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20.1.2003

The Hon. Tony Staley
Chairman, Council of the National Museum of Australia
Acton Peninsula
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Staley,

Hullo.

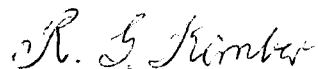
As I write this my concern, as with all Australians, is for the safety and well being of the people of Canberra, and also for the physical environment, the fireman and police, and all other workers involved in further protection and rehabilitation of the suburbs.

However, prior to the bushfires becoming so tragically destructive, I had the pleasure and privilege of attending '23°S', a symposium investigating the 'Archaeology and Environmental History of Southern Deserts'. This was a World first of such nature. I very sincerely congratulate you, Dawn Casey who welcomed us, Dr Mike Smith who conceived the symposium and wonderfully organised it, and the ENTIRE Museum staff. They were truly magnificent.

As with the majority of delegates, I also had the privilege of a guided tour of the Indigenous gallery (but also independently appreciated the other Museum exhibits). Several of the South American and African delegates, as well as English, commented to me on the honesty and integrity of the exhibits, while also being fascinated by the diversity of cultures.

My congratulations, again, to all involved with the Museum. May the nature of the Museum, in both its appeal and integrity, help all in Canberra to maintain the courage and compassion demonstrated so well in this tragic time of emergency.

Yours Sincerely



R. G. (Dick) Kimber