

annual report
JULY 2023 –
JUNE 2024

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West

documenting and preserving the stories and the
images of the people and places of Melbourne's
west since 1984

ACTIVITIES OF AN ECOMUSEUM

Melbourne's 
Living Museum
of the West Inc.

The Living Museum of the West Visitor Centre is situated on the unceded sovereign land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We also work on the unceded lands of the Boonwurrung and the Wathaurung people of the Kulin Nation.

We recognise their continuing connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.



Cover image and this page:
'Dreamtime Cooking' event 1, 'Bread'.

Melbourne's 
Living Museum
 of the West Inc.





The Living Museum gratefully receives core operational funding from Maribyrnong City Council.



Local residents learn about indigenous plants and receive free samples at the Earth God Series, Day 1 'Volcanic Story', a new partnership project with the Quang Minh Temple in Braybrook.

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The Museum supported an educational 'Yes Referendum' initiative by the Quang Minh Temple, providing an environmental display, indigenous plants and a talk to delegates at the launch of new signage supported by the Korean Government. Pictured L-R: Auntie Colleen Marion, Federal MP Daniel Mulino, and the Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan OAM.

About Us

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West was established in 1984 to document and tell the stories of the peoples and places of Melbourne's west. Melbourne's west is one of the most multiculturally diverse regions in Australia, with a rich and varied history. The Living Museum Visitor Centre is normally located in Pipemakers Park, but is currently at Maribyrnong Library.

The Living Museum prides itself on being an inclusive ecomuseum. The term 'ecomuseum' was developed by the International Council of Museums in the early 1970s. It is a term used to describe a museum with a primary concern of understanding the identity of a place and its people, their heritage, and their future. It seeks participation from the community to form its collection and program to serve their ongoing needs.

"An ecomuseum [...] is foremost a community and an objective: the development of that community." Hugues de Varine, Director of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) 1964 to 1974

Our living ecomuseum is dedicated to celebrating the rich and varied history of the west, as well as the cultural and environmental stories and traditions, and the artistic expressions of its inhabitants, including First Nations communities, who have maintained a connection to the land for over 65,000 years. We create a vibrant place where the rich tapestry of our community is honoured through collection curation, our socio-cultural and artistic program, storytelling and performance.

By collaborating with local artists, community members, and cultural organisations, we ensure the authenticity and inclusivity of our exhibits and events. We are guided by a commitment to sustainability, and strive to be a model of environmental stewardship, allowing us to contribute to the vibrant and sustainable future of Melbourne's west.



Pictured (left to right), front row, Museum member Elizabeth Drosz and Committee members, Melba Marginson and Joan Spiller attending the 'Volcanic Story', event, Day 1 of the Earth God Series.

President's Report

This past year has been a challenging period for the Living Museum of the West, defined by transformation and resilience. As we navigated the challenges of our temporary displacement from the Visitor Centre at Pipemakers Park, we have remained committed to cultural and community engagement. This year has seen us maintain our operations at Maribyrnong Library Highpoint, where we have continued to deliver a dynamic program of contemporary art exhibitions and community events.

A key achievement includes the expansion of our team, with the appointment of three new Committee members and the addition of an Operations Co-ordinator and Capacity Building Lead—two new paid part-time roles made possible through Maribyrnong Council's Triennial Arts Partner Funding. These strategic appointments have strengthened our operational capabilities, enabling us to refine our day-to-day activities and pave the way for sustainable growth.

Another key achievement this year has been our collaboration with OFFICE on the redevelopment of the Visitor Centre. This exciting collaboration will result in a dynamic and accessible space, greatly enhancing the Museum's capacity to serve the community when we reopen in Pipemakers Park in 2025. The planned redesign emphasises accessibility and functionality, with increased storage for our growing collection, improved back-of-house facilities and a new kitchen to support events, and improved amenities, accessible toilets and entrances, new research and quiet spaces, and adaptable exhibition and project



The 'Dreamtime Cooking' program of cooking demonstrations and sharing of food, included 3 events in Pipemakers Park. Image, participants at the first event 'Bread'in December 2023.

spaces to support work throughout the building, positioning us to significantly broaden our reach, engagement, and programs.

The scope of our 2023-24 programming was ambitious and, despite building delays, the Museum's program has thrived this year, with key initiatives such as the 'Dreamtime Cooking' program series held at Pipemakers Park. This Indigenous-led program engaged over 200 community members in sustainable culinary practices, connecting multicultural audiences with First People's knowledge and culture.

The ongoing 'Logic of Logistics' exhibition, launched at Maribyrnong Library in May 2024, has also generated significant interest from the community at our current base. By highlighting the significance of the munitions industry in the west during the World Wars, 'Logic of Logistics' unearths important narratives that are often underrepresented, such as the contributions of workers, scientists and women in the workforce.

In the area of digital engagement, we have made notable improvements in expanding our online presence through the launch of our new website and platforms like [eHive](#), allowing for greater engagement with our program and collection. These initiatives have been crucial as we adapt to our current base at the Library and work toward increased online engagement in future.

The past year has been marked by resilience and the need to adapt. Our achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our Committee of Management, staff, and a network of partners and community members. We thank Maribyrnong City Council, our Committee of Management, staff, volunteers, artists, researchers, and all who contribute to our mission and value the work that we do.

Kerrie Poliness

Acknowledgements

Melbourne's Living Museum of the West is grateful for support received in 2023 - 2024 from the following:

Maribyrnong City Council - Triennial Arts Funding; Victorian Government and the Victorian Veterans Council; Australian Government, Stronger Communities Grant Program; Victorian Government, Department of Transport and Planning - Living Local, Suburban Grant Program; Maribyrnong City Council - 'Love Your Local', Community Grant Program.

Partnerships:

Maribyrnong City Council – Triennial Arts Partner; Footscray Community Arts Centre; Quang Minh Temple; AMaGA; ICOM Australia; Public Records Office Victoria; Footscray Historical Society; Footscray Community Arts Centre; OFFICE (NFP design), Iramoo Grassland Centre & Nursery at Victoria University; Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley; Grassy Plains Network; National Trust; Inner West Branch of the National Trust; The Western Region Group of History Societies; The Silent Witness Network (TSWN); The Boon Wurrung Foundation; Wurundjeri Tribal Council; Reconciliation Victoria; Moondani Bullock and Special Collections at Victoria University; Yarn Strong Sista; Sustainative; Open House Melbourne; School of Design, Swinburne University of Technology; School of Communications and Design, RMIT University; Faculty of VCA & MCM, University of Melbourne; Trocadero Projects; West Space; Victorian Volcanic Plains Biosphere; Footscray City High School; Amazing Games Pack 12 Games; Maribyrnong Kindergarten, Bush Kinder (Pipemakers Park); Clare Court Kindergarten; Oral History Victoria.

The Museum would like to acknowledge the ongoing support from the following people:

Uncle Larry Walsh, Dr N'arweet Carolyn Briggs AM, Olwen Ford, Andy Calvert, Gary Vines, The Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan OAM, Kerrie Poliness, Tony Le Nguyen, Melba Marginson, Joan Spiller, Melanie Avent, Chas Manning, Alex Flux, Alex Ettling, Michael Patti, Pam Mulready, Matthew Davis, David Corban, Minh Lee, Jack Pardy, Sol Skeletor, Jake Simkin, Cameron McDonald, Dr Megan O'Shea, Clare Hart, Lloyd O'Hanlon, Freddy Hayward, Spencer Nguyen, Jacky Gordon, Maelor Himbury, Lorraine Radcliff, Rosemary McKenzie, Felicity Watson, Hugh Bassett, Isobel Morphy-Walsh, Karen Jackson, Dan Mitchell, Bernadette Fitzgerald, Peter Somerville OAM, Elizabeth Drozd OAM, Prof. Carolyn Barnes, Dr Raafat Ishak, Kim Burrell, The Honourable Judy Maddigan, Prof. Roger Rassool, and Dr Mark Williams.



'Dreamtime Cooking' demonstrations and sharing of food, Pipemakers Park, December 2023.



'Dreamtime Cooking' demonstrations and sharing of food, Pipemakers Park, December 2023.

Personnel 2023–2024

Committee of Management

Executive Members

Kerrie Poliness, President
 Tony Le Nguyen, Vice-President
 Melba Marginson, Treasurer
 Pam Mulready, Secretary (to May 2024)
 Joan Spiller, Secretary (from May 2024)

Committee Members

Joan Spiller (from December 2023 to May 2024)
 Alex Flux (from December 2023)
 Alex Ettlting (from December 2023)

Associates

Local History: Olwen Ford, Gary Vines
 Cultural Advisors: Uncle Larry Walsh, Dr N'arweet
 Carolyn Briggs AM, Karen Jackson,
 Mandy Nicholson
 Heritage Buildings: Gary Vines, Olwen Ford,
 Hugh Bassett, Felicity Watson
 Archives: Matthew Davis, Judy Maddigan,
 Kim Burrell
 Environmental: Michael Patti, Megan O'Shea,
 Debbie Reynolds, Grassy Plains Network
 Contemporary Art:
 Jacqui Gordon, Chas Manning, Raafat Ishak
 Design and Landscape: OFFICE (Simon Robinson
 and Steve Mintern) and Jennifer Kelynack

Staff & Volunteers

Staff

Melanie Avent, IT & FOH
 (until January 2024)
 Chas Manning, admin assistant
 (until November 2023)
 Rebecca Dauti, Operations
 Co-ordinator (from February 2024)
 Pauline Cady, Capacity Building
 Lead (from March 2024)

Museum Volunteers

Melanie Avent
 Melchior Bajada
 Melchiorre Bajada
 Andy Calvert
 David Corban
 Matthew Davis
 Olwen Ford
 Phoebe Haffenden
 Freddie Haywood
 Maelor Himbury
 Sahm Keily
 Jennifer Kelynack
 Minh Lee
 Chas Manning
 Jack Pardy
 Michael Patti
 Lorraine Radcliff
 Sol Skeletor
 Michael Thornton
 Gary Vines

Personnel 2023–2024

Committee of Management Profiles

Kerrie Poliness

President

Kerrie Poliness is a contemporary visual artist with an interest in DIY, community-driven, culture that has seen her start and support various artist-run initiatives. Her artworks are held in key public and private collections throughout Australia. Kerrie first became involved with the Living Museum in 1993. Becoming captivated by its experimental philosophy of ‘inclusive museology’ she helped to develop and manage dozens of Museum projects between 1993 and 2007. Kerrie rejoined the organisation in 2013, is currently President of the Museum, and is broadly connected to the west where she lives.

Melba Marginson

Treasurer

Filipino Australian Melba Marginson has worked in the area of multicultural and women’s affairs since she migrated to Australia 34 years ago. Appointed as VMC Commissioner by Premier Steve Bracks in 2000, she served until 2005, and was inducted into the inaugural Victorian Women’s Honour Roll for her work on violence against immigrant and refugee women. In 2017, Melba founded ‘The Silent Witness Network’, a multicultural network of people who are passionate about reducing family violence and supporting children who become the ‘silent witnesses’ of family violence within culturally diverse communities. In her semi-retirement, Melba works as translator/interpreter and cultural consultant.

Melba lives in Maribyrnong and in 2021, she joined the Committee of Management of Melbourne’s Living Museum of the West, becoming its Treasurer in 2022.

Tony Le Nguyen

Vice-President

Tony lives between Melbourne (Braybrook) and Hanoi, Vietnam, currently running cultural development workshops in several arts centres in Vietnam where he uses theatre techniques to teach social skills to disadvantaged youth. He has been a member of the Committee of Management for the Living Museum since 2013. After training in Television Production, Tony completed a B.A. in Community Development and Performance Studies and a Grad. Dip. in Secondary Education. Tony was the Cultural Development Officer at Footscray Community Arts Centre (1995-2000), a Community Development Worker with the Australian Vietnamese Women’s Association (2002-8) and Project Manager at the Quang Minh Buddhist Centre in Melbourne (2009-2012). He was awarded a prestigious Community Cultural Development Fellowship from the Australia Council for the Arts in 2000.

Pamela Mulready

Secretary (December 2023 - May 2024)

Seddon resident, Pamela Mulready is a local historian and community representative for the Maribyrnong Heritage Advisory Committee. With a background in organisational change in higher education, she has led cultural development, organisational change, and digitisation projects throughout her academic career in Australia and Japan. Pam is well connected in Melbourne’s west. Pam joined the Living Museum Committee of Management in 2022 and served as Secretary from December 2023 to May 2024.

New Committee Appointments for 2023-24

Over the past year, the Museum has made exciting changes to our team and Committee of Management with the appointment of three new Committee members and the addition of two new staff members. The Committee of Management plays a critical role in the Museum's operations, allowing us to stay at the forefront of emerging cultural and museum practices, and related fields, through its dynamic and experienced team. Our new Committee members are:

Joan Spiller

*Community Representative, from December 2023,
and Secretary, from May 2024*

Joan Spiller, Secretary of the Museum's Committee of Management, has combined Board Directorships with consultancy over the past 30 years. Her current focus is NFP Directorships. She is Deputy President of Commonwealth Study Conferences (Australia), and Secretary/Treasurer of the Mietta Foundation. Arts Industry experience includes Directorships of Australian Art Orchestra (Chair, 10 years), Mietta Song Recital Award (Founding Committee), Georges Mora Foundation (Inaugural Chair), West Space Gallery, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Melbourne Symphony Foundation Trust. Past long-term Directorships in other fields include Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Monash IVF, Monash Ultrasound for Women, Monash Reproductive Pathology and Genetics, Victorian Rehabilitation Centre and Flower & Samios Architects (Chair). Her earlier career in public sector management and policy included appointments as Australia Post's head of Operations, and senior executive positions in Health. Consultancy work covered Construction, Communications, Health Care, Education and Defence. Born and raised in the western suburbs, she retains close ties.

Alex Ettling

Community Representative

Alex Ettling is a social historian based in Melbourne. His historical practice incorporates writing, graphics and audio, frequently working in collaborative environments. In 2023, Alex was a co-editor of the book 'Knocking The Top Off: A People's History of Alcohol in Australia'. He has made a number of appearances on ABC Radio, at writers festivals and history conferences. Alex has a background in not-for-profit events management, and has for many years been active in various social justice campaigns. He was a co-founder of the Trades Hall Art Studio, and prior to that led a writer's group out of The New International Bookshop. An exhibited visual artist, he has worked on intern projects with National Exhibitions Touring Support (Victoria) and the Public Galleries Association of Victoria. Alex holds a Bachelor of Public Policy and Management from The University of Melbourne, and in this career pathway has worked in the sustainability sector with the Pacific Salmon Foundation in Vancouver, the Department of Communities in Western Australia, and was a policy analyst for Creative Victoria. Alex has been organising an oral history program since 2018, with a focus on marginalised voices. He began his association with the Living Museum in 2019 and has been a Community Representative on the Committee of Management since December 2023.

Alex Flux

Community Representative

Alex Flux is a local resident who has been involved with the Living Museum since early 2023. She is currently completing a Masters degree in Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies at Deakin University. Having previously studied design for theatre, she has a keen interest in storytelling, and the way people connect with the past, present and future. With a work history that includes digitisation of historical material, records management, and working with local communities on co-design initiatives, Alex feels a true affinity with the vision and purpose of the Living Museum of the West.

New Staff Appointments & Profiles

We are also pleased to announce the creation of two new paid part-time roles, enabled through our Triennial funding: Operations Co-ordinator and Capacity Building Lead. Since their appointments in February and in March 2024, our new staff members have been working closely with the Committee to manage day-to-day Museum operations, develop innovative projects and programs, and work toward reopening the Visitor Centre at Pipemakers Park in 2025. Our new staff members are:

Rebecca Dauti *Operations Co-ordinator*

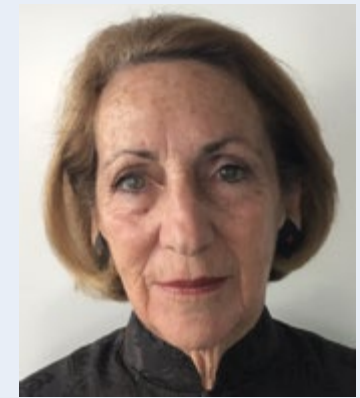
Rebecca is an artist and arts worker who collaborates with her partner on projects that explore Deaf history and culture, with a primary focus on creating moving image works. She has also led international research projects and curated public programs that engage cultural institutions with Deaf history and culture, including at conferences, museums and galleries such as Deaf History International, the Wellcome Collection in London, the National Museum of Art in Lithuania, and the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow. Rebecca holds a Master of Art Curatorship from the University of Melbourne and has over a decade of experience in the arts sector. Her professional experience includes producing public programs and exhibitions, as well as working with museum collections at institutions such as Latrobe Regional Gallery and Monash University Museum of Art. She is deeply committed to inclusive museum practice and is passionate about grassroots projects that engage with social history.

Pauline Cady *Capacity Building Lead*

Pauline Cady is a founding member of the iconic Snuff Puppets and a resident in the City of Maribyrnong since 1992. She has been funding manager at Back to Back Theatre (which won the Nobel Prize for Theatre in 2022) and Melbourne Fringe Festival. She has a particularly keen interest in access and inclusion. She also has considerable experience in archives: supervising the collection, sorting and transferal of the Back to Back archive to the Geelong Heritage Centre, the Big West Festival archive to the State Library of Victoria, and is working on the final stage of transferring items from Melbourne Fringe Festival to the State Library in early 2025.



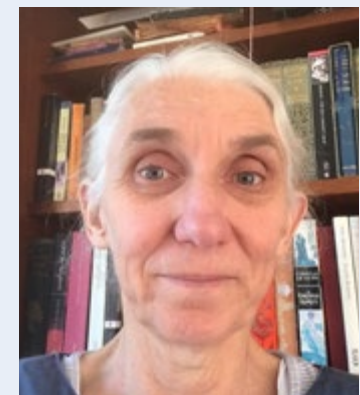
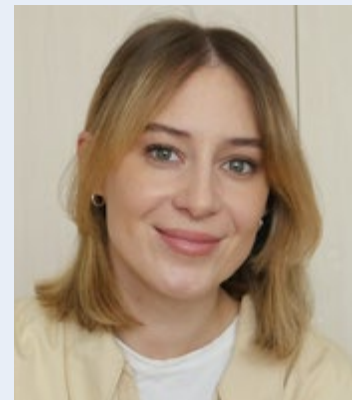
Capacity Building Lead, Pauline Cady (left) and Operations Co-ordinator, Rebecca Dauti, working at the Living Museum at Maribyrnong Library.



Museum Committee and Staff 2023-2024

Museum committee and staff members. Top row L-R: Kerrie Poliness, Melba Marginson, Tony Le Nguyen, Joan Spiller; middle row L-R: Pam Mulready, Alex Flux, Alex Ettling. Bottom row L-R: Melanie Avent*, Chas Manning*, Rebecca Dauti and Pauline Cady.

*Indicates images by Spencer Nguyen.



Highlights 2023-2024



View of Melbourne from Maribyrnong.

- **Referendum Support Events:**
Worked in partnership with Quang Minh Temple and TSWN to host a series of community driven activities in support of the Federal Referendum.
- **Triennial Arts Partnership Secured:**
Successfully secured a second term of Maribyrnong City Council Triennial Arts Partner funding.
- **Environmental Advocacy:**
Launched a campaign to protect remnant White Cypress Trees on the Australian Defence Industries site, now 'listed' by the National Trust.
- **Public Art Commissions:**
Assisted Maribyrnong City Council with the development of the Exeloo Art Commission in Pipemakers Park, continuing our commitment to enhance the park through creative interventions.
- **Major Exhibition Completion and Launch:**
Completed and celebrated the public launch of the 'Logic of Logistics' exhibition at the Maribyrnong Library, a milestone achievement for the Museum.
- **Residencies:**
Hosted research and art residencies with Jacqui Gordon and Jennifer Davis, the latter leading to the development of radio programs in partnership with 3CR.
- **Educational Engagement:**
The Museum's Pobblebonk exhibition had a two-month residency at Clare Court Kindergarten, supporting creative learning for young audiences.
- **Visitor Centre Redesign:**
Collaborated with OFFICE design group to develop an innovative internal redesign for the Visitor Centre to be completed in 2025.
- **New Exhibition Opportunities:**
Launched 'Shelf' exhibition program featuring artists including Raafat Ishak, Anna Kiparis and Matthew Davis.
- **Team Expansion:**
Recruited three new members to the Committee of Management, and two new part-time staff to expand our capacity and support future initiatives.
- **Cultural Programming at Pipemakers Park:**
Delivered the successful program series 'Dreamtime Cooking', involving three cooking events that attracted over 200 participants.
- **Heritage Advice and Support to MCC:**
Provided advice regarding the heritage buildings, artefacts and artworks in Pipemakers Park; feedback to the draft MCC Heritage Study; representation on Maribyrnong Heritage Advisory Committee.

Highlights

Clockwise from top left:

Children with masks they have made at the Earth God Series workshop; speakers and delegates at the new signage launch at the Quang Minh Temple; Peter Somerville and Andrew Calvert at the launch event for the 'Logic of Logistics' exhibition at the Maribyrnong Library; OFFICE (design team) visualisations of the new library space for the Museum Visitor Centre.



Library with built in shelving and sliding door (1)



Museum Operations and Place

The Museum has continued to operate from Maribyrnong Library Highpoint since 2023, following termite damage to the Visitor Centre at Pipemakers Park. While progress has been made addressing this damage, the temporary displacement from our usual location has presented challenges. The smaller venue has limited the number of exhibitions we can host, and a portion of our collection being offsite has impacted on our ability to promptly respond to research requests.

We have focused our efforts on keeping the Museum open and maintaining engagement with our community. This has included improving our online engagement, posting events on Instagram to reach a wider audience, re-introducing a regular e-newsletter, and enhancing our online presence to communicate more effectively with our audience.

The recent recruitment of new staff, including an Operations Co-ordinator and Capacity Building Lead, has strengthened the Museum's capacity to review and improve our operational procedures, including the development of manuals and brochures that will be used by volunteers and the public, and will be made available at our base. Other operational improvements include engaging bookkeepers "By the Numbers" to enhance our financial management, maintaining our ICOM membership and Museum Accredited Programs Status, and securing the second term of Triennial Arts Partner Funding. These advancements position us well for future growth and success.



The entrance to the Living Museum's temporary offices at Maribyrnong Library.



The Museum and Daniel Mulino's office organised a tour of the local Defence Site, in Maribyrnong, to assist in the collection of seed from remnant White Cypress trees identified on the site by Lloyd O'Hanlon. The tour group included local, state and federal politicians, members of the Museum and the Friends of Sandy group, who are seen here at 'The Stables'.

Museum Operations and Place (continued)

Capacity Building Project

Although it has been difficult to be away from our beloved building and park, the dislocation from the site has presented us with a unique opportunity to refocus. Through 2024 we have been examining operational processes looking for ways to build our capacity to broaden the reach and impact of our programs and networks.

Using our 2023–2026 Strategic Plan as a springboard, our actively engaged Committee of Management has generously and imaginatively contributed to mapping new possibilities, including better harnessing the power of volunteers and of local partnerships and increasing earned income from events and exhibitions, and funding from private donors, government and philanthropic funders.

Network Groups Representation 2023–2024

Throughout the year, the Living Museum of the West actively engaged with various local and regional networks, providing support and collaboration on numerous initiatives.

- Fraser Climate Network – Attended by invitation from Dan Mulino's Office, supporting the network's environmental 'care project.'
- Maribyrnong Heritage Advisory Committee.
- Quang Minh Temple – Facilitated Indigenous planting plans, provided support for the launch of new signage, co-developed partner project and event.
- Victoria University (Iramoo Grassland Centre & Nursery) – Partnered to donate plants for the 'Dreamtime Cooking' event, and the first 'Earth God Series' event at the Quang Minh Temple.
- Islamic Museum of Australia – Invited to judge the Future Australian Muslim Artists Awards.
- Western Region Group of History Societies – Hosted a regional meeting at the Library in November 2023.

Museum Operations and Place (continued)

Library Operations

We are fortunate to have access to Highpoint Library's rooms and facilities to keep the Museum open and continue to provide access for the community. During this time, we ensured that our panel exhibitions such as 'Logic of Logistics' and 'Pobblebonk' are always available for visitors during Library opening hours, even when the Museum is closed. These displays have attracted the interest of library patrons, including parents attending weekly Library Rhyme Time programs, and have sparked many interactions with first-time visitors, who have become interested in the Museum and have gone on to engage with our broader activities.

Our time at the Library has also enabled us to build valuable connections with Council staff, which we will continue building even after we return to Pipemakers Park. Collaborative programs with the Library are already underway, and we are excited about the potential for future partnerships.

Working within the constraints of our smaller venue, we have developed creative opportunities that repurpose areas of the library building, such as launching the 'Shelf' exhibition initiative in the Library foyer. This has successfully re-engaged our visual arts audiences and has generated interest from Library patrons and staff. We have also hosted smaller-scale events, including talks, workshops, and exhibition openings for targeted audiences, while programming events at Pipemakers Park where it is possible to stay connected with the park and host larger audiences.



Footscray City Secondary College students at an excursion to the Museum at Maribyrnong Library.

Museum Operations and Place (continued)

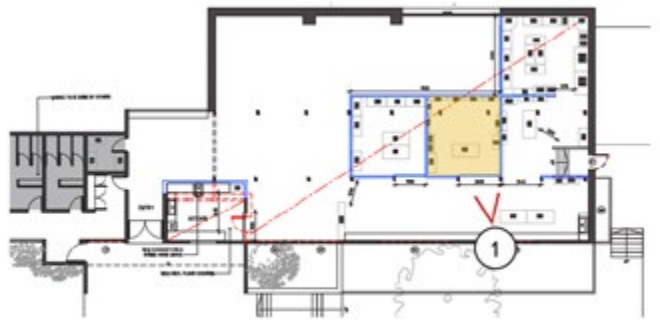
Update on Visitor Centre

Exciting updates to the Visitor Centre refurbishment are underway. Thanks to the successful acquisition of State Government Funding in 2022, the Museum has commissioned 'OFFICE', a not-for-profit multi-disciplinary design and research practice based in Melbourne, to consult on the design of the new Visitor Centre.

The proposed redesign promises a range of new features, including increased storage capacity for our growing collection, and a focus on accessibility, with widened entrances for wheelchair access and gender-neutral facilities. The redesign also emphasises enhanced community amenities, integrating kitchen and cafe areas to promote social interaction and support Museum programs and events. Additional adaptable exhibition spaces will provide greater flexibility and creativity for artistic programs, and thoughtfully designed zones for relaxation and study will offer quiet environments for visitors to explore the Museum's resources.



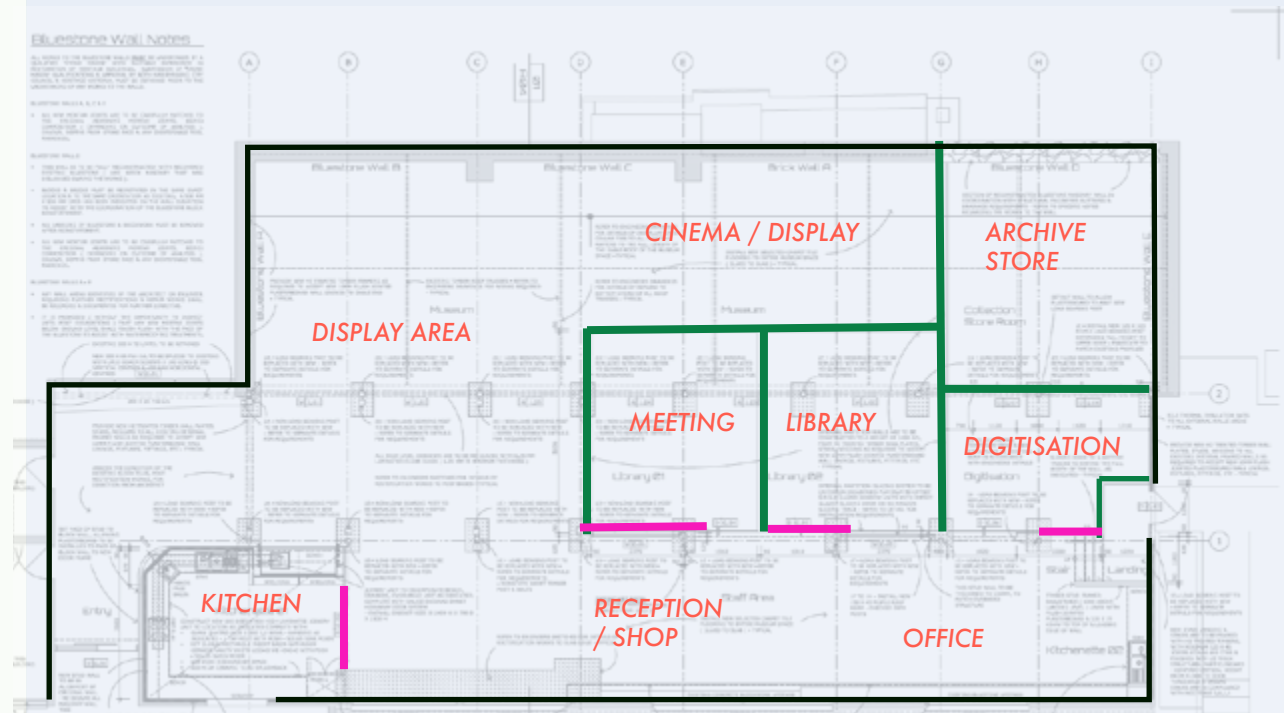
Bench seating workspace - laminate (2)



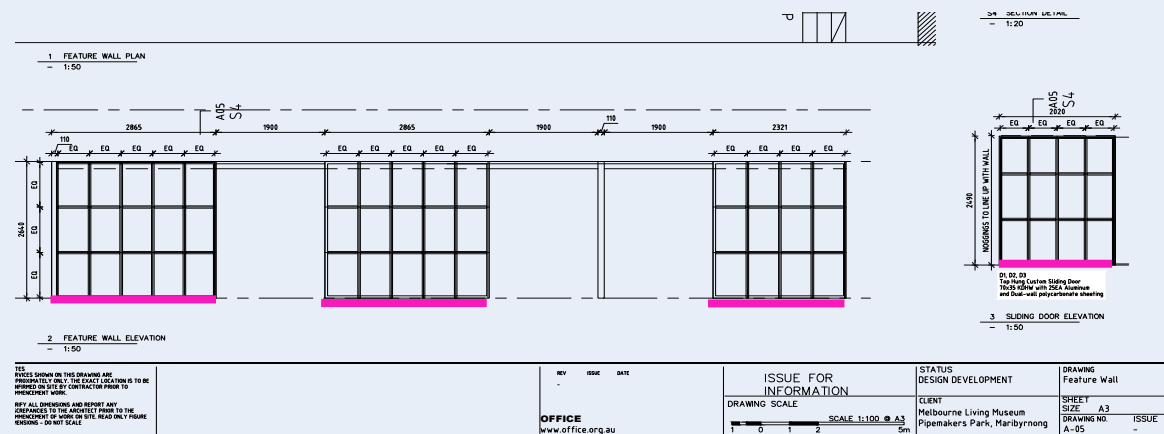
OFFICE

'OFFICE' visualisation of the new Museum library area featuring hardwood timber shelving, and partial screen walls.





NEW WALL LOCATIONS



Top left: The Museum currently has 300 + boxes and 200 + items in storage. The new Visitor Centre design features a dedicated storeroom for the Archive.

Plan drawing of the Museum Visitor Centre showing the location of new solid display walls (green), and with zones of operation identified (orange).

'OFFICE' design of hardwood timber sliding doors and dividing walls (pink).

Museum Operations and Place (continued)

Update on Visitor Centre (continued)



Cafe and display area (1)



'OFFICE' visualisations of display areas and reception / office area with timber screen walls.



Museum Operations and Place *(continued)*

Ongoing Connection to Park

We have sought to maintain our connection to Pipemakers Park while based at the Maribyrnong Library. Over the past year, we have successfully hosted several events at the park, including the ‘Dreamtime Cooking’ series, which attracted over 200 visitors.

This program has helped keep our presence at the park active and the community engaged. This ongoing connection allows us to continue interacting with audiences who recognise the park as the Museum’s true home, holding deep significance for the work that we do.

We are incredibly grateful for the dedicated efforts of the Friends of Maribyrnong Valley, as their commitment to caring for the park gardens weekly ensures that the park remains a welcoming space for all, even during our absence.

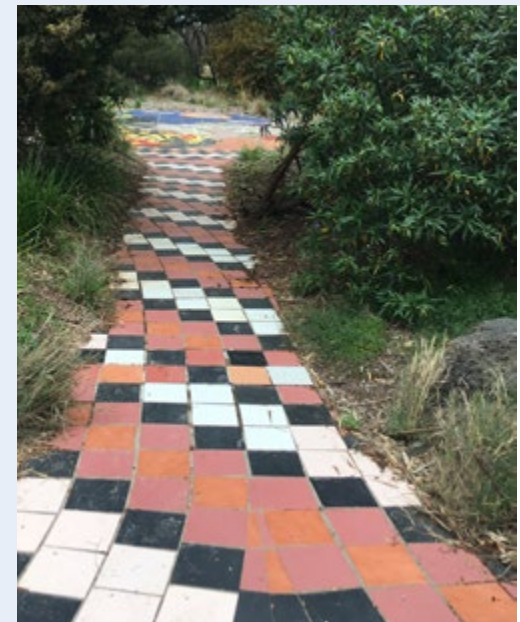
Vale Judy Ingram

The Museum acknowledges the passing of Judy Ingram, President of the Friends of Maribyrnong Valley for many years and a true champion of the environment. Judy will be greatly missed by many.

‘Dreamtime Cooking’ demonstrations and sharing of food, Pipemakers Park.

Local indigenous plants propagated by Iramoo at VU.





The Museum continues to present talks and tours of Pipemakers Park to schools, groups and researchers while based at the Maribyrnong Library.

Archive / Collections Management

Collections Management

Our collection is focused on representing the history and stories of Melbourne's west. It is regularly accessed by researchers, artists, government bodies and community members. Over the last year we have been working to make this process easier through improving digital access to our collection and resources ensuring that the material in our archive retains its condition so that these stories can be shared and understood into the future.

A primary focus of the year given our continued displacement from the Visitor Centre, has been improving the ability to access our collection for a wider community. This has involved recognising and improving the tools and investigating further options to make our collection and exhibitions accessible online.

Website

We have continued to use our website as a tool to highlight our collection, new exhibitions and outputs from events. Recent key exhibitions such as 'Logic of Logistics' have been added to our digital exhibitions page. The additional information from QR codes in this exhibition will soon be made available on our website. In providing digital access to key exhibitions such as 'Logic of Logistics', we can share the material with a wider audience, allowing us to make the broader public more aware of the important history of Melbourne's west.

We have also made available resources related to our popular 'Dreamtime Cooking' events, including Jake Simkin's videos and the recipes and menus provided by Sustainable. Methods such as this provide an interesting vehicle for engagement from the public who may not have attended the events in person.



Examples of audio cassette tapes from the Museum's collection of more than 800 oral history recordings.

Archive / Collections Management *(continued)*

eHive

We continue to use eHive to facilitate access to our collection. In the latter half of 2023, one of our volunteers worked through a large portion of our library to ensure entries of the books and other items in our collection were available on eHive. This ensures accurate, up to date information about what potential researchers, visitors and community members can access through our collection. We continue to explore the potential of integrating our collection with other online repositories to make it accessible to an even wider audience.

Safeguarding Our Collection

Recognising the risks to our collection from deterioration over time, we have focused our efforts on strategies to mitigate this risk. These measures include digitisation and ensuring those accessing the collection in person are doing so in a way that will not negatively impact the fabric of the items.

Proper handling of items from our collection helps us retain their condition, allowing them to be used into the future. Committee of Management member, Alex Flux, created a plain language document outlining the proper handling of different types of items that exist within our collection for use by volunteers, community members and researchers who may not be aware of the impacts of improper handling.

Digitisation

We have continued to digitise the most at risk items from our collection, including audio and video tapes, to ensure that the stories of the west can be accessed in the future. The process of digitisation has the added benefit of allowing remote access to the items by researchers or interested community members unable to visit the museum in person. Digitisation has largely been led by previous staff member and current volunteer Melanie Avent, who has shared her expert knowledge with others involved in the Museum.

The Living Museum of the West

SOUNDS & SITES



Scan QR to access
audio for the
Pioneer Women's Shelter

QR code to access 'Sounds and Sites' tour of Pipemakers Park.

Archive / Collections Management *(continued)*

Expanding Our Collection

The Living Museum of the West is committed to understanding the history and the culture present in the west, which is reflected in our collection. Notable additions to our collection this year have included those listed below.

Highlights

- In a recent Live Transmission series on RRR, presenter Jenny Davis explored the history of Melbourne's western suburbs, with a special focus on the area around the Maribyrnong River. This series featured contributions from the Living Museum of the West, where Jenny undertook a research residency and received support from Museum staff, who assisted with program content and associated research. In an episode aired on 7 January 2024, Museum President Kerrie Poliness was interviewed, offering valuable insights into the ecological history west of the Maribyrnong and the effects of European colonisation on the landscape. The episode can be heard [here](#).
- The Museum received a generous donation from Susanne Provis of material from the estate of Peter Love (books and labour history publications, undigitised cassette tapes of historian talks and various local events relating to Peter's role as President of the Melbourne Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History)
- We continued to extend our oral history collection. Committee of Management member, Alex Ettling, has been liaising with historian Ken Mansell, who is donating a collection of interviews and associated research material relating to the Westgate Bridge Disaster and an extensive oral history series recorded with historian and local Communist figure Jack Arrowsmith.



Live Transmission – 7 January 2024

11am Sun 7 Jan 2024



One of four radio programs in the series developed with researcher and radio presenter Jenny Davis.



Children at Clare Court Kindergarten engage with the Museum exhibition, 'Pobblebonk', which was on loan to the kindergaterten for three months and featured in its programs of environmental learning activities.

Cultural and Artistic Program

Throughout 2023-24, the Museum has worked in collaboration with a wide range of local organisations, researchers, creatives, community partners, and local community to develop an engaging program of events, workshops, art programs and talks that have reached over 1,500 people.

Operating from our temporary base at Maribyrnong Library, the Museum has focused on increasing in-person engagement at the Library while maintaining connections to Pipemakers Park whenever possible.

Highlights 2023-24:

'Shelf' Exhibition Program

A new exhibition opportunity at Maribyrnong Library

'Dreamtime Cooking'

A First Nations led cooking demonstration series held at Pipemakers Park. 'Dreamtime Cooking' focused on connecting multicultural communities with First Nations ingredients and cooking practices.

'Logic of Logistics'

Exhibition completed and hosted at Maribyrnong Library

Earth God Series, Day One, 'Volcanic Story'

The first in a series of educational events focused on educating multicultural audiences on Indigenous plants and animals through creative presentations and performances, held at Quang Minh Temple

Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

'Shelf' exhibitions 2023-24

A new initiative launched in 2023 is the Museum's 'Shelf' exhibition program at Maribyrnong Library. 'Shelf' is a small-scale gallery space located within the circular window of the Museum's office, overlooking the Library foyer. Since 2023, the Museum has collaborated with local emerging and established artists to present a program of contemporary artworks, engaging both Museum and Library visitors.

November 2023 to February 2024, Raafat Ishak 'West Is Best'

The inaugural exhibition at 'Shelf' featured a print titled 'West Is Best' by Raafat Ishak, which coincided with Ishak's major solo exhibition at Heide 'Eye Looking at Large Glass Broken' <https://www.heide.com.au/exhibitions/raafat-ishak/>

In 2018 Raafat Ishak was a member of the Museum's Art and Culture subcommittee and helped develop student residencies at the Museum in partnership with VCA, University of Melbourne. The print 'West Is Best' was produced by Ishak for the Museum exhibition 'Groundwork' curated by Matthew Davis and was donated to the Museum Collection in 2018.



Raafat Ishak, 'West Is Best' on display at 'Shelf' which is visible from the library foyer during the Library opening hours, Monday to Saturday.

Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

'Shelf' exhibitions 2023-24 (continued):

March 2024 to June 2024

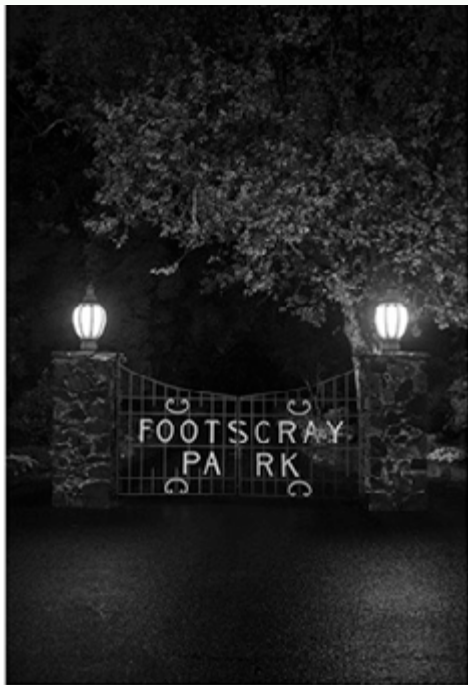
Anna Kiparis

'Suburbanology'

'Suburbanology' is a photographic triptych created for the City of Maribyrnong and Victoria University as part of the 2019 'One Night in Footscray' festival. It is a short visual story of one of Melbourne's most culturally eclectic suburbs, through representation of its night aura.

"Footscray is a distinctive suburb where any ethnicity and religious background is a welcomed focus of a person's story, which ultimately enriches the local community as a whole, highlighting the alluring atmosphere of the area whilst promoting how it continues to allow its residents to create a life within its locality."

Anna Kiparis



Anna Kiparis photographic triptych,
'Suburbanology', 2021.

Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

'Shelf' exhibitions 2023-24 (continued):

June 2024 to September 2024

Matthew Davis

'Skeins'

Originally developed for 'The Image is not Nothing (Concrete Archives)' project curated by Lisa Radford and Yhonnie Scarce in 2018, this iteration of 'Skeins' is an edition of postcards with QR codes linking to audio recordings of interviews with long-time Living Museum associates, Peter Haffenden and Kerrie Poliness.

These interviews contextualise the development of the arms and weapons industries in Melbourne's Western Region and provide a history of the Living Museum and a discussion of the Museum's unique inclusive and participatory approaches to documenting and preserving the histories of Melbourne's west.



Scan this QR code to access the audio component of Matthew's artwork 'Skeins'.





Dreamtime Cooking demonstrations and sharing of food, Pipemakers Park, December 2023.

The demonstrations were led by First Nations Chef, Stephen Thorpe (pictured right) from Sustainative, The program was managed by the Museum and TSWN.



Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

‘Dreamtime Cooking’

The Museum’s ‘Dreamtime Cooking’ program, held during the summer of 2023-24, was a significant success, engaging diverse communities across the western suburbs in Indigenous food and culture. Funded by Maribyrnong City Council’s Place-Based Initiatives Grant, the series consisted of three outdoor cooking events at Pipemakers Park, delivered in partnership with The Silent Witness Network (TSWN) and Sustainative, an Indigenous enterprise focused on sustainable development.

Led by First Nations Chef Stephen Thorpe and co-coordinated by the Living Museum and TSWN, the program provided participants with hands-on experience in using local Indigenous plants and herbs. Participants engaged in learning sessions on-site at Pipemakers Park, where they prepared and shared meals and gained insight into sustainable cooking practices.

‘Dreamtime Cooking’ unfolded over three sessions: the first, in December 2023, introduced participants to making homemade bread and vegetable stew. The second event in February 2024 featured fish and vegetable dishes, while the final session in March focused on the preparation of kangaroo and emu. The recipes from these events were provided to participants and subsequently published on the Museum’s website, extending their reach.

Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

'Dreamtime Cooking' (continued)

The 'Dreamtime Cooking' program marked an exciting opportunity for the Museum to explore creative strategies for sustainable practices to be implemented into our operations and events, centering collaboration with First Nations and multicultural communities. This initiative has helped to shape future programming, in which we aim to evolve our approaches to public engagement with First Nations culture and history at Pipemakers Park. Plans are underway to establish this as an annual recurring program, reinforcing the Museum's role as a site of cultural exchange and learning.



Left, the Mayor of Maribyrnong City Council, Cr. Cuc Lam opened the 'Dreamtime Cooking' second event 'Fish and Vegetables' in February 2024.

Top left and right, participants at the first event, 'Bread and Vegetable Stew' in December 2023.

Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

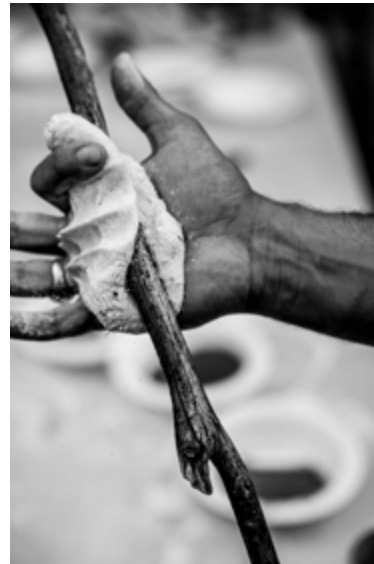
'Dreamtime Cooking' (continued)



Event 1 - 'Bread and Vegetable Stew'



The 'Dreamtime Cooking' program was supported by the late Cr. Sarah Carter.



Dreamtime Cooking - workshop event December 16, 2023 by Melbourne's Living Museum of the West

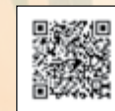
Vegan Stew, Warrigal Greens & Mountain Pepper

...recipe by Stephen Thorpe & Sustainable

Ingredients

- 1tbs mustard seeds
- 1tbs cumin seeds
- 1tbs turmeric
- 5 potatoes
- 5 carrots
- 5 fresh tomatoes (small dice)
- 2 handfuls of blanched warrigal greens [preparation wash & remove hard stems]
- 1tbs grated ginger
- 2tbs sunflower oil
- 400g yellow split peas (soaked overnight or 12hr)
- Mountain pepper, black pepper and salt to taste

Wash yellow split peas -
<https://youtu.be/zRI2IEUsxw>



Method

1. Boil your soaked lentils then strain (25mins or when soft)
2. In a 5ltr pot heat the oil to a medium heat, and fry cumin and mustard seeds until they start popping.
3. Turn heat down to low, add ginger and turmeric and fry for 15 seconds
4. Add tomatoes and turn heat up to high and cook mix for 2 to 3 minutes. (tomatoes should be breaking up and incorporating well with spices)
5. Add the lentils, potatoes, carrots and enough water to cover by about 3cm.
6. Bring to the boil then turn down to a simmer with lid on
7. Turn off when the vegetables are al dente, then add blanched warrigal greens and stir through.
8. Serve with rice and/or bread (try our homemade native spiced bread recipe)
9. (for those who like to enrichen the flavour you can add a heaped tbs of Ghee - no longer vegan)



This project is supported through the Maribyrnong City Council Community Grants Program





'Dreamtime Cooking' demonstrations and sharing of food in February 2024 focussed on the preparation and cooking of Fish. Recipes from the events by Sustainative are posted on the Museum's website.



Event 2 - 'Fish and Vegetables'



Dreamtime Cooking - workshop event February 3, 2024 by Melbourne's Living Museum of the West

Barramundi & Cabbage Tacos

... recipe by Stephen Thorpe & Sustainative

INGREDIENTS

Fish: 3.5-4 kgs barramundi (seasoned with mountain pepper, salt, bush and salt)

Salsa Sauces: "Guacamole" (avocado, tomatoes, lemon/lime juice, mountain pepper, salt) & "Spicy Vegan Mayo Salsa" (sriracha, tomatoes, mountain pepper, naked Byron mayo, lime juice & zest)

Veggies: mushroom and capsicum (cooked/roasted with fish), and blanched bower spinach

Salad: lettuce, cucumber, river mint, mint, **Rice:** cooked with turmeric (optional), **Beans:** cooked (boiled) & seasoned with fennel seeds (ensure beans soaked in water for 6-8 hrs before boiling)

METHOD

1. **Salad:** 750g cucumber 1cm dice, 500g lettuce finely shredded, add fresh/dry river mint, lime juice and salt
2. **Salsa Sauce:** 750g roma tomatoes 1cm dice, 14 avocados 1cm dice, 3-6 lemon juice, 11bs olive oil, season with salt and mountain pepper
3. **Salsa Sauce (vegy):** 500g roma tomatoes 1cm dice, 1ltr of vegan Naked Byron mayonnaise, 500ml sriracha sauce, 2kg limes (juiced and zested), 11bs Mountain pepper, Himalayan salt
4. Combine your lemon juice, olive oil, salt and pepper in a large bowl
5. Mix the rest of your salsa ingredients in the bowl and incorporate gently but well
6. Mix all of your sauce ingredients together and mix well
7. Bring large frying pan to medium/high heat, add oil and seasoned barramundi skin side down. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes depending on thickness of fish. Add veggies (not blanched bower spinach) and cook with the fish.
8. Turn over and cook for another 3 to 4 minutes. Checking that the flesh in the middle of the fish is no longer translucent. Se
9. Assembling and your cabbage leaf tacos. On your cabbage leaf, put your salsa down, then rice (optional), veggies/salad, then slices of your barramundi or beans (for vegans) and finish with some garnish of coriander.
10. Roll up or fold the cabbage leaf gently and enjoy.

4	4 th layer	Beans & or fish
3	3 rd layer	Veggies & or salad
2	2 nd layer (optional)	Turmeric rice
1	1 st layer	Salsa
1	Base	Cabbage leaf (quarter)

Melbourne's Living Museum
Of the West Inc.

This project is supported through the Maribyrnong City Council Community Grants Program



Event 3 - 'Kangaroo and Emu and Salad'

'Dreamtime Cooking' demonstrations and sharing of food in March 2024 focussed on the preparation and cooking of emu and kangaroo. Recipes from the events by Sustainable are posted on the Museum's website.



Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

'Logic of Logistics' - Exhibition completed

'The Logic of Logistics - story of munitions'

The exhibition was designed and produced by Peter Haffenden, who passed away in October 2022. The 'Logic of Logistics' working group completed the text and final layout of images ready for printing in December 2023. The working group included Andy Calvert, Jennifer Kelynack, Joan Spiller and Kerrie Poliness. Melanie Avent helped produce the associated website which includes additional information and is linked to the exhibition panels via QR codes.

This exhibition draws on the Museum collection and broader research. Using principles of Ecomuseology, it tells the story of how Australia became a nation capable of defending itself independently, and of the people behind that story such as the scientists and the workers, including many women, who established a thriving, innovative and independent manufacturing industry capable of supplying the products required to sustain defence, and to deter major military disputes.

This story is important because, although the many battles of both World Wars have been described often and vividly, there was no description of what happened behind the scenes, or how manufacturing systems and processes were developed to supply and enable military campaigns. The two World Wars required an incremental, rapid growth in the size and quality of Australia's munitions industry, including the development of systems capable of producing 'ordnance'. This exhibition tells the story of how this was achieved through the intervention and influence of individuals; through the vision, determination and skill of the people who planned the processes and designed the products.

<https://livingmuseum.org.au/logic-of-logistics-intro/>



Above, guests at the launch of 'Logic of Logistics' at Maribyrnong Library. Below, the exhibition panels installed at Maribyrnong Library.

Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

'Logic of Logistics' - Launch event

Exhibition launch – 16 May 2024 and exhibition at Highpoint Library (continuing)

The exhibition was launched on 16 May 2024 at Maribyrnong Library by the Mayor of the City of Maribyrnong, Cuc Lam. Speakers included The Hon. Judy Maddigan (former Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly), Andy Calvert (exhibition co-author and former munitions factory worker, and caretaker of Jack's Magazine), Jennifer Kelynack (exhibition designer) and Kerrie Poliness.

The exhibition has been on display at Maribyrnong Library since May 2024, and was displayed at Jack's Magazine during Open House Melbourne on the weekend of 27-28 July in 2024, engaging over 900 visitors. The exhibition has generated significant interest from the community, and a review by Elizabeth Minter was featured in The Westsider in June 2024.



'Logic of Logistics' exhibition launch at Maribyrnong Library. Clockwise from top, Kerrie Poliness, Jennifer Kelynack and Andy Calvert. Photos by Avni Dauti.



Cultural and Artistic Program *(continued)*

Education programs

In addition to 'Logic of Logistics', the Museum exhibition 'Pobblebonk', exploring the biodiversity of the Maribyrnong River estuary, has also played a key role in the Museum's educational initiatives.

Footscray City College Workshop at Library

'Pobblebonk' was on display in the large meeting room at the Library Thursdays and Fridays throughout 2023 -2024 engaging visitors and enabling various workshops.

'Pobblebonk' to Clare Court Kindergarten 2023

Late in 2023, 'Pobblebonk' toured to Claire Court Kindergarten in Yarraville for a three-month residency, where it was incredibly well-received by children, families and staff.



*Excursion to the Museum at Maribyrnong Library
by Footscray City Secondary College. Photos, Chas Manning.*

Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

Education programs (continued)

"I was just writing to tell you how incredibly well received your Pobblebonk artwork had been by the children, families and staff at Clare Court. There continues to be amazing discussions, observations and explorations of the work each day as new noticings and connections arise.

Thank you again for entrusting us with the work. It is being beautifully cared for with the children being respectful and abiding by our 'look don't touch' rule :)"

"This month the entrance of Clare Court Children's Centre has been transformed into a haven of biodiversity thanks to an amazing panoramic artwork on loan from our friends at @livingmuseumwest.

'Pobblebonk' is a 10 panel, digitally constructed work created by photographers, scientists, researchers and elders from the Wurundjeri and Boonwurrung tribes working with the team from the Living Museum of the West.

Taking its name from one of the local frog species the children hear along the creek at this time of year, 'Pobblebonk' presents a stunning representation of the abundant diversity of habitats, animals, plant species and even microbes, that make up the ecosystem of the Maribyrnong River.

The richly detailed artwork features elements of photography and microscopy and provides a wonderful provocation for children to think about, connect to and understand the interconnected relationship that exists between all living things (including ourselves), ensuring our ecological systems can be better understood, appreciated and cared for.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of the Living Museum of the West for entrusting us to care for this work as we continue to support children's ongoing investigations into biodiversity."

Clare Court Kindergarten Staff



Images of 'Pobblebonk' at Clare Court Kindergarten, Testimonial by Clare Court staff.

Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

Outreach and Community Engagement

Over the past year, the Museum has expanded its educational outreach, engaging with diverse communities by hosting and participating in workshops and programs at organisations throughout the western suburbs. These initiatives have been valuable while we are based at Maribyrnong Library, extending our capacity to support connections and discussions around important cultural and social issues.

YES Referendum campaign

The Museum actively supported the YES referendum, collaborating with The Silent Witness Network (TSWN) and Quang Minh Temple to host events aimed at raising awareness and facilitating informed dialogue.

Quang Minh Temple – Signage Launch

On 12 October 2023, the Museum supported an initiative by Quang Minh Temple, which designed a large sign promoting the alignment of Buddhist teachings with Indigenous cultural knowledge and land ownership. Funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea, this initiative included the creation of a small Indigenous garden, curated in collaboration with Victoria University's Iramoo Grassland Centre and Nursery. The event also featured the display of the 'Volcano Dreaming' exhibition, a performance by local Dragon Dancers, and music by Xu Hi and Dieu Trang.

Speakers at this event included representatives from the Government of the Republic of Korea, Kyuchul Choi, Auntie Colleen Marion, Daniel Mullino MP, Katie Hall MLA, Cr Cuc Lam, the Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan OAM, and Kerrie Poliness of the Living Museum.



Top: The new signage at the Quang Minh Temple in Braybrook sponsored by the Korean Government. Below: Delegates and guest speakers.

Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

Earth God Series: Volcanic Story at Quang Minh Temple

In February 2024, the Museum participated in another significant event at Quang Minh Temple in partnership with Iramoo Grassland Centre & Nursery. Titled 'Earth God Series: Volcanic Story', this full-day program was the first in a new educational program series. Designed for both adults and children, this program offered education on the history of the western volcanic plains, Indigenous plants and animals and the impacts of colonisation, and the importance of preserving the natural environment. Attendees were gifted Indigenous plants and provided with guidance on how to incorporate them into their home gardens.

The program's audience enjoyed a vegetarian lunch prepared by the temple while listening to educational talks by Kerrie Poliness and Dr. Megan O'Shea of Iramoo Grassland Centre & Nursery, who discussed the ecological significance of the west.



The Abbott of the Quang Minh Temple, the Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan OAM (left) translated talks by Dr Megan O'Shea (centre) and Kerrie Poliness into Vietnamese to more than 300 attendees.

Photos by Avni Dauti.

Cultural and Artistic Program (continued)

'Earth God Series: Volcanic Story' at Quang Minh Temple



Attendees, The 'Earth God Series - Day 1, Volcanic Story'.

Photos by Avni Dauti.

Research and Research Services

Behind the scenes, a lot of effort goes into making sure the Museum remains open, welcoming, committed to the care of its collection, and responsive to the community it serves. Throughout 2023-24, the Museum has created many new and diverse opportunities for research related to our collection and the west, including artist residencies, supporting public enquiries, and assistance to local businesses and organisations. In addition, the Museum has played an important role in supporting research critical to environmental advocacy and the conservation of vulnerable heritage assets within the community.

Research & Residency Projects:

Artist-in-Residence, Jacqui Gordon

This year the Museum welcomed artist-in-residence Jacqui Gordon. Jacqui is a socially engaged artist and community worker based on Boonwurrung and Woiwurrung lands. Using a combination of performance, sculpture, text and video, her arts practice explores stories of labour through the lens of gender and the working class of the western suburbs.

During her residency at the Museum, Jacqui explored the history of the Cheetham wetlands and, in particular, “salt” as a medium to examine various themes, including trade, landscape, preservation, and erosion. Her research has delved into the salted histories that have included Australian culture and nationalism, with resulting work aiming to engage audiences through making and cooking techniques that employ salt as a common thread.

Artist-in-residence, Jacqui Gordon.



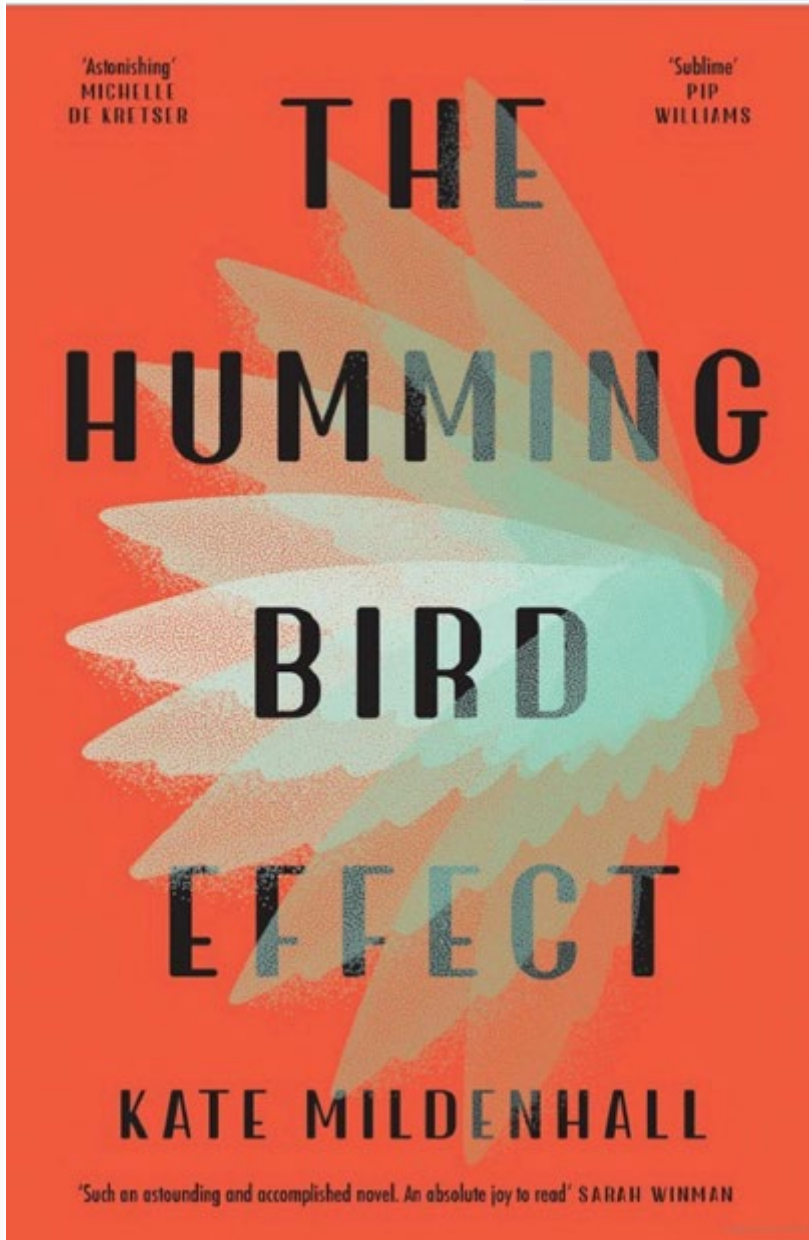
Research and Research Services (continued)

'The Hummingbird Effect' - Kate Mildenhall

Author Kate Mildenhall received support and resources from the Museum when researching the history of Angliss Meatworks, which culminated in the publication of 'The Hummingbird Effect'. The book, which explores the rich industrial heritage of Melbourne's west, was launched on October 28, 2023, at the Sun Bookshop in Yarraville.

"Kate Mildenhall is an author, writing teacher and podcaster. Her debut novel 'Skylarking' was longlisted for Debut Fiction in the 2017 Indie Book Awards and the 2017 Voss Literary Prize. Her second novel, 'The Mother Fault', was longlisted for the 2021 ABIA General Fiction Book of the Year and shortlisted for the 2021 Aurealis Science Fiction Novel of the Year. Her latest novel is 'The Hummingbird Effect', shortlisted for the 2024 ABIA Literary Fiction Book of the Year and longlisted for the 2024 Stella Prize and the 2024 Indie Book Awards for Fiction."

(Simon and Schuster Publishing)



Cover of the book, *The Hummingbird Effect*, by Kate Mildenhall.

Research and Research Services (continued)

Preservation and Interpretation

Environmental Advocacy - Saving remnant trees

Over the past two years, Lloyd O'Hanlon, a horticulturalist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, has led a significant effort to restore the threatened population of remnant White Cypress Pine Trees (*Callitris Glaucophylla*) in the Maribyrnong Valley and surrounding areas. The last of these remnant pre-European cypress trees on the Department of Defence site at Cordite Avenue, Maribyrnong, previously lacked formal protection.

The Museum actively supported Lloyd's research by providing access to information and data from its collection, and collaborating with him on this important conservation work. With the Museum's assistance, Lloyd successfully advocated for the Department of Defence to support this effort, engaging dendrochronologists from the University of Melbourne and carbon dating experts from UNSW to accurately date the trees and gain a better understanding of their genetics.

As a result of these efforts, offspring trees have been planted in various locations to honour the memory of the late Peter Haffenden. The final sapling will be planted at the Museum's home in Pipemakers Park, a tribute to Peter's love of the region.

This initiative has also led to the Museum's participation in a carbon dating tour of the Defence site, supported by the local Federal MP for Fraser, Daniel Mullino. Led by the Department of Defence, this tour offered insights into the age and significance of the trees, which have now been added to the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees.

The Museum also provided research and assistance to the Inner West Branch of the National Trust for an article published in *The National Trust News*, focusing on the significance of local heritage trees.



Lloyd O'Hanlon and a team from the Royal Botanical Gardens collecting seed and taking core samples for carbon dating from remnant pre-European Cypress trees at the ADI site in Maribyrnong.



Research and Research Services *(continued)*

Pipemakers Park - Top Factory

The Museum has actively participated in local research and advocacy as members of the Maribyrnong Heritage Advisory Committee. Through our involvement with the Committee, the Museum has played a role in facilitating discussions and advocacy efforts to ensure the development of a Conservation Management Plan for Pipemakers Park ahead of the creation of a broader Master Plan for the area. Museum staff have also contributed essential feedback on Maribyrnong City Council's proposed heritage strategy.

In 2023, Museum President Kerrie Poliness and Museum associate Olwen Ford were engaged by Maribyrnong Council to identify significant objects at the Top Factory site in Pipemakers Park. Working alongside heritage consultant Gary Vines, they provided comprehensive feedback to Council, who also commissioned an independent heritage assessment of the entire factory. Kerrie, Olwen and Gary were instrumental in reviewing this report, leading to discussions on the need for proper conservation and preservation measures. The Museum's efforts have highlighted the site's international significance and the importance of safeguarding the Park's industrial heritage for future generations.

Pipemakers Park - Exeloo Public Art Commission

The Museum has continued its role as a vital cultural and artistic resource, providing research and curatorial support for a new public art initiative led by Maribyrnong Council. This project, currently in development, aims to install artwork wraps on Exeloo toilet blocks in Pipemakers Park. The Museum's involvement includes administrative and curatorial support, contributing to its mission of supporting artistic intervention that enhances the appeal and heritage of Pipemakers Park.



Clockwise from top left; Olwen Ford and the Museum team during a site visit with Council explain the historic significance of the Top Factory; 'the Tattslotto Club' and 'Caution' remnant hand-made signage at the factory made by Hume Pipeworkers.

Research and Research Services (continued)

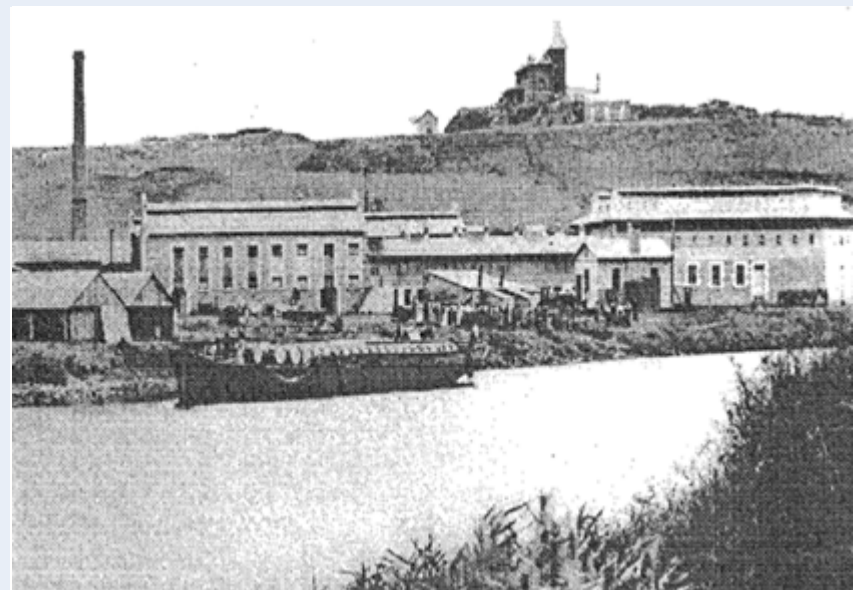
Footscray Advertiser Digitisation

The Maribyrnong City Council has initiated the digitisation of early editions of the Footscray Advertiser (1884-1912), adding 28 years of content to the National Library's Trove collection. Over the past year, Pamela Mulready, then member of the Museum's Committee of Management, has been instrumental in advocating for this initiative, facilitating collaboration between key institutions.

The Museum has also supported the ongoing digitisation of the Footscray Advertiser, an effort that will eventually make the historic newspaper accessible online, preserving a vital record of Footscray's social, political, and cultural history.



Above: Microfiche and paper-based copies of the Footscray Advertiser at Maribyrnong City Library. Images courtesy Pamela Mulready.
Right: The historic bluestone buildings in Pipemakers Park c 1870 when they were used by Raleigh's Meatworks. Joseph Raleigh's 'castle-style' homestead can be seen on the hill above the factory site.





Marketing Report

Marketing and Outreach

This year, we expanded our social media efforts to reach a broader audience. By regularly updating Instagram Stories with event, exhibition, and public program highlights, we have successfully increased engagement and visibility. We have also focused on developing an engaging and creative online presence, using Instagram to share updates on exhibition programming at the Library and to showcase key pieces from the Museum's collection.

Instagram and our website have proven effective in promoting events and facilitating bookings through direct links. Moving forward, we plan to continue developing our presence of social media, particularly for sharing event information and driving more traffic to both our website and in-person events.

Additionally, the Museum has managed to extend its local and regional reach through media appearances, including a feature of the exhibition 'Logic of Logistics' in The Westsider, and on 3RRR, connecting us with wider, more diverse audiences.

Although our move to the Library has meant fewer interactions with our regular Park visitors, targeted outreach efforts have been valuable in maintaining connections with key groups, including school workshops and small-scale events. This personalised approach has strengthened our relationships with these audiences and supported their continued engagement with the Museum.

Top: An example of images from the Museum's collection of Munitions workers. Below: Instagram post advertising the 'Dreamtime Cooking' events.



Marketing Report (continued)



Offline Publicity

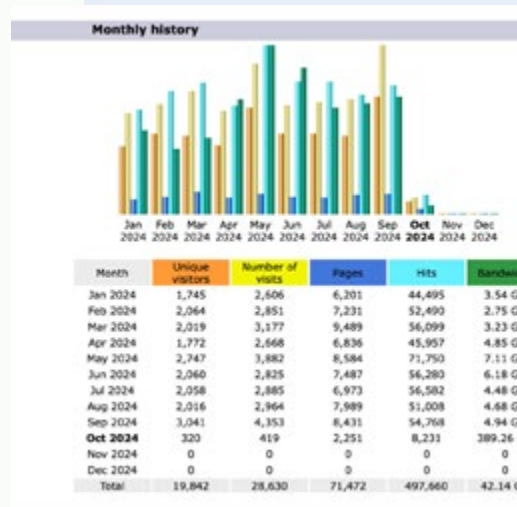
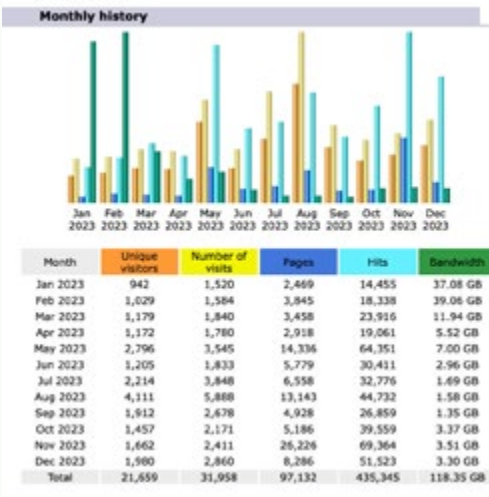
Through our partnership with Maribyrnong Library, we have gained valuable advertising space within the Library's foyer. This has allowed us to prominently display Museum posters and banners promoting our program and exhibitions. Our Museum exhibitions are also now viewable in the Library's large community room outside Museum hours, further extending our reach.

To enhance our visibility, our team has distributed posters and flyers throughout the Library, Museum offices and other key locations to promote our public programs. These materials feature QR codes that direct users to relevant web pages, providing an accessible link to the Museum's programs. This physical promotional material has been valuable in helping us to reach audiences who may not engage online, or may not have internet access.

Website

In 2023-24, we focused on enhancing our website's relevance and usability, particularly by improving filter options on the 'What's On' page. These improvements allow audiences to find information more efficiently. We will continue to optimise the website for speed and relevance while developing dedicated sections for public programs and events, and ensuring easy access to our collection and resources. As part of this development, we are also in the process of refining content related to Museum residencies and volunteer opportunities, making it easier for people to get involved.

Top: Instagram post by the Museum. Below: The Museum's website visitation statistics 2023-2024.



Marketing Report (continued)

Newsletter

As the first activity in a comprehensive review of all the contacts on our database, we returned to creating a newsletter, in a new look format. We sent out the first issue in June 2024, with the second to follow at the end of 2024. The response was terrific, with a good email opening rate and some great feedback from subscribers.



Top: The Museum produced its first newsletter in many years, in June 2024. Right: Liz Minter wrote an article about the exhibition 'Logic of Logistics' and the work of Peter Haffenden for 'The Westsider'.

Finance Report

Finance Committee Report 2023-2024

In August 2023 the Museum engaged accountancy firm, 'By The Numbers', to provide ongoing advice and assistance with bookkeeping, Xero software, lodgement of Business Activity Statements, and payment of Superannuation for Museum staff.

The independent accounting firm, Lowensteins Arts Management, has prepared the Museum's Finance Report for 2023-2024 (see pages 53-58).

The aggregate annual operating result for the Museum for 2023/2024 was a net operating surplus of \$3,403 with Income of \$75,045, and Expenditure of \$71,642.

In March 2024, the Museum invested \$40,000 of reserve funds in a term deposit account with Bendigo Bank. Although at the end of the financial year the interest had not been reviewed, the investment accrued \$743.17 interest in the first 6 months which was reinvested with the principal amount of \$40,000 for a second six-month period in September 2024.

The Museum completed the FY with \$178K in Assets, offset by grants yet to be expended totalling \$95K. The unexpended grants are for completion of the refurbishment and upgrade of the Visitor Centre at Pipemakers Park.

Grants received during the reporting period total \$61,500. These funds include a \$40,000 (+gst) core operational grant from Maribyrnong City Council.

At the date of the AGM, Cash Assets are sufficient to cover all known liabilities.



Top, audience, including delegates from the Korean Government and below guest speakers at the launch of new signage in support of the 'Yes' Referendum campaign at the Quang Minh Temple in Braybrook.



View of Melbourne's skyline from above Jacks Magazine in the 'Edgewater Estate' in Maribyrnong.

Finance Committee Report 2023-2024 (continued)

Triennial Funding

We were successful in our application to the City of Maribyrnong for a second term of Triennial Arts funding and received an increase in our base operational grant from \$12,000 to \$40,000. We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing stability that this funding provides.

Core funding helps the Museum to continue to employ staff to maintain consistent opening hours, increase engagement, provide people with adequate research services and develop better systems for our archive and office space. The increase to core funding has enabled us to create, recruit and employ two new roles – an Operations Co-ordinator and a Capacity Building Lead. These two roles work together to deliver the Strategic Plan, coordinate the volunteer program and raise additional funds for core operations and projects. Our objective is to increase paid staff hours to achieve the Museum's mission.

Fundraising – Government, Philanthropy and Private Giving

Beginning with our existing Strategic Plan, we have created a funding schedule of grant applications to be submitted. We have been working hard on designing projects that can meet our strategic intentions while connecting the Museum with community and reaching new audiences. In conjunction with our planned 40th birthday celebration and return to a newly refurbished Visitor Centre in 2025, we are initiating a Private Giving program.

2023-2024 Finance Report

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2024

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380

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2023-2024 Finance Report (continued)

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380

**PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
INCOME			
Project Income	2	12,860.91	25,965.36
Grants Received	3	61,500.00	41,616.00
Memberships		-	288.40
		<u>74,360.91</u>	<u>67,869.76</u>
OTHER INCOME			
Donations Received	4	500.00	3,950.00
Interest Received	5	16.54	16.68
Gross profit from trading		167.17	95.68
		<u>683.71</u>	<u>4,062.36</u>
		<u>75,044.62</u>	<u>71,932.12</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation
report of LOWENSTEINS ARTS MANAGEMENT PTY LTD.
Page 1

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380

**PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
EXPENSES			
Accountancy Fees		1,750.00	1,200.00
Administration Costs	6	160.00	-
Bank Charges		42.40	10.40
Bookkeeping Fees		2,040.00	-
Cleaning		-	77.28
Committee Expenses		173.66	-
Contractors		6,267.28	-
Conference Fees		-	263.64
Depreciation		1,811.80	3,125.30
Domain & Website		863.39	102.72
Insurance		3,585.50	3,241.32
Interest Paid	7	357.32	-
Light & Power		4,618.94	2,071.71
Printing & Stationery		1,112.39	1,953.52
Project Expenses		27,690.90	31,871.25
Recruitment Expenses		247.50	-
Repairs & Maintenance		418.18	42.73
Security Costs		-	543.94
Staff Amenities		1,103.57	2,129.98
Subscriptions		1,975.45	957.20
Superannuation Contributions	8	1,768.43	3,585.97
Telephone & Internet		1,650.89	1,505.05
Travelling Expenses - Domestic		13.64	96.57
Wages		13,677.08	34,151.90
WorkCover		313.50	227.00
		<u>71,641.82</u>	<u>87,157.48</u>
Surplus (Deficit) before income tax		<u>3,402.80</u>	<u>(15,225.36)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation
report of LOWENSTEINS ARTS MANAGEMENT PTY LTD.
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2023-2024 Finance Report (continued)

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Surplus (Deficit)		3,402.80	(15,225.36)
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		175,006.35	190,231.71
Total available for appropriation		178,409.15	175,006.35
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year		178,409.15	175,006.35

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation
report of LOWENSTEINS ARTS MANAGEMENT PTY LTD.
Page 3

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
SHARE CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Retained earnings		178,409.15	175,006.35
TOTAL SHARE CAPITAL AND RESERVES		178,409.15	175,006.35
Represented by:			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Petty Cash		200.00	200.00
NAB 01848-5325		1,117.18	7,353.48
Bendigo Bank 13844-5655		128,563.23	194,760.27
Bendigo Bank 19621-9610		402.93	123.03
Bendigo Bank 21449-4924		40,000.00	-
Sundry Debtors		298.70	149.35
Trade Debtors		1,026.50	1,026.50
Inventory-Historical at WDV		81,000.00	81,000.00
Inventory-Publications		1,200.00	1,200.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		253,828.54	285,812.63
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Fixed Assets			
Plant & Equipment		23,100.74	21,288.94
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(5,600.74)	(3,788.94)
		17,500.00	17,500.00
Website		5,090.91	-
Total Fixed Assets		22,590.91	17,500.00
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		22,590.91	17,500.00
TOTAL ASSETS		276,419.45	303,312.63
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Superannuation Payable		92.46	3,585.97
PAYG Withholding	9	144.00	-
BAS Payable (Refundable)	10	2,634.75	8,720.31
Unexpended Grants/ Project Funding	11	95,139.09	116,000.00
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		98,010.30	128,306.28
TOTAL LIABILITIES		98,010.30	128,306.28
NET ASSETS		178,409.15	175,006.35

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation
report of LOWENSTEINS ARTS MANAGEMENT PTY LTD.
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2023-2024 Finance Report (continued)

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	\$	\$
1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies		
<p>This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared for use by Committee of Management and members of the Association. The Committee of Management have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.</p> <p>The financial report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.</p>		
2 Project Income		
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions	12,860.91	8,000.00
Other Fundings	-	17,965.36
	<u>12,860.91</u>	<u>25,965.36</u>
3 Grants Received		
Council - Triennial Art Partner Funding	40,000.00	41,616.00
Maribyrnong	21,500.00	-
	<u>61,500.00</u>	<u>41,616.00</u>
4 Donations Received		
Donations Received	500.00	-
Donations - Peter Haffenden's Projects	-	3,950.00
	<u>500.00</u>	<u>3,950.00</u>
5 Interest Received		
Bank	16.54	16.68
	<u>16.54</u>	<u>16.68</u>
6 Administration Costs		
Administration Costs - ATO SGC	160.00	-
	<u>160.00</u>	<u>-</u>
7 Interest Paid		
ATO	45.96	-
Nominal Interest - ATO SGC	311.36	-
	<u>357.32</u>	<u>-</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation
report of LOWENSTEINS ARTS MANAGEMENT PTY LTD.
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MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	\$	\$
8 Superannuation Contributions		
Superannuation Contributions - Contractors	264.00	-
Superannuation Contributions - Employees	1,504.43	3,585.97
	<u>1,768.43</u>	<u>3,585.97</u>
9 PAYG Withholding		
Quarter Ended - Jun PAYG Withholding	144.00	-
	<u>144.00</u>	<u>-</u>
10 BAS Payable (Refundable)		
Quarter Ended - Jun GST Payable (Refundable)	3,144.00	3,390.00
GST on Debtors and Creditors	93.32	106.89
GST Variance	(602.57)	(615.58)
Running Balance of ATO ICA	-	(1,619.00)
Sep 22 GST	-	(193.00)
Dec 22 GST	-	4,657.00
Mar 23 GST	-	2,994.00
	<u>2,634.75</u>	<u>8,720.31</u>
11 Unexpended Grants/ Project Funding		
2023	85,139.09	116,000.00
2024	10,000.00	-
	<u>95,139.09</u>	<u>116,000.00</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation
report of LOWENSTEINS ARTS MANAGEMENT PTY LTD.
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2023-2024 Finance Report (continued)

COMPILATION REPORT TO MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC. ABN 41 102 245 380

I have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Melbourne's Living Museum of the West Inc. which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2024, profit and loss statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in the notes to the accounts.

The responsibility of the Committee of Management

The Committee of Management of Melbourne's Living Museum of the West Inc. is solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

My responsibility

On the basis of the information provided by the Committee of Management I have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in the notes to the financial statements and APES 315, Compilation of Financial Information.


I have applied professional expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in the notes to the financial statements. I have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, I am not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to me by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements.

The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the Committee of Management who are responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. Accordingly, these special purpose financial statements may not be suitable for other purposes. I do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

Name of Firm: LOWENSTEINS ARTS MANAGEMENT PTY LTD
Certified Practising Accountants

Name of Director: 
Evan Lowenstein

Address: Level 12 60 Albert Road South Melbourne Victoria 3205

Dated this day of

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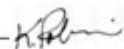
MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC.
ABN 41 102 245 380

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT DECLARATION

The Committee of Management have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Committee of the Management of the Association declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes present fairly the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
2. In the Committee's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

President: 
Dr. Kerrie Polness

Dated this day of 16 October 2024

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2023-2024 Finance Report (continued)

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INC. ABN 41 102 245 380

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT REPORT

The members of the Committee of Management present their report on Melbourne's Living Museum of the West Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

Members of the Committee of Management

The names of each person who has been a member of the Committee of Management during the year and to the date of this report are:

Kerrie Poliness	President	
Tony Le Nguyen	Vice-President	
Melba Marginson	Treasurer	
Pamela Mulready	Secretary	Resigned 2 May 2024
Joan Spiller	Member	
Alex Flux	Secretary	From 2 May 2024
Alex Etting	Member	

Members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Operating Results

The operating surplus for the financial year amounts to \$3,403.

Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

No significant changes in the nature of these activities occurred during the year, other than the temporary relocation from Pipemakers Park to Maribyrnong Library, during building works at the Park.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were to operate an ecomuseum in Melbourne's western region, with associated programs and events.

Events After the Reporting Date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

Going Concern

This financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates continuity of normal activities and the realization of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of activity. The ability of the Association to continue to operate as a going concern is dependent upon generating sufficient cash flows from grants and donations to meet its liabilities. The members of the Association believe that the going concern assumption is appropriate.



Throughout 2023-2024 the Museum had access to 'Meeting Room 1' at the Library on Fridays and would set up displays for the general public.

A new arrangement with Council will allow displays by the Museum to be set-up for more extended hours.