Date of Premier’s approval to print report
18 September 2015

The Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier and Minister for the Arts
Level 15, Executive Building
100 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Premier

I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2014–2015 and financial statements for the Board of Queensland Museum.

I certify that this Annual Report complies with:

• the prescribed requirements of the Financial Accountability Act 2009 and the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009, and

• the detailed requirements set out in the Annual Report requirements for Queensland Government agencies.

A checklist outlining the annual reporting requirements can be found at page 83 of this Annual Report or accessed at qm.qld.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

David Conry
Chairperson
Board of the Queensland Museum
VISION
Queensland Museum Network – discovering Queensland, inspiring generations.
A museum for all Queenslanders, which actively partners with diverse communities to enrich understanding of self and place.

PURPOSE
To inspire generations of Queenslanders to discover, celebrate and value our distinctive natural and cultural environment.

VALUES
• We have a culture of sharing, learning and growth, to foster a community that shares, learns and grows.
• We respect and celebrate diverse perspectives and we engage and represent diverse audiences.
• We study adaptation, evolution and change, and we value creativity and innovation.
• We excel at research to help understand life, and we love to bring research to life.
• We cherish our collections because we cherish our stories.
• We value integrity because it is the essence of trust.
• We encourage and nurture teamwork and partnerships because our job is too important to do alone.
Queensland Museum Network (QMN) is the keeping place for the State Collection of 1.2 million objects and specimens, valued at more than $479 million, and approximately 14 million unregistered Non-State Collection items.

The Network has grown since its initial beginnings which date back to January 1862, when the Museum was founded by the Queensland Philosophical Society. The Museum came under the responsibility of State Government in 1871 and moved into its first purpose-built premises in 1879.

Today, Queensland Museum Network is governed by the Board of the Queensland Museum (the Board) and includes:

- Queensland Museum (including the Sciencentre) in the heart of Brisbane’s Cultural Precinct
- Museum of Tropical Queensland in Townsville
- The Workshops Rail Museum in Ipswich
- Cobb+Co Museum in Toowoomba
- Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying in Woolloongabba, Brisbane
- Museum of Earth Sciences in St Lucia, Brisbane.

The Network also includes a Collections, Research and Loans Centre at Hendra.

Over the years the Network has changed alongside Queensland as it discovers, documents and celebrates the State’s natural, cultural and regional diversity.

Through its dynamic network of public attractions, trusted scientific and cultural research, significant collections, and regional and community services, Queensland Museum Network continues to enrich the cultural, social and intellectual life of Queenslanders and visitors to the State.

The Network reaches far beyond the walls of its five public museums, fostering connections with diverse audiences of millions of people each year. It does this through museum visits, workshops, lectures, school education kits, online interaction and publications, and continues to be at the forefront of successful professional and community support for the collections and museums sector.

Queensland Museum Network is celebrated as a valued cultural and scientific leader, growing with the community to foster a better understanding of our place in the world. Its scientific and academic researchers are internationally recognised for their expertise in the disciplines of natural and cultural heritage and geosciences.
Queensland Museum

South Bank, Brisbane
Opened 1986

Queensland Museum is located at South Bank in the heart of Brisbane’s Cultural Precinct, and is the most visited museum in the Network and in Australia*. Permanent attractions include: the Sciencentre, which offers a wealth of interactive science and technology experiences; the Discovery Centre, the Lost Creatures: Stories from Ancient Queensland Gallery; and the Dandiiri Maiwar Aboriginal and Torres Islander Centre. The Museum also regularly hosts national and international travelling exhibitions and offers a range of public and educational programs and activities, which attract more than 1 million visitors to the Cultural Precinct each year. Queensland Museum exhibits and stores a significant proportion of the State Collection and houses several research and conservation laboratories.


Museum of Tropical Queensland

Townsville
Opened 1987

Museum of Tropical Queensland (MTQ) explores the natural and cultural heritage of the State’s northern region, including the Great Barrier Reef and the rainforests of the Wet Tropics. The Museum houses an internationally important collection of Acropora corals; permanent galleries, such as Colour: Secret Language of the Reef, and the Discover Tropical Queensland Gallery; and a special display focusing on the 18th century shipwreck, HMS Pandora.

The Workshops Rail Museum

North Ipswich
Opened 2002

Multiple Queensland and Australian Tourism Award winner, The Workshops Rail Museum, is located in the regional city of Ipswich, the birthplace of rail in Queensland. It offers an interactive cultural heritage experience with hands-on and multimedia exhibits that focus on almost 150 years of rail history in Queensland. An outstanding feature of the Museum is the collection of heritage steam locomotives and industrial machinery.

Cobb+Co Museum

Toowoomba
Opened 1987

Cobb+Co Museum houses the National Carriage Collection of more than 50 horse drawn vehicles and tells the story of the Toowoomba region through its quality schedule of regional exhibits. The Museum also features the science-based, Energy for Life Discovery Centre, and an ever-changing program to suit educational and tourism activities.

Queensland Museum Collections, Research & Loans Centre

Hendra, Brisbane
Opened 2002

The collection storage and research facility at Hendra houses the vast geosciences collection, including rocks, minerals and fossils, and is the most comprehensive Queensland collection of its kind. The site holds large objects from the Cultural Heritage Collections, and includes a separate, environmentally controlled collection store for zoological collections. The facility is also home to the renowned Queensland Museum Loans service, from which schools and other educational and community groups can borrow Museum objects and learning kits to use in their classrooms and for displays. The loans service covers an area from Cape York, west to Cloncurry and south to the border.
MUSEUM OF LANDS, MAPPING AND SURVEYING
Woolloongabba, Brisbane
Opened 1982

This museum is operated by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines in Woolloongabba to collect and interpret significant aspects of the land administration, surveying and mapping of Queensland. Staffed by one curator and several volunteers, the Museum provides specialist advice on land tenure. A comprehensive collection of artefacts, maps, social histories and other records are on display, and are progressively being made available online. More than 8,000 historical maps are available on the Open Data website.

MUSEUM OF EARTH SCIENCES
University of Queensland, St Lucia

This museum is operated in partnership with the University of Queensland to display and interpret the highlights of the Queensland Museum Mineralogical Collections (which also incorporate the former University of Queensland Mineral Collections). The museum is accessible by both students and the general public.

BOARD OF THE QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

The Queensland Museum Network is governed by the Board of the Queensland Museum (the Board).

The Board is a Statutory Body. Its existence, functions and powers are set out in the Queensland Museum Act 1970 (the Act). The Board's functions include:

(a) The control and management of the Queensland Museum and of all natural history, historical and technological collections, and other chattels and property contained therein;

(b) The maintenance and administration of the Queensland Museum in such manner as will effectively minister to the needs and demands of the community in any, or all, branches of the natural sciences, applied sciences, technology and history, associated with the development of the Queensland Museum as a museum for science, the environment and human achievement, and to this end shall undertake:

(i) the storage of suitable items pertaining to the study of natural sciences, applied sciences, technology and history, and exhibits and other personal property;

(ii) carrying out or promoting scientific and historical research;

(iii) the provision of educational facilities through the display of selected items, lectures, films, broadcasts, telecasts, publications and other means; and

(iv) the operation of workshops for the maintenance and repair of exhibits and other things; and

(c) The control and management of all lands and premises vested in or placed under the control of the Board.

For performing its functions, the Board has all the powers of an individual and may, for example, enter into arrangements, agreements, contracts and deeds; acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of property; engage consultants, appoint agents and attorneys; charge, and fix terms, for goods, services, facilities and information supplied by it; and do anything else necessary or desirable to be done in performing its function.
Looking back at my first year as Chairman of the Board, I am humbled by the magnitude of work that has gone into making the Queensland Museum Network the thriving cultural and scientific hub it is today.

The year has been busy and productive, with many achievements and change, which will lay the foundation for further growth in Queensland, Australia and internationally. I have met with, and been inspired by, staff at all levels right across the Network and have experienced first hand the efficiency, professionalism and inestimable value our museums deliver to the local and global science communities.

The Board has set bold and ambitious strategic objectives, which will see us strengthening the Network through industry collaboration and partnerships, technology, and investment in our programs and people.

Aligned with the State Government’s priorities – our shared vision stretches beyond the ambitions of our Network to encompass more holistic, sustainable community outcomes for Queensland.

We’ve made considerable progress towards achieving these goals.

In the past year, we have established a number of partnerships that will be integral to the immediate and long term growth of the Museum. Key partnerships have been formed with BHP Billiton Coal, BHP Billiton BMC, Energetx, and QGC — our largest ever corporate partner and a driving force in improving how the sciences are taught in schools.

Securing an exclusive three-year agreement with the World Science Festival in New York was a major milestone for the Queensland Museum Network, and is one of our most exciting commitments for the coming years. This significant achievement will not only enhance our engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), but will also attract and inspire tourism opportunities throughout the State.

Development plans for the $14.3 million Queensland Anzac Centenary Gallery, are now well underway, with the gallery set to span over 600 sqm across two levels, and slated to open in late 2018. As a permanent exhibition space, the gallery will become a lasting legacy for Queensland, allowing future generations to explore the enduring themes of freedom and democracy.

The Network’s commitment to protecting our unique cultural and natural heritage as custodians and researchers of the State’s collections has continued with fervour.

We have worked with Indigenous communities through curatorial, public and repatriation programs; presented talks, lectures, seminars, and behind the scenes tours; and delivered three quarters of a million natural history specimen records to the Atlas of Living Australia. This is just a glimpse into the tremendous work being undertaken by this wonderful organisation.

I would like to thank and congratulate our CEO and Director, Professor Suzanne Miller, the executive team and staff for helping to realise the Board’s ambitions over the past year. Your unwavering passion for science, learning, and discovery can be felt in the outstanding work you deliver.

I look forward to working alongside my Board, the team led by Suzanne, and with industry and agency partners, to ensure our continued growth and success in the years to come.

David Conry
Chairperson
Board of the Queensland Museum
Improving the public perception of science
Reflecting on the year, I am again in awe of how much we have accomplished over a mere 12 months. The spectrum of our combined successes is a true representation of the diverse talent, dedication and determination of my wonderful team here at Queensland Museum Network – needless to say, I am exceptionally proud of every one of our people and their achievements. In 2014–15 we’ve welcomed more than 1.6 million enthusiastic visitors through the doors of our museums, with an additional one million people connecting with us digitally. Our collections have made their way into schools, early learning centres, and communities through the Museum Loans service.

Our research, collections and knowledge not only grew with new discoveries and acquisitions, but were shared across a variety of online and offline platforms. This year we developed and delivered exceptional digital products including our first e-book, The Great Barrier Reef: Corals, and mobile apps – Coastal Life of South East Queensland, and the Field Guide to Australian Fauna, which earned the Museum and its project partners international accolades, as proud recipients of the Best of the Web Award at the 2015 Museums and the Web Conference in Chicago. We launched an Online Collections Microsite – providing the community with access to nearly three-quarters of a million collection items and approximately 5,000 images. We joined other leading cultural institutions in Australia to become part of the Google Cultural Institute – a relationship that will undoubtedly expand our digital capabilities.

With a powerhouse like Google behind us, we will grow our reach exponentially – bolstering access to all that the Network has to offer; extending the life of our onsite exhibitions with online accompaniments; and potentially providing virtual visits to the Museum using Google Maps Street View technology.

It’s an exciting time for the Network as we embrace the digital space – equally so for our creative and innovative physical offerings. This year we achieved some incredible results in research, discovery and education, including the contribution of 28,000 biological and geological specimens to the collections; the delivery of 750,320 natural history specimen records to the Atlas of Living Australia; the description of more than 120 new species; and the production of 164 publications (including 104 peer reviewed papers).

Our programs and exhibitions have continued to go from strength-to-strength, bringing science and history to life through engaging, interactive and visually spectacular events and activities. Dinosaur Discovery: Lost Creatures of the Cretaceous clearly won the popularity stakes, with hordes of eager visitors lining up each day to be transported back millions of years to walk among the dinosaurs. In 2014–15, these frighteningly life-like, animated models enticed a total of 123,610 guests to the Museum – a number that continues to grow as word spreads about the wonders of this exhibition. Intrigued by our very own Giant Squid, visitors explored Deep Oceans; delved into the detail of how 4,000 Species
were discovered and named; found themselves surrounded in *A Room for Wild Animals*; and heard stories of the men who risked death alongside 120,000 Australian Army horses during World War 1, in the *Horse in War* exhibition.

We acquired rare specimens from our natural environment, and impressive man-made collections, including the single largest private model rail collection in Australia, an acquisition of national and international significance.

We have continued to cement and strengthen relationships with cultural institutions at home and abroad – sharing historical treasures on a global scale.

Last year Queensland blushed at *Undressed: 350 years of Underwear in Fashion* from the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Fashion enthusiasts and connoisseurs of undergarments came together to appreciate this world renowned collection – exposed for the first time in Australia at Queensland Museum.

Our own *Mephisto*, the last surviving German A7V Sturmpanzerwagen, from World War 1 was moved and now takes pride of place on temporary loan at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The tank will undergo conservation and display, before returning to Queensland Museum in time for the opening in November 2018 of the Queensland Anzac Centenary Gallery.

Of course none of this would be possible without funding, the commitment of our partners, and the dedication of our valued people.

Last year alone, the Queensland Museum Foundation distributed more than $12 million to the Network and secured more than $15 million in new pledges and donations. We have delivered numerous exhibitions and programs alongside industry peers, and established significant new corporate partnerships (representing more than $6.4 million in total investment).

During the year, our staff have won a host of awards; were published in well regarded scientific journals; and, at the grassroots level, helped their fellow Queenslanders prepare for, and recover from, natural disasters, and tragic incidents like the fire at the Waltzing Matilda Centre.

I can say with confidence that our people genuinely care about our collections, ground-breaking research and innovative programs, and their role in connecting science, art and history with modern day society and culture.

I’d like to thank and acknowledge the Board, my team, and our partners, for helping make 2014–15 an overwhelming success. I look forward to seeing the continued results of our hard work unfold over the coming year.

*Professor Suzanne Miller*  
*Chief Executive Officer and Director, Queensland Museum Network*
HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

ORGANISATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

• The Queensland Museum Network (QMN) attracted over 1.6 million visitors during the past 12 months, and more than 1.4 million online visitors.

• Queensland Museum Network hosted 19 new exhibitions, delivered 80 school programs, and 1,254 Science Theatre Shows.

• 783,963 people accessed Museum collections and knowledge in their schools, early learning centres, and communities via the Queensland Museum Loans service.

• New corporate partnerships were secured with BHP Billiton Coal, BHP Billiton BMC, Energex, and QGC (our biggest corporate partnership to date), representing more than $6.4 million in total investment.

• The Queensland Museum Foundation distributed more than $1.2 million to the Network and secured more than $1.5 million in new pledges and donations.

• Our ninth consecutive $250,000 matching grant was secured from the Queensland Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation.¹

• Queensland Museum Network secured the rights to host the first World Science Festival in the Southern Hemisphere. The inaugural World Science Festival Brisbane will be held in March 2016.

• The Museum Resource Centre Network and its five Museum Development Officers delivered 99 workshops, provided emergency disaster support, and established 54 service level agreements throughout the State.

¹ The contributions toward the Have a Go Festival at Cobb+Co, Undressed: 350 Years of Underwear in Fashion at the Queensland Museum and public programs at the Workshops Rail Museum all helped to drive visitation to these popular destinations. External exhibitions at the Museum of Tropical Queensland and funding towards the Museum Resource Centre Network improved our community outreach; while funding toward the Molecular Identities Laboratory, three separate ABRS Grants and scientific research in the fields of arachnology, vertebrate palaeontology and palaeobotany contributed to the Queensland Museum Network’s world-class scientific research.
QUEENSLAND MUSEUM, BRISBANE

- Queensland Museum’s websites and services had a 20% increase in engagement this year, receiving 1,405,754 visits.
- Visitation to the Queensland Museum (including visitation to the Sciencentre), increased by 47% to 1,420,617 – making it the most visited museum in Australia.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- *Dinosaur Discovery: Lost Creatures of the Cretaceous* — Featuring more than 20 animated, life-size dinosaur models, the touring exhibition attracted 123,610 visitors to the Museum up to 30 June 2015 (the exhibition will continue until October 2015).

- *Inside: Life in Children’s Homes and Institutions* — This travelling exhibition, from the National Museum of Australia, shared the stories of some of the more than 500,000 children, who spent time in institutional care in Australia in the 20th century. Visitors left more than 3,000 comments after seeing the exhibition, more than at any other venue in Australia.

- *4,000 Species* — Through large, interactive touch screens, visitors learned how species were named by Queensland Museum scientists and other researchers. The interactive display includes a virtual ‘tree of life’ to see how different species fit together.

- *Humanoid Discovery* — A travelling exhibition from Scitech, which encouraged visitors to the Sciencentre to explore the human body from a different perspective.

- *Deep Oceans* — A touring exhibition from the Australian Museum and Questacon, *Deep Oceans* enabled 117,626 visitors to explore ‘beneath the sea’. The exhibition was augmented by the Queensland Museum’s own collections and research, including the first public display of a rare specimen of Giant Squid.

- *Undressed: 350 years of Underwear in Fashion* — A touring exhibition from the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. This display about the history of underwear was complemented by collection items in *Revealed: underwear and other wear* from the Queensland Museum.

- *Freewheeling* — This travelling exhibition, from the National Museum of Australia, looked at the history of cycling in Australia and also provided an opportunity to display the recently acquired Solar Tandem bicycle. The solar-powered, four-seater bike was imagined, designed and built at the University of Queensland in the mid-1980s.


- *Queenslander!* — The significance of sport in Queensland was highlighted in this special display developed by the Museum. The exhibition focussed on the NRL State of Origin’s 100th game and also provided the Cultural Environments Program with an opportunity to display previously unseen items from its collections.
PROGRAMS

• School Programs — Discovery Centre staff delivered 65 school programs to 2030 school visitors, a significant increase on last year.

• Science Theatre Shows — A total of 1,254 shows were delivered to 58,207 visitors, including two new additions — The Space Show and The Balloon Show.

• It’s Atomic — 20 holiday workshops gave 798 children the opportunity to explore the microscopic world of atoms by getting hands-on with elements, discovering the periodic table, building molecule models and exploring the bonds between atoms.

• Sciensensory Day — This special event for children with sensory processing difficulties and their carers was organised with the support of Autism Queensland, the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, and various community groups. Two events were attended by 196 visitors.

• Daily Discoveries — 764 sessions were delivered to 14,612 visitors in the Discovery Centre.

• Meet our Curator — 64 sessions were delivered to 3,287 visitors, providing opportunities for one-on-one conversations with Museum staff about research and collections.

• Behind the Scenes Tours — 25 ‘back of house’ tours were delivered to 296 visitors, providing a rare chance to view the collections.

• Brisbane Concert Orchestra — As part of Brisbane Open House, the Museum hosted the 40-piece Brisbane Concert Orchestra, which presented a concert of light classics to more than 165 visitors in the Collectors’ Café.

• Humanoid Discovery Teacher Preview — This preview was attended by 16 teachers and focused on key messages, curriculum links, resources and supporting student learning.

• Pinning and Classifying Insects Workshop — Discovery Centre staff presented two workshops on insect pinning, maintaining collections and insect classifying as part of the 2015 CONQUEST Conference. The workshop was organised through Queensland Education Science Technicians (QEST) for High School Science Lab Technicians. Twenty-two Science Technicians attended.

• ReefBlitz Field Days — Queensland Museum staff presented at ReefBlitz in Airlie Beach, in association with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.
THE WORKSHOPS RAIL MUSEUM, IPSWICH

The Workshops Rail Museum welcomed 89,228 visitors — a 2% increase on the previous year and the second consecutive year of growth.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

• The Workshops partnered with the local RSL Railway sub-branch to develop Railways 1914–1918, a special exhibition that attracted 3,132 visitors during 2014–15. The exhibition presented a thought provoking mix of personal stories, imagery and objects, allowing visitors to explore the role of railways during World War 1.

• The travelling exhibition, I’ve Been Working on the Railway, continued its national tour and attracted 37,169 visitors.

• Day out with Thomas — 34,553 visitors attended the event over the summer school holidays; 4% more than the previous year.

• Nippers Play & Learn — 1,197 children (aged 0–5) and their carers attended these sessions; 54% more than the previous year.

• Steam train program — This popular program attracted 9,686 people; 15% more than the previous year. Trips included the popular Steam Train Sunday journey, the Halloween Express, and the Brisbane Model Train Show steam train.

• The Workshops partnered with the local community to deliver the Ipswich Open Day (3,220 visitors) and the Queensland Model Railway Show (178 modellers and 2,398 visitors).

• The popular events program contributed to the increase in visitation numbers and included Bright Sparks, Brick Kids, Heist, Santa Sunday and Teddy Bears’ Picnic.
**COBB+CO MUSEUM, TOOWOOMBA**

Cobb+Co Museum achieved a record breaking 81,364 visitors — a 16% increase on the previous year.

**HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- **Curriculum-based Learning Programs** — Delivered to 9,554 students from Prep to Tertiary levels.
- The 2015 *Have a Go! Festival* — Visitation to the event increased by 23%. It featured more than 40 different *Have a Go* opportunities, mini workshops and demonstrations in traditional trades and crafts presented by the artisans who practise these skills.
- **Curator’s Conversation** — This series of monthly talks was attended by 347 visitors.
- **Hand Made Under the Stars** — The annual twilight artisan market featured more than 50 artisans from the region and attracted more than 1,500 shoppers.
- A total of 331 participants attended hands-on workshops in traditional trades.
- School holiday programs — These activities brought 4,928 children to Cobb+Co Museum. Programs included *Kid vs Beast, Whodunit? The Case of Curly Cobb and the Lost Treasure*, *Santa’s Workshop, Unearthed, Science Magic: Don’t do this at Home* and *Under Construction*.
- **Have Another Look Captain Cook: Indigenous Cultural Activities Week** — This program was developed with Toowoomba Catholic Education and community Indigenous organisations. It celebrated Indigenous culture through storytelling, hands-on activities and demonstrations to highlight all the things James Cook did not see when he came to Australia in 1770.
- **Kids Connect 2014** — The program was delivered with Toowoomba Catholic Education to 137 students, as part of the Kids Connect Technology Forum. Students from Catholic Schools across the Toowoomba Catholic Diocese completed activities around the theme *C@tch an iCart 2 Kids Connect*.
- **The Great Debate** — A supporting activity to complement the *Red Dirt and Grass Stains* exhibition, this event featured inspirational stories from Australian sporting legends.
- **A Hard Day’s Night** — A star-lit screening of the iconic movie was held on the final weekend of The Beatles exhibition.
- **Make a Poppy, Leave a Message** — This activity complemented the *Horse in War* exhibition; more than 800 visitors contributed to an installation of poppies to commemorate Anzac Day.
- **My Memories of RM** — This storytelling event, hosted by David Iliffe from ABC Southern Queensland, featured guest speakers David Seeto (photographer to RM), and Bill Webb, who learnt the art of leather plaiting with bushman and business entrepreneur, RM Williams.
MUSEUM OF TROPICAL QUEENSLAND, TOWNSVILLE

The Museum of Tropical Queensland welcomed 75,801 visitors — a 7% increase on the previous year.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

• **Croc Country** — A total of 21,617 people explored this temporary exhibition to learn more about what it is like to live in ‘croc country’. The exhibition was supported by a school holiday program that featured talks, exhibition tours, a self-guided trail, workshops with Swamp cartoonist Gary Clark, appearances by dino-mascot, Dinomite, and displays of live crocodiles and venomous snakes. The exhibition was also complemented by a *Supercroc* display from the Australian Museum, and featured an impressive 11 m long reconstruction of the extinct crocodilian, *Sarcosuchus imperator*.

• **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** — This touring exhibition, developed by the Natural History Museum, London and BBC Worldwide, featured more than 100 images.

• **Museum Zoo School Holiday Program** — Supported by the international *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* and *A Room for Wild Animals* exhibitions; the program attracted 11,285 visitors and featured displays of live raptorial birds, and a range of art, craft and educational activities.

• **A Room for Wild Animals** — 22 exotic, taxidermy specimens from the collection (including a lion, tiger, bear, antelope and deer) featured in this exhibition, which explored the threat of habitat loss to wildlife across the world.

• **Nurses: from Zululand to Afghanistan** — The exhibition, produced by the Australian War Memorial, detailed the stories of nursing staff in Australia’s armed forces over the past century.

• **Backyard Safari Photo Exhibition** — This exhibition featured 180 photographs selected from 470 entries as part of the Museum’s Backyard Safari Photography Competition.

• **Spirit of Africa** — Developed in partnership with communities from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Rwanda, the temporary display featured objects, stories and perspectives from these cultural groups.

• **Townsville: The Way We Were** — The exhibition, developed in partnership with Townsville Museum and Townsville City Libraries, focused on the city’s Flinders Street precinct between 1914 and 1918, and how civilian life carried on against the backdrop of World War 1.

• **Creepy Crawlies Alive** — Visitors were able to try edible insects, as part of discussions about food sustainability, in this school holiday program, which featured interactive displays of live insects, reptiles and other creepy crawlies. It also included a range of art, craft and educational activities.
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE (CONT'D):

- **Reef Guardian Schools** — Two interactive activities were attended by 99 students, 13 partner representatives and 16 teachers from Reef Guardian schools. The activities were based around the importance of preserving historic shipwrecks and allowed students to become maritime archaeologists.

- **Science, Art and Technology Festival** — In a major partnership with the Australian Museum and Inspiring Australia, the Museum delivered a two-day, Science, Art and Technology Festival to 815 visitors.

- **Taxidermy on Show** — This seven-case taxidermy display highlighted the collection value of select specimens, the work carried out by museum taxidermists, and the natural history of the selected species.

- **Lighthouses** — Co-developed with the community, this temporary display told the stories of four families who serviced the Cape Cleveland Lighthouse before its final automation.

- **Teacher Professional Development** — The Museum hosted a teacher professional development evening for staff from four Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program (HEPPP) schools. The event was presented in partnership with James Cook University.

- **Shipwrecked** — A school holiday program, supported by the local Navigation Centre and Volunteer Coastguard, allowed 6,152 young visitors to experience the adventure of the high seas, and revisit the story of the Pandora collection. Visitation increased by 22% on the previous year.

- **Focus on Indigenous Culture** — six small focus displays on boomerangs.

- **TEDx Event** — This event featured 10 speakers covering a range of topics aimed at bringing curious minds together to create excitement around ideas, knowledge and learning.

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CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS PROGRAM AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS PROGRAM

The Cultural Environments (CEP) and Natural Environments Programs (NEP) are delivered across the entire Queensland Museum Network. A range of research and community engagement activities were led by these teams during 2014–15.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Research and Collections staff continued to engage with professional, public and special interest groups by presenting 140 talks, lectures and seminars to approximately 4,400 visitors.

- Staff conducted:
  - 160 behind-the-scenes tours, including six Ambassoral visits and three distinguished partners of delegates of the G20 summit
  - supervised a large volunteer workforce (that donated approximately 1,400 person days to our collections and research projects)
  - responded to 2,600 public and 8,500 professional enquiries and specimen identifications
  - delivered 140 lectures and seminars to 4,400 people
  - hosted more than 600 professional visitors from universities, government agencies and international museums.

- **National Archaeology Week** — Museum staff participated in curator talks and shared hands-on experiences with the general community.
• The Museum worked with Indigenous Communities through curatorial, public and repatriation programs, and continued to provide regular access to the State Collections for communities and researchers.

• Indigenous Engagement Coordinator, Alethea Beetson was appointed in December 2014 to increase outreach activity and community access to the collections. Activity during the year included school visits, back-of-house tours, presentations and photography displays.

• Queensland Museum Network increased engagement with the collections in store this year, in particular among the hard to reach demographic of teenager and young adult audiences.

Successes included:
- Nine College of Indigenous Art students visited the Collections, with the potential for post-graduate students to conduct extensive research later in the year.
- 24 students, three teachers, one police officer and eight parents from Dunwich State School visited Queensland Museum.
- 56 Indigenous youth visited the Museum for a Queensland Reds Development Camp. Year 9 students and mentors participated in the back-of-house tour.
- Queensland Museum Indigenous Engagement Coordinator chaired four discussions for the State Library of Queensland's *Night by the Fire* series on Constitutional Reform.

- Queensland Museum Repatriation Manager gave a presentation and contributed to a panel discussion at the State Library of Queensland’s series on Repatriation.

• Queensland Museum staff joined University of Queensland staff to present at the Woodford Folk Festival on the travels of explorer, Ludwig Leichhardt in the Woodford area. A further two talks were presented at the winter festival at Woodford, *The Planting*, on the landscape and Aboriginal history of the area and used Queensland Museum’s extensive collection of Indigenous photographs.

Other community engagement initiatives included:
- Two *Backyard Explorer* community science events — presented with industry partners in the Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Area near Mission Beach, and Cannonvale Beach, Whitsunday region.
- Queensland Museum Geosciences staff delivered a day of community palaeontology to thousands of visitors to the Queensland Museum pavilion at Australia Zoo.
- *The Youth Science Symposium* and *Fame Lab* events were hosted at Queensland Museum. Early Career Researcher, Dr Marissa McNamara, produced a highly competitive ‘3-minute-thesis’ at the Queensland heats of the *Fame Lab*. 
RESEARCH AND COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Precisely, 750,320 Queensland Museum biological specimen records were delivered (i.e. uploaded from Vernon database) to the Atlas of Living Australia during 2014-15. Various communities/individuals downloaded these 750,320 records 54,655,799 times over 7,050 separate download events.

- The Cultural Environments Program published five peer reviewed articles. The Natural Environments Program published a further 136 peer reviewed papers; technical reports and conference abstracts, described more than 120 new species ranging from protozoans to mammals; and received 170 published acknowledgements from peers. See Appendix A for publication details.

- Chantal Knowles co-edited the volume Trophies, Relics and Curios? Missionary Heritage from Africa and the Pacific the outcome of a collaborative research project with University of Cambridge and University of East Anglia and involved scholars from Africa and the Pacific. David Mewes co-authored the volume Salute to the Hudswells: The story of The Colonial Sugar Refining Company’s Hudswell Clarke locomotives in Queensland and Fiji.

- Natural Environments researchers won 10 new National Taxonomic Research Grants and Bush Blitz Tactical Taxonomy grants (Australian Biological Resources Study, Department of the Environment), and an Australian Research Council Linkage grant (with a combined value of approximately $370,000).

- The Museum of Tropical Queensland played a major role in the identification of a new species of marine mammal, namely Sousa, the Australian Humpback Dolphin, a major event for marine mammal taxonomy and diversity.

- Archaeological material was provided as a research loan to Professor Peter Hiscock, University of Sydney, for Honours student, Anne van der Walt, to conduct a 3D analysis of a Cache of 36 Tulas from Mucklandama Creek in North West Queensland.

- Curator Dr Brit Asmussen received an AINSIE Research Award from the University of Sydney to carry out 10 radiocarbon dates for bone samples from the Donald Tugby Excavation of Cathedral Cave.

- Senior Curator, Dr Geraldine Mate, co-convened the Australian Archaeological Association – Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Annual conference in Cairns and Dr Brit Asmussen contributed to four sessions. More than 300 papers were submitted for the conference, which featured national and international speakers on the theme of archaeology of the tropics.

- Senior Curator Dr Niel Bruce chaired a session at the International Congress on Parasites of Wildlife and 43rd Parasitological Association of South Africa, and co-presented a paper on South African parasites of marine fishes. A field expedition to the northernmost part of South Africa’s Indian Ocean coast, Kosi Mouth and Kosi Bay, was the first ever to collect marine isopods from this coast. Ten new species of this significant marine predatory and parasitic group of crustaceans were also discovered from northern Queensland.

- The Cultural Environments Program, in collaboration with the University of Sydney, was awarded an ARC Discovery grant for Excavating MacGregor: re-connecting a colonial museum collection. The Museum holds the largest collection of ethnographic objects assembled by colonial administrator, Sir William MacGregor, and
• The Cultural Environments Program continued to produce Memoirs, and this year was able to publish two volumes on Mabuyag Island in the Torres Strait.

Other Natural Environments Program highlights include:
• Queensland Museum researcher, Dr Paul Muir and colleagues, published an article in the journal Science, based on their analysis of present-day global depth distributions of reef-building corals.
• Head of Terrestrial Environments, Dr Robert Raven, completed years of research culminating with the final publication on the taxonomy of the entire family of Ant-Mimicking spiders from the Western Pacific. In his research, Dr Raven described 108 species, of which 77 species and eight genera were new to science.
• In partnership with Queensland XRAY and Siemens, Geosciences staff used high powered CT scanning to uncover new ‘dinosaur trackways’ from Lark Quarry in western Queensland.
• A 200 million-year-old spider fossil from the Triassic Period was discovered in shale deposits from Dinmore, near Ipswich. This represents the first fossil mygalomorph spider ever described from Australia.
• A new species of fish, well-known to fly fishers as ‘sweetlip’, and a deepwater species of Sandperch, were discovered using DNA technologies.
• Two new species of rainforest skinks were discovered living in boulder-field associated with rainforests at Cape Melville and the McIlwraith Range in north Queensland.
• Queensland Museum researchers collaborated with other Australian, Singaporean, Japanese and Taiwanese scientists to document and publish a monograph on the native species of Christmas Island and Cocos Keeling Islands.
• A study of the population genetics of ‘rock sponges’ was conducted, in collaboration with colleagues from the Ludwig–Maximilians–Universität München, Germany, using specimens collected from seamounts in the south-western Pacific.
• Queensland Museum, in collaboration with international researchers, led a pivotal review of the global knowledge of parasites of aquatic wildlife, published in Trends in Parasitology.
• Dr Bert Hoeksema (Naturalis Biodiversity Center, The Netherlands), examined more than 1,000 specimens from 34 species of mushroom corals from Queensland and adjacent waters. The specimens are part of the Queensland Museum coral collection.

COLLECTIONS
• The Collections Online microsite was launched, providing community access to 65.2% of the Queensland Museum Network’s digitised collection.
• 10,727 digital images and records were added the Queensland Museum Image Library, including born digital photographs, analogue scans and records.
• The Workshops Rail Museum acquired the T-House model rail collection, which consists of 11,691 models of locomotives, carriages and wagons. The collection, assembled by Mr Marsden ‘Mick’ Williams over 30 years from the 1970s to the 1990s, is of national and international significance. It is the single largest private collection in Australia, and may well be the largest collection of model trains of this quality in the world.
AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Cobb+Co Museum received a 2014 Inclusive Community Champion award from Spinal Injuries Australia.
- The Workshops Rail Museum won Gold in the Queensland Tourism Awards’ Heritage and Cultural Tourism category, and bronze for the same category of the Australian Tourism Awards.
- The Queensland Museum Network Field Guide to Queensland Fauna App won a Best of the Web Award in the mobile category at the 2015 Museums and the Web conference in Chicago, and more recently, the MAGNA (Museums and Galleries National Award) in the category: Interpretation, Learning and Audience Engagement (Level 3).
- Queensland Museum Photographer, Gary Cranitch, was awarded third place in the prestigious 2014 Australian Museum New Scientist Eureka Prize for Science Photography. Gary’s image of an Alfred Manta (Manta alfredi) was taken at Lady Elliott Island, on the southern Great Barrier Reef. Gary is also one of the three finalists in the 2015 Eureka Awards.
- Dr Christine Lambkin, Curator of Entomology, was awarded the Peter Doherty Science Education Partnership Award for developing and running the Backyard Explorer project.
- Dr Niel Bruce, Senior Curator of Tropical Marine Science, was appointed as Extraordinary Professor in the Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management at the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- Dr Robert Raven, Head of Terrestrial Environments and Senior Curator (Arachnids); Mr Patrick Couper, Curator of Herpetology; and Ms Jeanette Covacevich, former Senior Curator of Herpetology; were awarded medals from the Poison’s Information Centre, Royal Children’s Hospital, for their ongoing services as Honorary Bite Consultants, providing a 24-hour service to the community in the event of spider and snake bites in Queensland.
- Dr Rob Adlard, Head of Marine Environments and Senior Curator of Parasitology, was elected Fellow of the Australian Society for Parasitology in recognition of his contributions to, and promotion of, the scientific discipline of parasitology.
- The research career of Dr John Hooper, Head of Natural Environments Program, was recognised by publication of the new national Science Curriculum Nelson Biology Units 1 & 2, for the Australian Curriculum in June 2015, as a case study entitled, Sponges and Evolution with ‘Sponge Hoops’: Dr John Hooper.
- Director of the Workshops Rail Museum, Andrew Moritz, received an Endeavour Executive Fellowship for a three-month internship study tour, based at the National Railway Museum, York (UK), with visits to Italy, Sweden, Portugal, Austria and Germany rail and transport museums.
- Head of Information Management and Information Technology, Kerry Cody, was awarded the Smithsonian Fellowship 2014–2015 to work with Smithsonian Institution Archives on building a digital archive framework for improved community access to Queensland’s digital objects and information.
INNOVATION

- The Workshops Rail Museum has established itself as a unique film and wedding location. Last year the museum's industrial setting was used as a creative backdrop for various short films and music videos. The museum has already secured 10 wedding bookings for 2015-16.
- The Museum’s first e-book, The Great Barrier Reef: Corals, derived from Discovery Guide to the Great Barrier Reef, was completed in May. It was released in both enhanced and fixed layouts in the following formats:
  - iBook
  - Kindle
  - Kobo
  - Google Books
  - Barnes & Noble Nook.
- The Information Management and Information Technology team continued to provide digital infrastructure and technical support on a range of Queensland Museum Network initiatives including exhibitions, apps and websites. Key achievements include:
  - implementing new IT infrastructure and application systems
  - completing the rollout of eDRMs and electronic recordkeeping training
  - digitising microfilm legacy correspondence records from 1862–1920.
- In partnership with Canon Collective, the Museum of Tropical Queensland initiated and managed its first photography competition, largely using Facebook as a medium. The extremely successful Backyard Safari Photography Competition generated over 460 entries from 174 photographers and resulted in a popular exhibition which ran for three months.
The Queensland Museum Network and its longstanding partner Energex Limited announced new initiatives to support the creation of two additional public spaces at the Queensland Museum at South Bank over the next four years.

This partnership provides support to the:

- **Anzac Centenary Gallery at the Queensland Museum, South Bank.** Due to open in November 2018, the gallery will explore World War 1 and its legacies in Queensland. The gallery will become the permanent home for one of the world’s most significant war relics — the only remaining German tank, Sturmpanzerwagen A7V Mephisto.

- **Nucleus**, a children’s play space at the Queensland Museum, South Bank. Due to open in 2017, it will be a focal point for families, allowing them to play, or rest, before embarking on their next Museum adventure.

**BHP Billiton BMC** has continued its long-term relationship with the Queensland Museum Network through the Fossil Q Partnership. The partnership has an overarching focus on telling the story of megafauna in Queensland and continues with a new agreement that will:

- continue supporting paleontological field work at South Walker Creek
- deliver a unique digital tourism App that allows visitors to regional Queensland to plot their journey and access cutting edge paleontological research
- foster and share ground-breaking scientific research with communities across the State.

**BHP Billiton Coal** has joined the Queensland Museum Network as its Biodiversity Partner. This partnership will highlight the diversity and fragile balance of Queensland’s unique flora and fauna through three exciting new projects, including:

- developing a suite of biodiversity themed loan kits for distribution across Queensland
- providing a high profile platform for Grade 7 students to explore scientific discovery and learning through our Natural Leaders program
- creating a new exhibition gallery, *Wild State*, which is due to open in 2016 and which will bring visitors face-to-face with Queensland’s vast and varied biodiversity across our red desert plains, lush rainforests and tranquil reefs.

Photographs from the Queensland Museum image library were used on billboards across Brisbane publicising the new $1.4 million partnership between BHP Billiton and the museum.

**QGC** joined the Queensland Museum Network to deliver shared objectives in science, technology, engineering and maths education. The three-year partnership aims to create a whole-of-life approach to STEM education that involves:

- direct programs in schools from Prep to Year 12
- professional development for teachers
- a rigorous academic research program
- community engagement initiatives, such as bringing the renowned Hadron Collider exhibition *Collider: step inside the world’s greatest experiment* from the Science Museum in London.
Senior Curator, Vertbrate Palaeontologist, Dr Scott Hocknull
The Museum of Tropical Queensland received grants from surrounding local councils as part of the Community Pass agreements to deliver free and discounted entry for residents and school groups, as well as a range of other benefits:

- Townsville City Council provided $120,000
- Burdekin Shire Council provided $5,399
- Charters Towers Regional Council provided $8,200
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council provided $5,500

Cultural Environments Program and Natural Environments Program:

- continued to contribute to QAAnzac100 with State Library Queensland (SLQ) through the ongoing provision of curatorial advice and expertise for SLQ’s research and exhibition programs.
- in partnership with State Library Queensland, continued to hold bi-monthly Conservation Clinics — providing one-on-one consultations looking at personal treasures and offering advice on how to maximise their longevity.
- undertook a research trip to museums in Canberra, Melbourne and Wellington, New Zealand, to explore potential partnerships for the Queensland Anzac Centenary Gallery.

Program partnerships continued with:

- the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) for the This is my heritage exhibition
- the Australian War Memorial for the loan of the World War 1 tank, Mephisto, including conservation and research
- the University of Sydney for publications and research funding
- continued to work with the Queensland Advisory Committee for the Commemoration of Anzac Centenary (QACCAC), regarding the Queensland Anzac Centenary Gallery.

The Workshops Rail Museum:

- secured three grants, including:
  - $80,000 through the Queensland Government’s Queensland Anzac Centenary Grants program for the Railways 1914–1918 exhibition
  - $60,000 from the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body
  - $98,350 from the Australian Government’s Anzac Centenary Arts and Culture Fund.
- received $10,000 from Ipswich City Council to contribute to the staging of the Ipswich Open Day event.
Natural Environments Program entered into productive partnerships with the following organisations to co-invest in 27 research projects investigating the Queensland Museum’s natural history collections:

- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation New York
- Atlas of Living Australia
- Australian Biological Resources Study
- Australian Institute of Marine Science
- BHP Mitsui Coal South Walker Creek Mine
- Bioculture Mauritius Ltd.
- Caring for Our Country Bush Blitz Program
- Catlin Seaview Project
- Council of Heads of Australian Faunal Collections
- CREATE Foundation
- CSIRO National Research Collections Australia
- CSIRO Taxonomic Research Informatics Network
- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
- Department of Agriculture
- Field Museum of Natural History Chicago
- Griffith University
- Horticulture Australia Ltd
- Inspiring Australia
- Institut de Recherche Pour le Développement (French Polynesia)
- James Cook University
- National University of Singapore
- National Science Foundation USA
- University of Queensland
- University of Utah
- Western Australia Museum

**PUBLICATIONS**

In 2014–15, Natural Environments Program contributed to 164 publications. See Appendix A for a detailed list of papers, articles, abstracts and posters.

Cultural Environments Program authored a total of 18 publications.

Two volumes of the *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum – Cultures* were issued under Queensland Museum Network series editor Dr Geraldine Mate.
GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES

The Board of the Queensland Museum contributes to the achievement of the Queensland Government’s objectives.

CREATING JOBS AND A DIVERSE ECONOMY

The Queensland Museum Network will contribute to stimulating economic growth and innovation by enhancing engagement and cultural and science tourism opportunities through our international exhibition and iconic experience program. We will provide a range of these experiences to attract audiences through our state-wide network of regional campuses. We will encourage new investment in the sector by building creative, long-term partnerships with industry. By investing in our people, we will endeavour to increase workforce participation and ensure safe, productive and fair workplaces.

DELIVERING QUALITY FRONTLINE SERVICES

The Queensland Museum Network will support the Advance Queensland initiative and the Science and Innovation Action Plan by connecting the creative discovery process and the arts with education. This will put Queensland at the forefront of a worldwide movement that integrates art and design, and creative critical thinking with science and technology, to transform learning.

Queensland Museum Network will deliver an annual World Science Festival Brisbane celebrating Australia and Queensland’s achievements in science, and help to build the vision for a new knowledge economy — making Queensland one of the leading states for student literacy and numeracy by 2020.
Queensland Museum Network will ensure that we provide responsive, integrated and excellent services to our audiences.

Queensland Museum Network will develop a number of key initiatives designed to enable collaboration across the Queensland Cultural Precinct — from festivals to collection storage, to optimising public investment and growth in Queensland’s arts and cultural sector.

**PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

The Queensland Museum Network will contribute to the protection of Queensland’s unique cultural and natural heritage, as custodians and researchers of the State Collections.

Queensland Museum Network will contribute to public engagement and debate through the development and presentation of evidence-based science — ensuring Queensland’s iconic natural environments are protected.

**BUILDING SAFE, CARING AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

Through its extensive network of regional facilities and resources, Queensland Museum Network will contribute to building capability and capacity in our regions. It will ensure that the cultural and natural heritage and geosciences collections are made available to all Queenslanders, and that educational resources are accessible to students and communities through our educational loans program.

**OBJECT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

In performing its functions, the Board must have regard to the object of, and guiding principles for, the Act. The object of the Act is to contribute to the cultural, social and intellectual development of all Queenslanders. The guiding principles behind achievement of this object are:

(a) leadership and excellence should be provided in the preservation, research and communication of Queensland’s cultural and natural heritage

(b) there should be responsiveness to the needs of communities in regional and outer metropolitan areas

(c) respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures should be affirmed

(d) children and young people should be supported in their appreciation of Queensland’s cultural and natural heritage

(e) diverse audiences should be developed

(f) capabilities for life-long learning about Queensland’s cultural and natural heritage should be developed

(g) opportunities should be developed for international collaboration and for cultural exports, especially to the Asia-Pacific region

(h) content relevant to Queensland should be promoted and presented.
STRATEGIC PLAN 2014–2018

The Queensland Museum Network's Strategic Plan 2014–2018 set out the following strategic objectives:

- To care for Queensland Museum (QM) collections to international standards, increasing access to both objects and the knowledge associated with them.
- To increase our focus on visitors from interstate, intrastate and international markets.
- To demonstrate positive social impacts through best practice audience research, development and engagement, and delivery of services across Queensland.
- To be the most successful research museum in Australia to drive national and international grant funding.
- To provide a learning platform where the creative process of discovery intersects in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).
- To invest in Queensland Museum Network's people, products, services, facilities and partnerships to create a more self-sustaining business.
- To review the funding framework for the Queensland Museum Network.

STRATEGIC THEMES

The research, collection development and public experience activities of the Queensland Museum Network are strategically directed by the following themes:

**Ancient Ecosystems** — exploring, discovering and documenting Australia’s unique geological and biological record, which underpins the knowledge and custodianship of Queensland's modern environments.

**Connecting Queensland: Reaching the World** — the connections and exchanges that sustain Queensland’s place in the world.

**Customs, Cultures and Country** — Aboriginal, Torres Strait and Pacific Islander experiences, perspectives and cultures.

**Queensland Stories** — the people, places, cultures and events that make Queensland distinct.

**Science and Technology in Society** — heritage trades, technology and the role of science in people's lives.

**Sustainable Queensland** — documenting, conserving and appreciating Queensland’s unique biodiversity.

The operational plan was not modified during the year.

The Premier and Minister for the Arts, and the former Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts did not give any directions to the Board during or relating to the financial year.

OPERATIONAL PLAN 2014–2015

Queensland Museum Network’s Operational Plan 2014–15 was based on its Strategic Plan 2014–2018, aligning operational strategies and activities for the 12 month period with key strategic objectives.

In 2014–15, Queensland Museum’s operational plan focused on creating stronger industry partnerships to share in the delivery of the story of our state’s remarkable cultural and natural heritage.

Queensland Museum aimed to maximise the considerable research value in the State Collections to strike new and innovative university partnerships that would increase its profile within the scientific research community.

Queensland Museum committed to connecting real objects and contemporary research with communities across the State and beyond, creating authentic and compelling experiences and stories that inspire, enrich and empower.

The state-wide network continues to take the Museum into communities, classrooms and online—a museum without borders that inspires curiosity to connect the past, make sense of the present and help navigate the future.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC CHALLENGES

The following challenges have been identified for Queensland Museum Network:

- Meeting the needs of a diverse audience during the state-wide delivery of exhibitions, events, public experiences and services.
- Increasing conservation and storage resources for the continued growth and development of the collections.
- Sustaining core scientific and technical expertise, capable of addressing issues critical to Queensland’s cultural and natural environments, and the development of compelling visitor experiences.
- Ensuring a sustainable network of museums and services that are underpinned by sound resource management strategies and funding frameworks.

Queensland Museum Network manages these risks through:

- innovation in service delivery strategies
- the growth of strategic partnerships
- the development of in-house exhibitions
- the development of alternative revenue sourcing strategies.

Queensland Museum Network has an active risk management plan in place.