laura Mecca  
Dr Seamus O'Hanlon  
Mr Ken Porter  
Mr Gary Presland  
Mr Benjamin Thomas  
Professor Peter Thorne  
Dr Denise Whitehouse  
Dr Graham Willett  
Ms Kerry Wilson

### Indigenous Cultures

Dr Anthony Birch  
Dr David Dorward  
Mr Mark Dugay-Grist  
Dr Diane Hafner  
Dr Louise Hamby  
Dr Colin Hope  
Professor Marcia Langton  
Dr John Morton  
Professor Bruce Rigsby  
Dr Leonn Satterthwait  
Dr Gaye Sculthorpe

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Mr Ken Bell  
Mr Philip Bock  
Mr Robert Burn  
Dr Leslie Christidis  
Dr John Chuk  
Dr Patricia Cook  
Dr Lawrence Cookson  
Dr John Douglas  
Dr Andrew Drinnan  
Dr Ross Field  
Mr Erich Fitzgerald  
Dr Dean Hewish  
Dr Julian Hollis  
Dr Jean Just  
Mr Rudie Kuitert  
Assoc. Professor Murray Littlejohn  
Mr William Loads  
Professor John Lovering  
Mr Charles McCubbin  
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Mr John Neil  
Dr Gareth Nelson  
Dr Tim New  
Mr Ken Norris  
P. Mark O'Loughlin  
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Dr Joyce Richardson  
Dr Richard Schodde  
Dr Bronwen Scott  
Mr David Staples  
Assoc. Professor Roy Swain  
Professor John Talent  
Ms Elizabeth Thompson  
Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich  
Mr Robert Warneke  
Dr Jeanette Watson  
Mr H. Eric Wilkinson  
Dr Alan Yen

Museology: Information  
Technology and Multimedia  
Professor Gregory Egan  
Dr Gregor Kennedy

#### Research Associates

Granted to scholars who undertake research work at Museum Victoria for a finite period, and who require some official status in the building and some degree of administrative support.

#### History and Technology

Ms Deb Anderson  
Ms Judith Hughes  
Ms Meighen Katz  
Ms Joanna Low  
Ms Natalie Pang  
Ms Carla Pascoe  
Mr Jurij Semkiw  
Ms Simone Sharp  
Mr John Spencer

#### Indigenous Cultures

Dr Penelope Edmonds

#### Sciences

Dr Melanie Archer  
Ms Milena Benavides-Serrato  
Ms Valerie Caron  
Ms Kavitha Chinathamby  
Dr Francis Crome  
Dr Bryan Fry  
Dr Philip Lane  
Ms Dragica Maric  
Mr Stuart Mills  
Dr Adnan Moussalli  
Ms Rhyllis Plant  
Ms Wendy Roberts  
Dr Ronald Strahan AM  
Dr Jan Strugnell  
Dr Joanna Sumner

#### Lightning Room

Mr Edward Bondarenko  
Ms Sandra Charles  
Professor Akhtar Kalam

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Case Study:  
Fossil Finds





Searching for fossils out in the field is one of most exciting endeavours that museum scientists regularly undertake. Everyone loves to hear news about a dinosaur discovery, but sometimes the lesser-known kinds of fossils can also make the headlines.

Museum Victoria announced several major fossil discoveries of international significance in the past year. Such discoveries are usually not made by chance. They are the result of ongoing, carefully planned collecting programs. They involve partners in universities and are carried out with the assistance of funds from a variety of sources. Major field expeditions bring in significant new specimens to build the scientific collections of the museum. Leadership skills are required not only to attract major funding for such expeditions, but also to attract international collaboration to undertake the research work.

Museum Victoria honorary associate Erich Fitzgerald announced that he had discovered one of the oldest and most primitive members of the baleen whale family. The almost-complete skull was found at Jan Juc, near Torquay, by a teenage surfer in the 1990s and donated to the museum. It was named *Janjucetus*, meaning 'whale from Jan Juc'.

Erich undertook three years of painstaking work to free the skull from a block of limestone and then write a paper describing it. The discovery was announced at a media conference at Museum Victoria in August 2006, just as the paper was being published in the prestigious journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*. The find immediately received worldwide media attention.

The next big Museum Victoria fossil discovery was announced only two months later. A 380-million-year-old fossil fish preserved in perfect form proved that some features of all living four-legged animals went further back in evolution than previously thought. The fish, *Gogonasmus*, was found during a Museum Victoria expedition to the Kimberley in 2005 by Australian National University researcher Professor Tim Senden, a chemist who heads up the university's ultrafine computer tomography scanning unit. This machine cuts very thin X-ray slices through objects so that the fine details can be studied.

The team of five researchers described the fish using this new technology and published a paper on *Gogonasmus* in the well-known journal *Nature* in October 2006. The story received huge international media coverage and *Gogonasmus* went from being a virtually unknown fossil to being featured on more than 150,000 websites around the world within a week.

The remarkable discovery of intact complete megafauna skeletons from the caves of the Nullarbor Plain made the front page of *The Age* newspaper in July 2002. Another big announcement in the world of palaeontology came in late January 2007. The Museum Victoria research team's paper about the significance of the Nullarbor fossil fauna was published

in the journal *Nature* and revealed new information about how the megafauna became extinct.

Studies of chemical isotopes measured in the teeth of the fossil animals indicated megafauna adapted to arid climate, so would not have been affected by ensuing aridity caused by the ice ages. The paper provided the first crucial data suggesting an extinction of the megafauna was initiated by human arrival in the country.

While this work was going on in the laboratory, Dr Thomas Rich was searching for dinosaur fossils in the scorching deserts of Saudi Arabia, funded by an invitation from the Saudi Geological Survey. He then flew to northern Alaska to build a tunnel into the permafrost of the Colville River, where his team will later excavate a polar dinosaur bone bed. The project is being made into a documentary film and is funded through the unusual combination of the Australian Film Corporation and the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Major scientific breakthroughs are rarely the result of an individual's work, but mostly the efforts of larger teams. As good art attracts high prices, good science attracts major competitive funding. In the field of vertebrate palaeontology alone, Museum Victoria currently holds two ARC Discovery Grants and one ARC Linkage Grant, totalling almost \$1 million. This makes the museum a national leader in this field.

These grants involve collaborators from around the world. One is with Professor Zhu Min, Director of the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeo-anthropology in Beijing, China. He and his students visited Museum Victoria twice in the past year and he has given research presentations and public lectures.

The prehistoric world is one of endless fascination for people of all ages. Such studies address one of the most basic questions of human philosophy: where do we come from? By undertaking cutting-edge palaeontological research, Museum Victoria is able to utilise these findings directly in its new exhibitions, visitor programs, publications and websites.

John Long with Dr Tim Senden, ANU, who discovered the all important Gogonasus fossils, July 2005  
– Brian Choo  
– Museum Victoria



Erich Fitzgerald with Janjucetus hunderi skull, 2007  
– Rodney Start  
– Museum Victoria

