

MANSW CHAPTER REPORTS MAY 2012

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY MANSW

- **More regional services.** We would like to see Museums Australia provide more services to regional areas [New England Far North]
- **Sydney chapter future.** Further discussion need on branch and Sydney Chapter strategies in Sydney. [Sydney Chapter].

FAR NORTH COAST

Author	Marea Buist
ACTIVITIES FOR PAST 12 MONTHS	
<p>At the recent March Meeting a new executive was elected with long standing member and Chapter Secretary, Geoff Foley (Lismore) standing down. Newcomer, Bill Boyd from Southern Cross University, will replace Geoff, Marea Buist will continue on as Chapter Co-ordinator, Laura O'Brien (Yamba) Treasurer and President Jane Gardiner (Alstonville).</p> <p>Guest speaker C.E.O. of Arts Northern Rivers, Peter Woods, highlighted the main points from the Regional Museums Development Project 2007 – 2009 Final Report that was compiled by former Regional Museum Adviser, Joan Kelly. The meeting endorsed Peter to look at key recommendations that came from this report and assess the specific needs and areas of concern for local museums and find a way to resolve them. As an outcome it was decided that Regional Museums as a collective will lobby appropriate Local Government Departments for a museums advisor to assist volunteers approach relevant funding bodies and Government Departments for assistance to develop projects and for ongoing support.</p> <p>The Old Casino (Rail) Museums President, Warwick Mead, gave a pictorial tour of his Casino Mini Rail project. Warwick has developed this project into a major Casino tourism attraction.</p> <p>Rose Marin Education Officer at Grafton Regional Art Gallery gave the meeting helpful hints on taking 'The Gallery to School' and Education Programs provided by the Grafton Gallery. Rose brought some exquisite indigenous art, in many forms, to share with the members.</p>	
PLANS FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS	
Museums and Galleries will be organising two workshops in conjunction with the Chapter this year, Collection Management in June and Preventative Conservation in September.	

MID NORTH COAST

Author	Liz Gillroy – Chapter Rep
<p>The AGM was held on the 27th March at the Glasshouse Port Macquarie. All positions were declared vacant before the elections.</p> <p>Executive positions for 2012 – 2014 are President : Debbie Sommers (Individual member with Port Macquarie Historical Society) Vice President: Terrie Beckhouse (Coffs Harbour Museum) Committee members: Tom Jones (Trial Bay Gaol, DECC), Chris Mayon (Frank Partridge VC Military Museum), Barbara Waters (Manning Valley Historical Society), Chapter Rep & Treasurer: Liz Gillroy (Glasshouse Port Macquarie Hastings Council)</p> <p>It was decided to dispense with the Treasurer position due to the banking support provided by the national office.</p>	

Current membership is at 18 institutional and 2 individual members

New members to the Chapter – Don Dorrigo & Guy Fawkes Historical Society (Dorrigo) and Mid North Coast Maritime Museum (Port Macquarie)

The AGM was followed by a training session, 'Uncovering Significance' presented by Kylie Winkworth & Debbie Sommers. This was possible due to a successful VIM Skills Initiative Grant through Museums Galleries NSW. Attendance numbers were high and we look forward to continuing training in Significance. Another training was in Disaster Preparedness in November at Macksville.

Despite forming North & South groups within the Chapter to reduce travel times, whole of Chapter events appear to attract the greatest participation.

NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST

Author	Erica Barwell
ACTIVITIES FOR PAST 12 MONTHS	
<p>We sent out a newsletter in May 2011 after inviting all other members of the chapter to contribute. We had a great response including Wee Waa, Tenterfield, Bundarra, Tamworth, Amidale, Werris Creek and Uralla.</p> <p>We have had a lot going on at our local museum (McCrossin's Mill) with the upgrade of several exhibitions and the opening of the Chaff shed later this year. We have catered for many weddings and various other functions which has been a good source of income for the museum but quite a lot of work for the volunteers.</p>	
PLANS FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS	
<p>We are always looking out for ideas for workshops which are supported by the Powerhouse Museum via the Regional Services Programme. We will also look at holding a local chapter meeting at McCrossin's Mill and incorporating it with a workshop to make an interesting day for the participants.</p> <p>We hope to do another newsletter in the near future as we found out other members are keen to get their news/stories published.</p>	
ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY NSW BRANCH	
<p>We would like to see Museums Australia provide more services to regional areas.</p>	

HUNTER

Julie Baird

Hunter Chapter has republished its group brochure Museums and Galleries of the Hunter, which is proving its value in district visitor centres and member institutions. Its quarterly newsletter, produced by Sue Thomas and Dianne Taylor, continues to be published. Julie Baird writes that Alison Homestead (Wyong) which, as reported our 2011 December issue, was destroyed by the act of an arsonist, has begun to rise from the ashes due to the work of the Wyong Historical Society and local community. The chapter reports, with sadness, the deaths of life member Monty Wedd of Monarch Museum (Williamstown) and former secretary and Sue Sokoloff (Raymond Terrace).

SYDNEY CHAPTER

Author	Karen O'Donnell-McGrane
ACTIVITIES FOR PAST 12 MONTHS	
<p>Sydney chapter has undertaken a revamp in 2011/2012 with a new committee and a new direction. In light of the continuing work done by the MANSW branch and other organisations, such as MGNSW, we identified that there is a gap in the industry for network and</p>	

support for emerging professionals. The committee agreed that the Sydney chapter will focus on developing activities to support emerging professionals in the industry.

With this new direction, we reviewed our communication channels and developed more effective ways to reach our members, including a particular focus on social media and electronic communications. We developed a Facebook page which current has 111 followers. An analysis of this platform shows that 68% of fans are female, 27% are male. 33% of our followers are aged 25-34, with the next biggest age group 35-44years olds (26%) which demonstrates our focus on emerging progressionals has had some traction. We have followers from Australia, Italy, Taiwan, United States of America, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Macedonia, Egypt, Switzerland and New Zealand

We have focused in the last year of developing and refining our key emerging professionals program known as Peer2Peer. This initiative is aimed at meeting the needs of our target group and is structured around visiting and critiquing activities and programs within the Syd metro area. The aim is to provide a fun, yet useful way of connecting to like minded people in the industry and learning new ways of tackling issues and dilemmas.

Our launch event was held in March 2011 at the Museum Of Sydney and attracted 13 attendees. Since then we have held 2 more "structured " Peer2Peer events where we organise a host to discuss the event/facility with us, a social Christmas drinks night and one more informal, catch up event.

We also held 6 Committee meetings since Feb 2011 and welcomed a number of new members to the committee as others retired or resigned due to work and family commitments. We currently have 9 fairly active committee members and one "outreach" associate member who has moved to Tasmania, but is still active at keeping our Social media up to date.

PLANS FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS

After reviewing our first few Peer2peer events, we have agreed to focus on holding 4 " premium" events which we will charge for. These will involve meeting and chatting to someone from the event or facilities we are visiting to get a deeper insight. These events are scheduled for March (completed), May(in planning), August and October.

In addition we will be looking for opportunities to have more informal Peer2peer events in the off months which will be quick response and focused on getting a group together to check out a new exhibition/activity. The purpose of this iniative is to capitalise on the need for a more informal, social aspect expressed by emerging professionals. This more infoal event will also the enhance effects of social interaction on developing relationships amongst our members as well as providing the chance to experience the activities and events being held in greater Sydney.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY NSW BRANCH

The Sydney Chapter needs to consider its membership base. Given our focus is on emerging professionals, perhaps the geographical reference in our title is no longer relevant. The branch also need to consider that many of our members are served by the branch and are in fact on both membership lists. Perhaps there needs to be a review of both membership lists and a review of how the direction of Syd chapter fits in to the direction and focus of MANSW. Perhaps a better approach would be for the Sydney chapter to be a special interest group of the MANSW branch and focus on developing the Peer2peer products more to support emerging professionals.

CENTRAL TABLELANDS

Author	Trevor Pascoe (President)
---------------	---------------------------

ACTIVITIES FOR PAST 12 MONTHS

During the past year, there has seen an encouraging interest and attendance at events organized by the Central Tablelands Chapter. Chapter Members are now realising the advantages of meeting each other, sharing experiences and learning skills in managing their collections.

The Chapter held a very successful Annual Meeting and Social Day on Saturday, 14th May 2011 at Mudgee, which was hosted by the Mudgee Historical Society. The day began with morning tea and inspection of the Mudgee Museum. The delegates later met at the CWA rooms where John Broadley, the President of the Mudgee Historical Society gave a power point presentation on the 'History of Mudgee and its historic buildings'. John later conducted an informative walking tour and inspection of the nearby historic Catholic and Anglican Churches. Lunch was catered by the Mudgee CWA at their rooms where the Annual Meeting was also held during the afternoon. The Annual meeting was attended by 20 delegates representing 6 Societies, with all executive positions filled.

The Central Tablelands Chapter in conjunction with the Mid-Western Regional Council conducted a very successful Project Day on Saturday, 17th September 2011. It was hosted by the Kandos Bicentennial Museum. This workshop was on 'Collection Management' and conducted by Judy Coombes and Nicky Balmer from the Powerhouse Museum. Their wonderful presentation gave many valuable ideas for Chapter members on how to successfully catalogue and manage their collections. This was a very well attended Project Day with over 30 participants from 10 Societies. A morning tea and hot lunch was arranged by the Kandos Museum giving participants a chance to meet and network with other members from the Chapter.

Membership fees were set at \$35 for each Society and \$5 for individual members. Memberships received to May 2012 are from 15 Historical Societies and three individual members. There are over 30 Museums on the Central Tablelands, but it is hoped that other Societies will soon become financial members and attend our events.

The next Annual Meeting and Social Day will be held on Saturday, 12th May 2012. It will be held at historic Carcoar, hosted by the Carcoar Hospital Museum and Carcoar Historical Society. Both Societies have prepared an interesting day involving inspection of their collections, historic buildings, a town walk and luncheon.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS & ILLAWARRA

Author	Tamara Hynd
ACTIVITIES FOR PAST 12 MONTHS	
<p>The last 12 months have been busy ones for our Chapter and we have had some great speakers come and present to our group. Our meetings are held quarterly and they are an important means of giving our member museums the boost of energy and enthusiasm they need to keep doing the fantastic museum work that is being carried out in the Southern Highlands and Illawarra Chapter.</p> <p>Our June 2011, meeting was held at Glenalvon Museum at Campbelltown where Rebecca Evans from the Powerhouse Museum presented 'Secrets of a Stitch Detective' and showed us how to read textiles and garments in our collections and tell their stories. In October at Tongarra Museum, Rebecca Pinchin and Carly Todhunter (Powerhouse Regional Fellowship recipient who worked with our Chapter during her project) spoke to our Chapter about the possibilities of using E-Hive to its full potential and as a means of promoting our regional collections to the world. At the same meeting Sarah-Jane Rennie of MGnsw spoke of her recent trip to Scotland and what Museums in the UK were currently doing, as well as the MGnsw new website 'There's A War On!' and the possibilities it opens up in terms of promoting war collections. In February of this year at Trainworks Museum, Thirlmere, Kylie Winkworth presented 'More on the Museum Diet: Ten Strategies for Sustainable Museums and Collections in NSW'; a real eye opener for our museums!</p>	
PLANS FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS	
<p>This last presentation really gave our group the motivation to really start cracking in terms of advocacy for our museums, and Chapter member John Hatton, generously offered his time as facilitator of an upcoming Chapter workshop in July 2012, 'Making Your Museum Heard' to be held at Mittagong. Our Chapter has also recently undertaken a survey in order to provide a snapshot of our museums which we can use as a management tool in the future. Our next meeting will be held in June at Kiama.</p>	

LACHLAN

Lachlan is currently working on the next Working Spaces conference.