Welcome to the first Foundation newsletter for 2017.

As demonstrated by Marcus’ article, a lot is happening at MAGNT and the Foundation aims to support the museum to greater things through direct and indirect community support as well as ensuring close engagement between members and MAGNT.

Our current focus for support is to find ‘partners’ who will provide a range of support services for MAGNT, either as a direct donation or at cost or substantially reduced prices. CAN YOU HELP?

It might be the provision of paint, used to paint walls on changeover of exhibitions, it might be stationary, it might be provision of hotel rooms in Alice Springs or Darwin to support exhibition openings, it might be art supplies to support exhibition activities, it might be advertising of exhibitions, it might be wine or beer for use at exhibition openings as an event partner. Such partnerships are common at other public museums and art galleries and bring support for the institution and recognition for business - see https://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/support/corporate/partnerships, https://australianmuseum.net.au/corporate-partners.

Several events are being planned for 2017 ... some of which will be advised separately by email.

WATCH your emails...

Helen Garnett PSM FTSE FAICD
Chair, MAGNT Foundation Council

MAGNT FOUNDATION DIRECTORS
Helen Garnett PSM FTSE FAICD
Ken Suter
Amelia Moloney
Jo Vandermark
Janie Mason

Mary O’Brien
Cassandra Ellis
Annie McCall
The Board of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory are approaching the conclusion of their inaugural triennial funding period with the Northern Territory Government, with the benefits of an independent Board for the people of the Northern Territory seen by all. When MAGNT had our statutory authority status removed in 1998 we had approximately 120 staff. In May 2015, when I commenced as Director, we had 37. By May 2017 we anticipate having 57 staff, an increase of more than 50% in two years.

The Board have led changes at MAGNT that have returned us to a strong growth trajectory. Financially, excluding new funding from the NTG, the Board have secured $2.3 million in external funds over the last two years, most of which came from interstate sources.

The Board will be launching the Museum’s Strategic Vision 2017-2020 shortly. We have also recently commenced a comprehensive review of our Collections Policy.

For those who attended the opening of Hot! you would have seen the completed refresh of our foyer. Many thanks to the Honourable Lauren Moss, Minister of Tourism and Culture for opening Hot!

On 19 February the nation stopped to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin. To commemorate this event MAGNT opened News for the Nation at our Defence of Darwin Experience in East Point. This exhibition highlights the photographs taken by amateurs and the media in the Northern Territory during WWII. Many thanks to the MAGNT Foundation for your support in realising this exhibition.

David Collins’ Street Art had a successful season in the Flinders Gallery, incorporating significant public programs for young people. The Flinders Gallery is now host to Exit Art, showcasing the best of year 12 art from 2016.

In the Ken Waters Gallery Country & Western will conclude on 19 March. Piksa Niugini will open on 08 April. This exhibition showcases the work of Australian photojournalist Stephen Dupont, and will be enhanced by works from the MAGNT collection.

The research library at the Museum of Central Australia was closed in February while we redevelop our back of house spaces. This work will allow for the first time a place for Aboriginal women to meet separately from places of men’s business. It will also create a space purpose built for functions, public programs and meetings.

Our next major capital project is a complete new fit out for the Aboriginal Gallery. March is the last month to see the Aboriginal Gallery before we deinstall the exhibition, install a new floor, walls and lighting, and prepare for Tjungungutja. A major fundraising dinner, incorporating a preview of Tjungungutja, will be taking place on Friday 30 June. Invitations will be sent in late March. Hold the date!

Last October we successfully achieved our fundraising target to acquire Carlene West’s Tjitjiti. We are now appealing for support to secure Guan Wei’s A Mysterious Land No. 9. Further details later in this newsletter.

New faces at the Museum include Kate Fennell, Designer; Matthew van Roden, Communications Coordinator; Merinda Campbell, Digital Imaging Officer; and Eloise Wigger, Collection Technician – Natural Sciences. We plan to soon announce seven more additions to the team.

It is with sadness that we report on the passing of Rex Williams. Rex retired in November 2016 after 34 years with the Museum and 56 in the NT public service. We extend our condolences to Rex’s family and friends.

Warm regards
Marcus Schutenko
Director
In 2006 internationally acclaimed Chinese/Australian artist Guan Wei travelled to the Northern Territory to participate in an artist camp at Gunbalanya (Oenpelli), Western Arnhem Land where he worked alongside Kunwinjku artists from Injalak Arts and Crafts. The painting A Mysterious Land No.9 evocatively captures the artist’s first encounter with the outback and his view of similarities between Aboriginal culture and the Taoist philosophy of ancient China.

MAGNT needs community support to acquire this significant work. Your generosity will enable MAGNT to build upon the vision of founding director Colin Jack-Hinton who aspired to develop a nationally significant collection for the people of the Northern Territory. We invite you to contribute to this legacy and ensure that the collection remains vital for future Territorians.

Donations can be made online at www.magnt.net.au/support. If you would like to discuss your contribution, please contact MAGNT’s Development Manager on (08) 8999 8207.

’unWei painting mural at Powerhouse Museum, Sydney.

‘Guan Wei, A Mysterious Land No.9 2007, acrylic on Canvas (and for the detail)

All images courtesy of the artist and ARC ONE Gallery, Melbourne."
ART TALK WITH PAINTER
CLAUDINE MARZIK
Saturday 18 March, 2pm
Join Claudine Marzik as she discusses with Curator of Australian Art Wendy Garden the subtle palette and application of paint she uses to create unique observations of the extreme seasonal changes of far north Queensland.

ART TALK WITH GARY LANG
Sunday 19 March, 2pm
Artistic Director of Gary Lang NT Dance Company, Gary Lang, and MAGNT’s Assistant Director, Content & Innovation, Louise Tegart discuss the work in the exhibition Country and Western that resonates with them most.

EXIT ART ON THE PULSE
Sunday 26 March, 2pm
Artists Jan Danielle Domingo and Ashleigh Oliver discuss their thoughts, ideas and memories in producing their final year work with Communications Coordinator Matthew van Roden.

PIKSA NIUGINI: STEPHEN DUPONT
Saturday 29 April, 2pm
Assistant Director, Louise Tegart looks at the documentary photography of photojournalist Stephen Dupont.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GEORGE CHALOUPKA COLLECTION
Sunday 30 April, 2pm
Join Sabine Hoeng, Curator of Rock Art for a talk on the rock art of Mount Borradaile, Arnhem Land, known for its contact galleries, early naturalistic animals, dynamic figures and x-ray art.

EXHIBITIONS

EXIT ART
11 Feb - 4 Jun 2017
2016 NT Year 12 student exhibition

COUNTRY & WESTERN
26 Nov 2016 - 19 Mar 2017
Landscape re-imagined

HOT!
29 Oct 2016 - 13 Aug 2017
Highlights from the MAGNT art collection

above detail: Stephen Dupont, Urista Korimbun, baby Bono Korimbun, green parrot, Goverma’s Village, Middle Sepik, 2011, image courtesy of the artist