

MIGRATION MUSEUM FOUNDATION INCORPORATED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 21 October 2010

MINUTES

1. Opening of Meeting:

Alec Khoo, Chairman of the Committee, opened the meeting at 5.30 pm on 21 October 2010 in the Chapel at the Migration Museum, 82 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. Alec introduced Ms. Constanze Voelkel-Hutchison, committee member to Chair the meeting.

The meeting was attended by 11 Foundation members, 6 committee members and 2 Migration Museum staff members.

2. Committee Apologies:

Charlie Borg	Foundation Committee member
Andrea Stylianou	Foundation Committee member
Dr Dante Juanta OAM JP	Foundation Committee member
Minerva Nasser-Eddine	Foundation Committee member

2 Foundation members sent their apologies.

3. Minutes of Previous AGM and Acceptance:

Mr Randolph Alwis moved that the minutes of the 2009 AGM be accepted. Seconded by Mr Wilf Stiller.

4. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the 2009-2010 Financial Statements and Auditor's Report:

The Foundation Treasurer, Dr. Alessandro Gardini, presented the 2009-2010 Financial Statement and Auditor's Report:

Madam Chair and members of the Migration Museum Foundation.

I am pleased to present the Foundation's Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2010.

The accounts have been audited by Dean Newberry and Partners and we wish to thank them for their assistance and advice.

You will note from the Statement of Cash Flows that receipts amounted to: **\$43,220**

Including:

Donations **\$24,400** - which includes 88 new pavers laid this year

Interest Received **\$18,820**

Payments as outlined in the Statement of Cash Flows amounted to: **\$16,564** of which \$10,000 was given to the Migration Museum to be able to help fund the *Home is Where the Heart Is* exhibition which was featured in the 2010 Adelaide Festival program.

The Balance Sheet, represented by cash in the Foundation's two accounts amounted to: **\$553,891**

Including:

Management (Working) Account:	\$	9,468
Fund-Interest Bearing Account:	\$	544,287
GST Owed	\$	135

Thank you to Jessamy Benger who prepared the accounts for reporting.

If there are no questions, I would ask that the Financial Reports for the Migration Museum Foundation be accepted.

Dr Alessandro Gardini moved that the 2009-2010 Financial Statement and Auditor's Report be accepted. Seconded by Mr John Taeker

5. Appointment of Auditor for 2010-2011 Financial Year:

Dr Alessandro Gardini acknowledged the professional job that Dean Newbery and Partners did auditing the accounts and would like to re-appoint them for the 2010/11 financial year.

Mr Randolph Alwis moved that Dean Newbery and Partners be reappointed as auditors for the 2010-2011 financial year. Seconded by The Hon Julian Stefani OAM JP

6. Election of One New Committee Member

This year due to the resignation of committee member, Ms. Viv Szekeres, there is one vacancy on the committee.

Nominations were called for and we received one from Ms Matoula Begakis.

As no other nominations were received, Ms Matoula Begakis is elected unopposed.

We welcome Matoula to the committee and look forward to working with her in the future.

7. Reports

Chairman for the Foundation Committee, Mr. Alec Khoo, presented his report:

I welcome all members to this 2010 AGM for the Migration Museum Foundation. Thank you for being here.

It's been 10 years since we set up this foundation.

At that time we established an objective – to raise \$1m as quickly as possible in order to help the Museum continue long into the future. We planned to do this by donations. This involves enrolling South Australians becoming members with donations and having their own paver inscribed with their name and details. Personalised pavers are then laid in the large courtyard between the Migration Museum buildings, thus forming Foundation Settlement Square. People really enjoy being part of this monument.

We planned that when one million dollars was raised, the Museum could look forward to using the earnings from this capital. We do not intend to spend these funds on regular or ordinary expenses. By setting up this fund an additional and on-going fifty to sixty thousand dollars each year could be made available to the Museum for special purposes, without eroding the principal. It was decided to earmark the funds raised to provide the Museum with some discretionary income, and a small degree of autonomy and independence.

This honours the immigrant spirit of independence and action-taking and it would also lessen the burden on the public purse.

Ten years ago we also planned a sub-goal. This involved plans for when half of the million dollars had been raised. We planned for the possibility of the Foundation funding a part-time staff member. This creative person's purpose would be to extend the activities of the Foundation and promote the Museum within our community.

So how fulfilled are our plans one decade on?

We now have 1,861 members with 1,936 inscribed pavers laid in Settlement Square. Currently there is over five hundred and fifty thousand dollars in the Foundation. We have reached our half million dollar target!

So what's next?

I believe enthusiasm and energy come from a strong belief in the possibility that whatever we envisage and imagine and put our energetic intent towards, can be made to happen. Setting up the Migration Museum Foundation and raising the funds started this way. The team of people involved knew that action yields results. They banished any limiting thoughts and made it happen. They were inspired not just by the vision but by how much joy and fulfilment being involved in a big project engendered. Well done.

Now ten years have passed. We are on our way with the next half million dollars. What is next is to maintain the vitality of the plan and to work on that additional staff member idea.

We also have two new key initiatives to support our purpose; both recently commenced.

One is in seeking active support from South Australian immigrants successful in business. Their experience of building their individual enterprises in South Australia has left them with a gratitude to those who helped them flourish: And also to those who provided them with the challenges that grew them personally.

Their stories sometimes form part of the exhibitions we mount here at the museum. This makes them an interesting group of possible supporters.

The next key in our vision for the foundation is our younger generation action group. While the younger group may not be immigrants themselves, their family life would have been influenced by the life stories of their parents and grandparents and in some cases by their in-laws. Our younger group will need to see the value of living in South Australia and wish to honour its roots.

As a member of the Migration Museum Foundation I believe young people will look for a worthwhile experience where they can see an opportunity, to satisfy their desire to be helpful and useful in a lively and fun way. Meetings need to be something to look forward to; and the projects powerfully compelling. To establish this group we are looking for young people with interests congruent with the Migration Museum's purpose and see its future flowering.

An inaugural youth action group meeting was held on 25 May so ideas are already flowing. Please keep your antennas tuned for such people to become involved with the group.

Finally, I wish to give thanks to the hard work and commitment of Judith Brine and Alex Gardini who have been on our committee for many years and are retiring this AGM. Judith has always been very supportive of the Museum and the work of the Foundation through her involvement as an Adelaide City councillor. We greatly valued her presence in attending various events of the Foundation as well as representing the Foundation in other events.

I am also grateful of the work done by Alex Gardini as Treasurer – unglamorous sometimes but very necessary. Thank you Alex, you have made a valued contribution.

Best wishes for the future to both.

A final official farewell must also be said to Viv Szekeres who in her retirement as Migration Museum Director graciously continued as a Foundation committee member. Early this year, Viv resigned as a Foundation Committee member as she needed more time to care for and support a sick friend. We truly miss her contribution within the Foundation and with great regret at her leaving; we wish that all goes well in the future for her.

In closing, I enthusiastically acknowledge the effort and commitment of the work done by our committee members.

Thank you.

The Chair, Ms. Constanze Voelkel-Hutchison, introduced Ms. Christine Finnimore, Director at the Migration Museum to present her report:

Dear Members of the Foundation

Successful exhibitions and education programs have marked the past twelve months for the Migration Museum. Visitor numbers rose during and immediately after the Adelaide Festival because of the inclusion of the Museum's exhibition *Home is where the heart is: South Australian immigrants in the 1950s and '60s* in the Festival's program. Schools have responded enthusiastically to education workshops and special programs with most programs booked out well in advance. However in April, emergency site works to rectify flooding in a neighbouring building caused severe disruption to programming and visitor numbers. Other site works fortunately had positive outcomes in the repainting and refurbishment of the Museum's heritage buildings, including an access ramp to the Chapel.

Exhibitions and Public Programs

The Museum's exhibition program has featured four main changing exhibitions during the last twelve months, plus four smaller exhibitions in the Forum community access gallery. An exhibition on Greek Australians, *Selling an American Dream: Australia's Greek Café* remained open until September, and was followed by *Cartoons by that Odd Mr Sprod* curated by Dr David Sprod who also authored the exhibition's catalogue on the expatriate cartoonist George Sprod. This popular exhibition provided a wonderful opportunity for an outstanding education program in the art of cartooning and the social history of cartoons, *Drawing Your Views*. Following requests from school teachers, the workshops were repeated after the holidays.

In February the Director of the Adelaide Festival for 2010 launched the Museum's contribution to the Festival, *Home is where the heart is: South Australian immigrants in the 1950s and '60s*. The exhibition was researched, curated, designed and installed by Museum staff and explores the role of the home in the ways immigrants of the post-World War Two era adjusted to their new lives in South Australia. In June, Senior Curator Mandy Paul of History SA installed the exhibition *Suburban Dreams: House and Home, Adelaide 1945-1965*. The exhibition was co-curated by Julie Collins of the University of South Australia. In addition the Migration Museum's Forum Curator has worked with four community groups who have presented successive exhibitions in the Forum Gallery. These were the Tanzanian Community Association of South Australia, the Turkic Peoples Association TURAN, who launched *Turkic World: From Crimea to Australia* in September, Festival Hellenika who launched *Hellenism and the migration of ideas* in February, and Holocaust survivor and sculptor Andrew Steiner who launched *Remember the Holocaust: Art of the Holocaust* in June. As with the exhibition on the cartoonist George Sprod, the Holocaust exhibition has provided the basis of a series of education program workshops, seminars and discussions which have been heavily booked by school groups and teachers. In terms of outreach the Museum toured its small travelling exhibition *They Took Our Land and Then Our Children: the 1923 Ngarrindjeri Petition* to six regional and city locations.

The Museum's education programs continue to be highly successful. In addition to the special programs mentioned above, education staff have presented numerous sessions of the role play workshop *Impact* on the history of the impact of colonisation on Indigenous peoples to schools, external corporate groups, and the Magill and Cavan Training Centres. Primary schools booked out the special program *Celebrations* within a few days of it being offered and have solidly supported the other tours and special programs.

Collections Management

As of 17 June 2010 the Migration Museum had 7,645 objects in the collection with 7,155 entered onto the database. The volume of collection work continues to be high and the Museum has recently recruited new volunteers in order to try to clear some of the data entry and editing backlog.

There have been 26 donations to the collection over the past 12 months. The Museum has lent items from its collection to many other organizations including Old Parliament House in Canberra, the South Australian Museum and the Museums and Galleries of the Northern Territory. Institutions that have lent objects to the Migration Museum are the Art Gallery of South Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive, the Australian War Memorial and the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne.

The Museum's collection is accessioned, researched and managed with the assistance of volunteers who carry out a wide range of tasks: care of the weapons collection, oral history interviewing and transcribing, accessioning objects, photographs and library books as well as entering research material onto the database. The Museum thanks the volunteers for their indispensable work.

Community History and Partnerships

Over the past year the Migration Museum has made some significant contributions to history in the community. The Museum worked with the Armenian community in the placement of a plaque on the Museum's Memorial Wall. The Memorial Wall is where refugee communities and their descendants have placed plaques to remember their losses as well as mark their appreciation of South Australia as their new home. In a different approach to the past, the Museum's curators have contributed to a partnership with the Adelaide Central School of Art. They have made available the Museum's collection of objects for several artists working towards an exhibition called *Home Stories*. Curators have also contributed to workshops for community groups on exhibition planning and production, and have worked with students of immigration history and curatorial studies from Flinders University and the University of Adelaide respectively. The Museum's contribution to History Week was also significant, with several presentations and tours by staff as well as two special events – a morning tea for immigrants whose first experiences of life in Australia were in a migrant hostel, and a film evening in partnership with Flinders University on the theme of Australian identity. The Museum has also entered into a partnership with the National Film and Sound Archive.

Research projects

In May the Migration Museum launched a major research project of oral histories and archival material that will focus on the memories, documents and photographs of some of the thousands of immigrants whose first experience of life in Australia was in an immigrant reception centre. The response from the public has been immediate and overwhelming. The research project is planned to conclude with an exhibition in 2013.

Conclusion

Migration Museum staff and volunteers have worked hard during the past year for their notable successes in the exhibition program and education workshops. Their goal is to continue the preservation, presentation and interpretation of South Australia's immigration history so that it is accessible to all South Australians.

I would like to conclude by thanking all the Foundation committee members who have given so generously of their time and energy this year. Thank you too to Ms Matoula Begakis, volunteer, whose help has been invaluable.

Several Committee members have retired this year: Dr Judith Brine, Dr Alessandro Gardini and Ms Viv Szekeres. They were all founding members of the Committee whose contributions of time, thought and energy have helped place the Foundation in the favourable position that it currently holds. Thank you very much Judith, Alex and Viv.

7. General Business:

The Chair, Ms. Constanze Voelkel-Hutchison, then invited Foundation members to speak.

Foundation member Ms. Jan Seaman raised the question of the age group for the youth action group. Mr. Alec Khoo responded that it is Generation X and Generation Y that the committee was trying to target.

Foundation member Mr. Bernhard Basedow requested that we have a speaker attend a future AGM and talk about their ancestry.

8. Preview:

The Chair, Ms. Constanze Voelkel-Hutchison, invited Ms. Catherine Manning to take Foundation members on a tour of *Home Is Where the Heart is* exhibition.

This exhibition was part of the 2010 Adelaide Festival program and will be on at the Migration Museum until February 2011.

The AGM closed at 6.10 p.m.