

## **UNESCO Australian Memory of the World National Committee Report to MOWCAP 2013-2014**

The Australian National Committee of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme has much pleasure in presenting this report of its activities in 2013-2014 to members of MOWCAP meeting in Guangzhou, China, 13-16 May 2014.

### **Australian Committee**

The UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee operates as a committee of the

Australian National Commission for UNESCO. All members are appointed for their expertise in their fields in their individual capacity. The activities of the Committee are carried out with the assistance of an annual grant from the Australian National Commission for UNESCO. The Australian Memory of the World Program also enjoys the support of Canberra-based institutions that hold documentary heritage in Australia: The National Library of Australia, National Archives of Australia, National Museum of Australia, National Film and Sound Archive, and The Australian National University. The National Library and National Museum have kindly made meeting rooms available for use by the Committee, and have provided other support, such as auditing the Committee's accounts and providing graphic design and printing services for inscription ceremonies.

Two significant Committee members retired in the course of the year. Dr Jan Lyall, who established the Australian Committee in 2000, stepped down from the position of Chair in December 2013. Dr Lyall's contribution to the Memory of the World Programme has been immense: she coordinated the writing of the first edition of *General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage* in 1994; and has represented Australia at several international meetings of the Programme. In February 2008 she convened the Third International Conference of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme in Canberra, Australia, and was honoured with UNESCO's Marie Curie Medal.

Gordon Bower, the Australian Committee's esteemed Treasurer, also stepped down from the Committee in December 2013 after many years in the position. His care and attention to detail have been commended by our auditor.

Dr Roslyn Russell, former Deputy Chair of the Australian Memory of the World Committee (and Chair of the International Advisory Committee from 2009 to 2013) is now Chair of the Australian Committee. Ms Pam Gatenby is now Treasurer, and Ms

Anne-Marie Condé is Deputy Chair. A full list of Committee and Sub-Committee members is at *Appendix I*.

### **Patron**

Distinguished historian Professor Marilyn Lake has become a patron of the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee. Professor Lake grew up in Tasmania, where she completed her undergraduate and Master's degrees in History. She moved to Melbourne in 1976 and enrolled in a PhD degree in History at Monash University and subsequently held academic positions at Monash University, The University of Melbourne and La Trobe University, where she also served as Associate Dean Research and was appointed Charles LaTrobe Professor in History in 2010. Professor Lake has held Visiting Professorial Fellowships at Stockholm University, ANU, the University of Sydney, the University of Western Australia and the University of Maryland. Between 2001 and 2002 she held the Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University. In the last ten years she has mainly been in research positions supported by two ARC Australian Professorial Fellowships.

Professor Lake was elected Fellow of the Academy of Humanities of Australia in 1995; and Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia in 1999. She is currently President of the Australian Historical Association.

Several of Professor Lake's books have won prizes: *The Limits of Hope: Soldier Settlement in Victoria 1915-38* won the Harbison-Higinbotham prize and was short-listed for the Age Book of the Year in 1987; *FAITH: Faith Bandler Gentle Activist* won the HREOC award for non-fiction in 2002; *Creating a Nation* which she wrote with Patricia Grimshaw, Ann McGrath and Marian Quartly also won the HREOC prize for non-fiction and was shortlisted for the Adelaide Writers' Festival Prize; *Drawing the Global Colour Line* which she co-authored with Henry Reynolds won the Ernest Scott prize, the Queensland Premier's Prize for History and the Prime Minister's Prize for Non-Fiction in 2009.

### **Australian Register**

Ten new inscriptions were added to the Australian Memory of the World Register in May 2013, as follows: John Meredith Folklore Collection 1953-1994, National Library of Australia; Queensland South Sea Island Indentured Labourer Records 1863-1908, Queensland State Archives; University of Adelaide's Registrar's Minutes, Correspondence, Reference Files, Registers & Indexes, 1872-1924, University of Adelaide; Plan of Adelaide 1837 History South Australia, City of Adelaide Civic Collection, State Library of South Australia, State Records of South Australia; Rough

Diary: Air Raids on Darwin and Immediate Alerts, Northern Territory Library; Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC), The University of Melbourne, The Australian National University, The University of Sydney; The Holtermann Collection: Photographs of Goldfield Towns in NSW and Victoria; Sydney and Melbourne Streets and Buildings 1872-1876, State Library of New South Wales; The Life and Adventures of Edward Snell from 1849 to 1859, and other Goldfields Diaries, State Library of Victoria; Norman Barnett Tindale Collection, South Australian Museum; The F E Williams Collection, National Archives of Australia, South Australian Museum; and The Convict Records of Western Australia, State Records Office of Western Australia.

The addition of these inscriptions brings the total number of inscriptions on the Australian Register to 47. Representatives of institutions holding inscribed documentary heritage received their certificates of inscription at a ceremony on 14 May 2013 in the Mortlock Chamber, State Library of South Australia, in Adelaide. Certificates were presented by the speaker, Indigenous author and academic Dr Jared Thomas, and the Chair of the Australian Committee, Dr Jan Lyall.

### **Workshop and Planning Day**

Members of the Australian Committee met in Canberra on 4 and 5 July 2013 for the Committee's annual workshop and planning day. The workshop, facilitated by Mark Butz, discussed strategies for enhancing the work and profile of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme in Australia. A key decision taken by the Committee was to pursue the possibility of the Australian Memory of the World Committee becoming an incorporated body in order to pursue financial sponsorship. The planning day focused on prioritising the strategies discussed in the workshop and developed an Action Plan for the year ahead, including a revamping of the Australian Memory of the World website.

### **National History Challenge 2013**

The Australian Committee sponsored the 'Human Rights and Immigration' category in the annual History Teachers' Association of Australia National History Challenge for schools. The winning essay, 'Madiba's Legacy', by a student from Western Australia, examined the documents in Criminal Court Case No. 253/1963 (State Versus N Mandela and Others), inscribed on the Memory of the World International Register. Dr Jan Lyall, Chair of the Australian Memory of the World Committee, presented the award for the Memory of the World sponsored category to the winner at the presentation ceremony in Parliament House, Canberra, in November 2013.

## **Other Events**

The Australian Memory of the World Committee has conducted two events with The Australian National University's Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts (IPPHA) over the past year:

### **24 April 2013: Memory of the World: assessing the material records and links to other forms of heritage in international practice.**

This one-day professional update explored our growing heritage of documentary, oral and visual heritage, as well as the strong links to heritage places and intangible aspects of heritage, with case studies from Australia and the Pacific. It discussed the synergies that exist among Memory of the World and the UNESCO World Heritage and Intangible Heritage conventions. Experts in all three heritage programmes shared their experiences and discussed enhanced cooperation among these international heritage preservation initiatives at a time of reduced resources for heritage protection.

### **2 May 2014: Memory of the World: Nominating to the Registers**

Experts in the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme nomination process shared their experiences and gave guidance to prospective nominators of documentary heritage to the Programme's three registers. Participants were made familiar with the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme and its registers at national, regional and international levels and gained an enhanced understanding of how the different registers operate, the nomination criteria for each register, and the key arguments that can be used to assert and establish claims of national, regional and international significance for nominated documentary heritage.

Participants were invited to bring nominations in progress to discuss with presenters who have had many years of experience of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program at all three levels, and gained helpful insights into what goes to making a successful Memory of the World nomination. Several very interesting nominations were discussed, and we look forward to seeing them proposed for the various registers.

Roslyn Russell

Chair, UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee

## **APPENDIX I**

### **UNESCO Australian Memory of the World National Committee members**

Roslyn Russell, Chair

Anne-Marie Condé, Deputy Chair

Pam Gatenby, Treasurer

### **Chairs and members of sub-committees**

#### **Assessment sub-committee**

Christine Yeats, Chair

Margaret Anderson

Maggie Shapley

Anne-Marie Condé

Jaky Troy

#### **Marketing and Communications sub-committee**

Anne Lyons, Chair

Bev Scott

### **Sector representatives**

#### **Archives sector**

Anne Lyons and Maggie Shapley

#### **Audiovisual sector**

Ray Edmondson and Meg Labrum

## **Education sector and Lost and Missing Heritage**

Bob Pymm

## **History sector**

Roslyn Russell and Christine Yeats

## **Indigenous sector**

Stewart Sutherland and Jakelyn (Jaky) Troy

## **Library and preservation sectors**

Margy Burn

## **Museum sector**

Anne-Marie Condé

## **State Liaison Officers**

### **NSW**

Angela Phippen and Christine Yeats

### **Northern Territory**

Lynette Aitcheson and Katherine Hamilton

### **Queensland**

Tania Cleary and Adrian Cunningham

### **South Australia**

Mandy Paul and Bev Scott

### **Tasmania**

Jon Addison and Jenny Jerome

### **Victoria**

Asa Letourneau and Jo Ritale

## **Webmaster and Communications**

Andrew Scarvell

**Representative of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO (ex officio)**

Dario Morosini