



Australian National Commission for UNESCO

UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee

REPORT TO MOWCAP 2016-2018

The UNESCO Australian Memory of the World (AMW) Committee has great pleasure in submitting its report for the period 2016-2018 to the MOWCAP General Meeting in Gwangju, Republic of Korea, 29 May-1 June 2018.

The AMW Committee has continued to advocate for the Memory of the World Programme in Australia and in the region over this period, through its activities as described below. Members of the AMW Committee are listed in an appendix to this report.

1. The Australian Memory of the World Register

The AMW Committee has continued its usual biannual cycle of nominations and inscriptions to the Australian Memory of the World Register. Nominations to the AMW Register were submitted by 30 June 2016, and were assessed by the Assessment Sub-Committee. Its recommendations were approved by the AMW Committee in late 2016, and an inscription ceremony was held at Canberra Museum and Gallery in February 2017 for the seven new entries on the AMW Register (see entries 51-57 on the Australian Register <http://www.amw.org.au/amw-register>). Several of the new inscriptions, notably the Fanny Cochrane Smith recording of the last Tasmanian Aboriginal language speaker; Dorothea Mackellar's poem, 'My Country'; the Warlpiri Indigenous drawings; and the James Tyson Papers, attracted the attention of national print, radio and television media.

The State Library of New South Wales also achieved an inscription on the International Register in 2017, when the Giant Glass Plate Negatives of Sydney Harbour (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/memory-of-the-world/register/full-list-of-registered-heritage/registered-heritage-page-3/giant-glass-plate-negatives-of-sydney-harbour/>) were approved for the Register.

Nominations for the next assessment round for the AMW Register were called in November 2017, and submissions are due on 30 June 2018. There has already been considerable interest in nominating among Australian documentary heritage institutions, and AMW Committee members are also taking a proactive role in seeking nominations and giving advice to prospective nominators. AMW Committee members Shane Breynard and Roslyn Russell visited two collections in Melbourne in April 2018 to encourage nominations; and Rachel Watson is leading a team of Museum Studies students from the Australian National University who are working with nominators from smaller institutions in regional Australia to prepare their nominations. A workshop on the nomination process, organised by AMW Committee member Christine Yeats, is to be held on 8 May at History House, the headquarters of the Royal Australian Historical Society in Sydney.

2. *Memory of the World in Canberra* exhibition

Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) mounted this exhibition, curated by CMAG's Senior Social History Curator Dale Middleby with assistance from AMW Committee Chair, Roslyn Russell. *Memory of the World in Canberra* was on display in CMAG's principal exhibition gallery from 12 November 2016 to 19 March 2017.



Title and opening text for *Memory of the World in Canberra*, and trade union banner from Noel Butlin Archives of Business and Labour, Australian National University.

Photo by Rob Little, courtesy of Canberra Museum and Gallery

This exhibition provided an opportunity to learn about the long history Canberra shares with the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme for safeguarding documentary heritage. It showcased the rich documentary heritage held in Canberra's premier cultural institutions and the contribution made to the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register by Canberra's librarians, archivists, curators and conservators. The exhibition challenged visitors' understanding of what a 'document' is in a display that included film, music and dance, oral history and digital media.



These panoramic photographs of the exhibition show (top) Mabo Case Papers, Sorry Books, Australian Indigenous Languages Collection, Pre-Federation Trade Union Minute Books; (middle) Australian Agricultural Company Records, Records of Displaced Persons, Ashmead-Bartlett's film, 'Heroes of Gallipoli'; (bottom) Landmark Constitutional Documents of the Commonwealth of Australia. Photos by Rob Little, courtesy of Canberra Museum and Gallery

One section of the exhibition, 'Canberra and Memory of the World' showcased the contribution of individual Canberrans to the Memory of the World Programme, and activities in which they had participated, such as the inaugural presentation of the Jikji Prize in Cheongju in 2005, and Human Rights and Documents seminars in Gwangju, both in the Republic of Korea. AMW Committee members Dr Ray Edmondson (former MOWCAP Chair) and Dr Roslyn Russell (former IAC Chair) contributed display material on these and other MoW activities in the international arena, including items relating to workshops held in Vietnam, China, Republic of Korea, Iran, Timor-Leste and other countries. One display was devoted to the Sakubei Yamamoto Collection from Japan, the nomination of which was coordinated by another Canberran, Dr Michael Pearson.



(Left) commemorative items from inaugural presentation of the Jikji Prize, 2005; material relating to Human Rights and Documents symposia in Gwangju, ROK.



Material relating to MoW workshops in Timor-Leste; Sakubei Yamamoto inscription commemorative material. Photos by Rob Little, courtesy of Canberra Museum and Gallery

3. Projects

The Australian Memory of the World Committee is also working on two projects that will, we hope, further extend the role of the Committee in the broader context of documentary heritage in Australia and in the Pacific region. These projects are Documenting Australian Society and a joint nomination by Pacific nations of colonising and independence documents.

3.1 Documenting Australian Society

The Committee is proud to be able to act as the sponsoring body for a new project, Documenting Australian Society, a proposal for which has been developed by AMW Committee member Adrian Cunningham and archivist Michael Piggott. This project was a dearly held aspiration of the late Dr Sigrid McCausland, who was, until her untimely death on 30 November 2016, a valued member of the AMW Committee, and to whom it will be dedicated. A summit to discuss how this project can be operationalised will be held at Canberra Museum and Gallery on 4 December 2018.

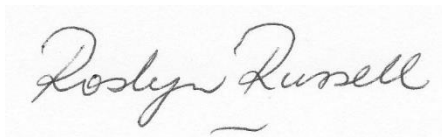
3.2 Joint nomination by Pacific countries

The idea of a large-scale joint nomination by Pacific countries on the theme of Colonisation and Independence was first discussed at the Memory of the World

Asia-Pacific workshop in Suva in 2016, sponsored by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and the National Archives of Fiji. It was also discussed at PARBICA 2017, also in Fiji. In February 2018 a meeting was held at the Australian National University, Canberra, attended by Dianne Macaskill, Chair of the New Zealand Memory of the World Committee, Kari James, Executive Officer, Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PMB), Kylie Moloney, former Executive Officer, PMB and now Head of Manuscripts, National Library of Australia, Christine Bryant, Pacific Manuscripts Curator, Australian National University Archives, and Roslyn Russell, AMW Committee Chair. An action plan was developed at this meeting and we are hoping that this project can be discussed further at the MOWCAP meeting in May.

Conclusion

The Australian Memory of the World Committee looks forward to a productive time over the next two years, with a new set of inscriptions likely to go onto the Australian Register in early 2019; progressing Documenting Australian Society, and the Pacific joint nomination in conjunction with the New Zealand Memory of the World Committee and colleagues from Pacific nations; and advocating for the preservation of and access to documentary heritage in Australia and the region.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roslyn Russell". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Roslyn Russell PhD

Chair, UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee

Appendix: UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee members

ACT-based Committee Members

Chair: Roslyn Russell, Roslyn Russell Museum Services, ros@rrmuseumservices.com.au

Deputy Chair: Anne-Marie Condé, National Archives of Australia, anne-marie.conde@naa.gov.au

Treasurer: Pam Gatenby, formerly National Library of Australia, pamjgatenby@gmail.com

Shane Breynard, Canberra Museum and Gallery, shane.breynard@act.gov.au

Margy Burn, National Library of Australia, mburn@nla.gov.au

Ray Edmondson, Archive Associates, ray@archival.com.au

Meg Labrum, National Film and Sound Archive, Meg.Labrum@nfsa.gov.au

Kylie Moloney, National Library of Australia, kmoloney@nla.gov.au

Lyndall Osborne, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, lyndall.osborne@aiatsis.gov.au

Barbara Reeve, formerly Australian War Memorial, bx10rm3@gmail.com

Maggie Shapley, Australian National University, Maggie.Shapley@anu.edu.au

State and Territory Liaison Officers

NSW: Christine Yeats, formerly State Records NSW, current President, Royal Australian Historical Society, ciyeats@gmail.com; Megan Martin, Sydney Living Museums, meganm@sydneylivingmuseums.com.au

Northern Territory: Katherine Hamilton, Northern Territory Library, KatherineHamilton@nt.gov.au

Queensland: Adrian Cunningham, formerly Queensland State Archives, adriancunningham8@gmail.com; Tania Cleary, Museum Consultant, muserv@powerup.ccom.au

South Australia: Corinne Ball, History South Australia, cball@history.sa.gov.au

Tasmania: Jenny Jerome, Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, jennifer.jerome@education.tas.gov.au

Victoria: Jo Ritale, State Library of Victoria, jritale@slv.vic.gov.au

Western Australia: Sandy Toussaint, University of Western Australia, sandy.toussaint@uwa.edu.au

Other identified positions

Chair, Assessment Sub-Committee: Christine Yeats

Student Volunteer Program Coordinator: Rachel Watson, Department of Home Affairs, rachel-leigh-watson@hotmail.com

Ex officio member: Adam Illman, Secretary-General, Australian National Commission for UNESCO, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, adam.illman@dfat.gov.au