

Chairman's letter of transmittal

Senator the Hon. Rod Kemp
Minister for the Arts and Sport
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

On behalf of the Council for the National Museum of Australia, I am pleased to submit our annual report for the year ended 30 June 2005. The report is presented in accordance with Section 9 and Schedule 1 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, and it has been prepared in conformity with the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Report of Operations) Orders 2005*.

This year has seen the implementation of a new strategic plan aimed at developing the National Historical Collection, reaching national audiences and strengthening the Museum's capacity for research and scholarship.

It has been an active year for collection development, with important new acquisitions and a major cultural gift. Funding of \$1 million per year from the Federal Government for acquisitions will ensure collection development continues to be central to the Museum activities.

Changes to the permanent exhibitions also progressed this year, along with plans for future redevelopment. The Museum's program of public events and educational activities was again well received and well attended.

Even in a year of highlights, some occasions stand out. The Museum was privileged to welcome Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Mary of Denmark in March this year, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Brunei Darussalam in August 2004. In a different vein, winning Best Major Tourist Attraction at the Australian Tourism Awards was a major highlight.



Office of Senator Rod Kemp

Senator the Hon. Rod Kemp



Dean Gollia

Tony Staley

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of my fellow Council members in guiding the Museum towards the successes it has achieved during the year. I would also like to express the Council's appreciation for the ongoing support of the portfolio ministers, Senator the Hon. Helen Coonan and Senator the Hon. Rod Kemp.

Finally, all members of Council join me in congratulating the Director and staff on the Museum's continuing success.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Staley', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tony Staley

Chairman of Council
National Museum of Australia
August 2005