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Hong Kong Futures

The Hong Kong Government is currently examining options for the future management of its museums. A report entitled *Consultancy Study on the Mode of Governance of Hong Kong's Public Museums and the Hong Kong Film Archives* prepared by **Lord Cultural Resources Planning and Management Inc. and Deloitte & Touche Management Solutions Limited** is currently available for public comment.

MPSA Director, Richard Wesley, in his capacity as an Adjunct Lecturer in Museum Studies, **University of Sydney**, used this document recently as a centrepiece in his management teaching program at **SPACE**, **University of Hong Kong**. It is widely anticipated that a new museum ordinance will be introduced by the Hong Kong Government that will facilitate a number of structural changes to the current administration of the major institutions, including the creation of a central museum board.

A New Decorative Arts Museum?

MPSA has been recently retained by the **National Trust of Australia (NSW)** to explore a long-standing concept for establishing a Decorative Arts Museum at Old Government House, Parramatta. Project Officer, Hayley Johnson is responsible for researching the project and has been working closely with Trust Curator Patricia McDonald, in identifying potential display items.

Industry colleague, Professor Desmond Freeman of **Freeman Design Partners** has been assisting in clarifying a design approach for the proposed facility.

Taking Care of Business

Billed as the best new business address in the world, a consortium of **Multiplex Constructions** and the **Toga Group** have been responsible for the $100 million dollar refurbishment of Jones Bay Wharf, Pyrmont. This work is part of a wider City West redevelopment project commissioned by the NSW Wales Government for the Pyrmont Peninsular. Nearby neighbours include the Sydney Casino and the Australian National Maritime Museum.

MPSA was retained by Multiplex Constructions to work with well known conservation architects, **Otto Cserhalmi and Partners** to develop and implement an interpretation strategy for Jones Bay Wharf. This has involved the creation of an interpretation room within the complex as well as external signage. Individual elements of the scheme, due for completion in November 2003, include two diorama scenes, the recreation of an historic wool shoot, large scale interpretive panels, a Jones Bay Wharf photographic collection, interpretative brochure and a Dunera wing. The latter provides a focus for the experiences of the famous "Dunera Boys", some 2000 German and Austrian anti Nazis who were transported to Australia in 1940 and interned at Hay, NSW.

An important function of the interpretation room is to provide a permanent home for the archaeological collection that was created following excavations carried out by Cosmos Archaeology. MPSA Director, Richard Wesley believes the project provides a benchmark for future partnerships between property development companies, Government, and the public and is confident the project " value adds" to this significant building conversion scheme. Industry partners included **Antiquities Conservation**, **Freeman Design Partners**, **GeoGraphics Group**, **United Displays** and fabrication company, **Definitive**.

Making Sir Henry Parkes Speak

As curatorial advisor to Tenterfield Shire, MPSA has project managed the development of a new multi media product for the Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts Memorial Museum. Utilising the ingenious **Testimony Software** developed by Bob Jansen of **Turtle Lane Studios**, visitors to the museum will soon be able to interrogate the famous Tenterfield Oration, a major speech by Parkes designed to launch the Federation movement.

Well known Australian actor – Drew Forsyth – complete with flowing beard – was filmed delivering the oration; …" The great question, which they had to consider, was, whether the time had not now arisen for the creation on this Australian continent of an Australian Government …" Visitors will be able to view the film, read the text of the speech and supporting essays and be stimulated by a range of colourful Federation graphics. The multi media kiosk will be installed in mid October.

How Big?

In November 2002, the **Qantas Founders Outback Museum** took possession of the *City of Bunbury*, a Qantas 747 series 200, [VH – EBQ]. Sitting proudly next to the Longreach Airport Terminal, and only a few metres from the museum, the aircraft dominates the flat surrounding landscape.

As curatorial advisors to the museum, MPSA was requested to develop a draft Preservation Strategy for consideration by the board that has now been submitted. In preparing the document, the company sought advice from a variety of sources including the **Museum of Flight**, the **Australian War Memorial** and the **West Australian Museum**.

Issues identified included the need for regular external and internal cleaning, circulation of air throughout the airframe, the feasibility of providing protection from the sun and the need for "preservation partners." It is anticipated the draft strategy will form the basis of further discussions with representatives from the aviation industry and preservation experts.

Museum Planning Services Australia Solving problems … one at a time.
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