



**AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL MARITIME
MUSEUM**

Collection Development Policy

*To be dynamic and innovative in managing and exploring Australia's
maritime heritage in ways that inspire, delight and enlighten*

ANMM Vision Statement 2006

**Confirmed November 2005
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Australian National Maritime Museum

Collection Development Policy

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SECTION 1

Background & Brief History of Policy Development

1.1 In 1985, the Australian National Maritime Museum's Interim Council commissioned consultants Professor Peter Spearritt and Mr Vaughan Evans to prepare a *Draft Collections Policy*. This Report was submitted in October 1985. The original collecting themes proposed can be summarised as the following:

- (1) Ships and the Sea
- (2) Aboriginal and Islander Life on the Coast and Rivers
- (3) Immigration and Settlement 1788 to 1988
- (4) The Royal Australian Navy
- (5) The Everyday Life of Sailors
- (6) The Discovery and Exploration of Australia
- (7) Living and Working in a Port
- (8) Australian Maritime Industries
- (9) Maritime Administration
- (10) Sport and Recreation
- (11) The Economics of the Sea

1.2 From these, five themes were chosen by the same Interim Council to constitute the Museum's major opening exhibitions:

- (1) *Discovery: the finding of Australia*
- (2) *Passengers: the long sea voyage*
- (3) *Commerce: the working sea*
- (4) *Leisure: sun, surf, sails*
- (5) *Navy: protecting Australia*

A sixth, *Australia-USA: linked by the sea*, was added in December 1987 with the announcement of the bicentennial gift from the USA Government.

1.3 The Interim Council determined that the major focus for collecting in the lead up to opening would be directed exclusively towards the six opening exhibitions and that this process be formally classified as the Museum's Collection Policy.

1.4 By 1989 however, it was clear that the Museum needed to look beyond opening and towards a long-term strategy for future development of the National Maritime Collection. On 3 April 1989 Council ratified a paper which nominated six main Collection Focus Areas. (Document 95, file 88/777, dated 3 April 1989) These were:

- (1) European Exploration and Settlement
- (2) Merchant and Commercial Services
- (3) Ship Technology and Maritime Archaeology
- (4) Australian Naval Service
- (5) Maritime Sport and Leisure
- (6) Coastal and Island Communities

1.5 The Focus Areas were considered by Council and subsequently adopted. A seventh Focus Area - the USA Gallery - was added in 1992.

1.6 In line with the program of policy development, the Curatorial Section was restructured to focus on future collection and exhibition programs. This was implemented shortly after the Museum opened in November 1991. These were:

- (1) **Maritime Technology** covering Colonial Exploration, Maritime Archaeology, Ship Technology and Naval Service in Australia with one Senior Curator, two Curators and one Assistant Curator.
- (2) **Maritime Communities** covering Sport & Leisure, Economic & Commercial History and Indigenous Communities (formerly, Coastal and Island Communities) with one Senior Curator, two Curators and two Assistant Curators.
- (3) Under the terms of the USA Gift Agreement a curatorial position was designated to work exclusively with the **USA Gallery** collection under the guidance of the managing Curator and Assistant Director, Collections and Exhibitions. This position has been established at the PO2 (Curator) level.
- (4) A separate curatorial position, **Exhibitions** Curator, handled temporary and travelling exhibitions.

1.7 The Collection Development Policy was updated and ratified by Council on 20 October 1993. This policy revision acknowledged the changes that had occurred in collection development since 1989. In addition to this seven new Focus Areas for collecting were proposed and subsequently adopted. These were:

- (1) **Colonial Exploration**
- (2) **Maritime Archaeology and Ship Technology**
Maritime Archaeology
Ship technology
- (3) **Naval Service in Australia**
- (4) **Sport and Leisure**
- (5) **Economic and Commercial History**
Passenger Travel
Trade and Transport of Goods
Harvesting the Ocean
- (6) **Indigenous Communities**
- (7) **Australia-USA Maritime Links**

1.8 The Museum undertook an organisation and staffing review in September 2001. As a result of this review the Curatorial Section was reorganised to reflect changes in operation since opening in 1991.

- (1) **Maritime Technology**
Senior Curator, Navy
Assistant Curator, Navy
Curator, 19th century Immigration, Ship Technology & Maritime Archaeology
Curator, Exploration
- (2) **Maritime Communities**
Senior Curator, Maritime Communities
Curator, Commerce
Assistant Curator, Sport & Leisure
Assistant Curator, Passengers

- (3) **Special Projects Unit**
Manager Temporary and Travelling Exhibitions
Coordinator Temporary and Travelling Exhibitions
Senior Curator, USA Gallery
Indigenous Curator & Liaison Officer

1.9 In 2003 the Collection Development Policy was revised as a result of changes in Commonwealth and State laws, international conventions and national museological policies and guidelines. The seven focus areas were also reworked into ten new areas, acknowledging the changes in emphasis of each theme and the geo-social climate in which the collection is being developed. These focus areas now form the basis of the Collection Development Policy and are detailed in Section 8.

SECTION 2

Aims of Collection Development and Statement of the Collection Focus Areas

2.1 The Collection Development Policy is written to comply with the requirements of *The Australian National Maritime Museum Act, 1990*. These include exhibitions, research, loans, public programs, publications and public access facilities. The relevant section of The Act is as follows:

6 The functions of the Museum are:

- (a) to exhibit, or to make available for exhibition by others, in Australia or elsewhere, material included in the national maritime collection or maritime historical material that is otherwise in the possession of the Museum;*
- (b) to co-operate with other institutions (whether public or private) in the exhibiting, or in the making available for exhibition of such material;*
- (c) to develop, preserve and maintain the National Maritime Collection in accordance with section 9;*
- (d) to disseminate information relating to Australian maritime history and information relating to the Museum and its functions;*
- (e) to conduct, arrange for and assist research into matters relating to Australian maritime history;*

In Section 9 of The Act, reference is made to the development of a national maritime collection.

9 National Maritime Collection:

- (1) The Museum shall develop a national collection of maritime historical material.*
- (2) The National Maritime Collection shall consist of all maritime historical material in the sole ownership of the Museum that the Council has determined in accordance with subsection (3) should be included in the national maritime collection.*
- (3) The Council shall, from time to time, determine which of the maritime historical material that comes into the sole ownership of the Museum should be included in the National Maritime Collection.*
- (4) Any determination made by the Council for the purposes of subsection (3) shall be based upon criteria, and made in accordance with guidelines, approved by the Minister.*

- 2.2 The aim of the Collection is to reflect the maritime history and contemporary maritime experience of Australians in a national and international context.
- 2.3 The Collection will represent the cultural diversity of Australians. It will also reflect the gender, age and geographical spread of people across Australia and its Territories.
- 2.4 The Collection Development Policy will be reviewed every five years.
- 2.5 **This policy ratified 10 Focus Areas for collecting.**

They were as follows:

- Focus Area No 1: **Indigenous Communities**
- Focus Area No 2: **Exploration and European Settlement**
- Focus Area No 3: **Convicts, Migrants and Refugees**
- Focus Area No 4: **Australian Naval History**
- Focus Area No 5: **Shipping and Trade**
- Focus Area No 6: **Environment and Industry**
- Focus Area No 7: **Maritime Technology**
- Focus Area No 8: **Maritime Archaeology**
- Focus Area No 9: **Sport and Lifestyle**
- Focus Area No 10: **Australian – American Maritime Experience**

SECTION 3

Means of Acquisition

- 3.1** The Museum acquires objects into the National Maritime Collection by purchase (from private individuals, dealers, at auction), gift, bequest, gift through the Cultural Gifts Program, field surveys, or as a transfer of assets from other Commonwealth, Local and State agencies.

The Museum will not accept conditional gifts and does not recognise the term 'permanent loan'.

- 3.2** The Museum requires clear legal title to its collections. Without clear title the Museum could be restricted in the way it can use its collection, making it difficult to display, lend or publish images of its objects.

Proof of purchase lies with the Museum's Finance Section who pay for collection purchases on receipt of an invoice.

Title to material donated to the Museum is given through the donor signing the Museum's official Deed of Gift.

Transfer of assets from other agencies is completed through finance directives and guidelines established by Government.

- 3.3** Valuations for material donated through the Cultural Gifts Program are carried out in accordance with the regulations of the Scheme which is administered by the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

SECTION 4

Collecting Principles

- 4.1** The Museum will collect material consistent with its ten Collection Focus Areas outlined in Section 8.
- 4.2** The Museum will seek to build a representative collection and work in collaboration with local, regional, state and other national institutions to fairly represent Australia's maritime heritage in all Collection Focus Areas.
- 4.3** Wherever possible the Museum will not duplicate collections held by other museums within Australia, and will liaise with public institutions for the acquisition of material.
- 4.4** Each object in the National Maritime Collection will be accessible to the general public. Whether individually or in association with other material, objects will be suited for use in existing or future public programs such as exhibitions, research, interactive and audio-visual presentations, websites and electronic and printed publications.
- 4.5** The National Maritime Collection will reflect a culturally diverse community and will represent the gender, age and geographical spread across Australia and its Territories.
- 4.6** Whilst priority will be given to material which relates specifically to Australia's maritime heritage, objects which have international significance will be considered. This will happen when objects illustrate either the influence of other cultures on developments in Australia or where Australia has contributed to the maritime history of other countries.
- 4.7** The National Maritime Collection will represent physical artefacts, as well as intangibles such as oral histories that can be used to illustrate personal historical and contemporary views.
- 4.8** The Museum will increase its level of collection material across all Collection Focus Areas to reflect its changing interest in:
- Contemporary issues
 - The environment
 - Natural history
- 4.9** The Museum will also increase its level of collection material relating to the regional significance of Antarctica and the Indo-Pacific Rim.
- 4.10** All prospective acquisitions will be assessed according to the following Assessment Principles:
- (1) Consistency with the Museum's Mission Statement and Collection Focus

Areas.

- (2) They must demonstrate a potential for display and communication.
- (3) Objects will be historically significant.
- (4) Objects may be considered for their aesthetic, technical or scientific significance.
- (5) Objects may illustrate the social history of Australian maritime communities.
- (6) Objects should be in reasonable condition given age and material.
- (7) Each object must have clear evidence of ownership and legal title. (see Section 3 for details)
- (8) The Museum must demonstrate available resources to maintain and keep the object or group of objects.
- (9) Wherever possible objects must have clear and detailed histories with demonstrated provenance.
- (10) The Museum must be able to provide finances to fund the purchase of the object/s.
- (11) Wherever possible the Museum should attempt to obtain any copyright clearance associated with the object/s.

SECTION 5

Process of Acquisition

5.1 Proposal

All objects proposed for inclusion in the National Maritime Collection will be detailed in a submitted written report by Curators to the relevant Senior Curator for consideration by the Assistant Director, Collections and Exhibitions. This report will refer to the collecting and assessment principles outlined in Section 4 of the *Collection Development Policy*. Based on these principles the Assistant Director will make recommendations to the Director who shall consult the Chair of Council's Collections Development and Exhibitions Committee prior to acquiring any object priced at \$50,000 or higher. The Collections Development and Exhibitions Committee will consider lists of objects requiring ratification for inclusion in the National Maritime Collection prior to each full Council meeting.

5.2 Documentation

All information and data available on proposed acquisitions will be recorded by the relevant Curator who will compile an acquisition report including a statement of significance. This will form the basis for the ongoing management of the object(s).

If the proposal is accepted, the Curator will begin the process of accessioning the object. The Registration Section will classify the object and allocate a Museum number, a location for the object and a detailed description for identification purposes. The Curator will catalogue the object and furnish the system with additional research information.

5.3 Conservation Assessment

When an object requires a technical assessment of condition a Conservator will examine it prior to acquisition. A Conservation Report will determine the condition of the proposed acquisition and the costs of future treatment. In the case of purchase from other states or countries, qualified assessors will be commissioned by the Museum for this purpose. The cost of any conservation work needed will be assessed along with the purchase cost of a proposed acquisition.

5.4 Registration Assessment

When necessary, the impact of maintaining proposed acquisitions will also be assessed by the Museum's Senior Registrar prior to acquisition. This is particularly relevant to groups of objects and whole collections. The cost of managing museum objects can, in some cases, exceed the purchase cost or outweigh the benefit of a gift.

SECTION 6

Deaccessioning

6.1 Reviews of the Collection

Reviews of the National Maritime Collection will be undertaken periodically to assess relevance of material to the Museum's policies as guided by the Museum's three-year *Strategic Plan*. This will enable the Museum to evaluate material considered no longer appropriate to the Collection for various reasons including;

- (1) Change in condition (damage)
- (2) Restitution of cultural property.
- (3) Questionable legal title.
- (4) Information that leads to a reappraisal of the significance of a certain object.

6.2 Criteria and Guidelines

Criteria and guidelines have been outlined in a policy document *Deaccessioning and Disposal Policy* ratified by the Museum's Council at Meeting No 9 on 24 February, 1992. (Document No 233 first submitted at meeting No 7 15 October 1991).

SECTION 7

Ethics

7.1 Laws and Conventions

In its collecting activities the Museum will take particular regard to the following international conventions and Commonwealth and State laws. This list may change periodically.

- (1) Australian Heritage Commission Act, 1975, Commonwealth
- (2) Customs Act, 1901, Commonwealth
- (3) Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act, 1974, Commonwealth
- (4) Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, 1975, Commonwealth
- (5) Historic Shipwrecks Act, 1976 (and Amendments 1984), Commonwealth
- (6) National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1975, Commonwealth
- (7) Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act, 1986, Commonwealth
- (8) Environment Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, New South Wales
- (9) Heritage Act, 1987, New South Wales
- (10) Marine Administration Act, 1989, New South Wales
- (11) National Parks & Wildlife Act, 1967, New South Wales
- (12) Freedom of Information Act, 1982, Commonwealth
- (13) Protection of the Sea (Civil Liability) Act, 1981, Commonwealth
- (14) Endangered Species Protection Act, 1992, Commonwealth
- (15) Archives Act, 1983, Commonwealth
- (16) Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act, 1982, Commonwealth
- (17) CITES, Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, 1975
- (18) The Navigation Act, 1912, Commonwealth
- (19) The Maritime Archaeology Act, 1971, Western Australia
- (20) The Historic Shipwrecks Act, 1981, South Australia
- (21) The Heritage Act, 1993, South Australia
- (22) The Heritage Act, 1995, Victoria

- (23) UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 1970
- (24) UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972
- (25) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, (UNCLOS), 1982
- (26) UNESCO International Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, 2001

7.2 MA Code of Ethics

The acquisition of objects into the National Maritime Collection will always be carried out in accordance with the standards prescribed in Museums Australia's (MA) *Code of Ethics*, ACT, 1999.

7.3 Management of Australian Indigenous Cultural Material

The Museum is sensitive to Indigenous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customs in the purchase and display of their material. In accordance with the ANMM's Indigenous protocols document *Connections Indigenous Cultures* 2005 and the MA's *Previous Possessions New Obligations: Policies for Museums in Australia and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, Sydney, 2000, advice will be sought from relevant communities and relevant specialists in the acquisition and display of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander material. The Museum does not intend to acquire secret or sacred objects and will support the principle of repatriation wherever relevant.

7.4 Management of Maritime Archaeological Material

The Museum will follow the standards and ethics as determined by the ANMM Maritime Archaeology Policy, 2005. This policy will be amended from time to time to reflect the standards and ethics of the discipline.

SECTION 8

Collection Focus Areas

- (1) Indigenous Communities
- (2) Exploration and European Settlement
- (3) Convicts, Migrants and Refugees
- (4) Australian Naval History
- (5) Shipping and Trade
- (6) Environment and Industry
- (7) Maritime Technology
- (8) Maritime Archaeology
- (9) Sport and Lifestyle
- (10) Australian – American Maritime Experience

Focus Area No 1: Indigenous Communities

Status

Indigenous Communities covers the history and contemporary life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their maritime culture. Implicit within the policy parameters is an acknowledgement of the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems and the intangible and tangible aspects of Indigenous cultural practices and relevant cultural property rights.

Since opening, previous collecting has focussed on exhibitions including watercraft, maritime technology and artistic reflections of maritime culture. The Museum Collection, although small and recent in comparison to other institutions, is extremely dynamic. Indigenous access to the collection is encouraged.

Current Collecting Themes

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land/sea rights and sovereignty.
- The maintaining and appreciation of Indigenous cultures.
- The influence of the sea on the people.
- The interplay between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultures.
- Ceremonial objects from the coastal communities of Torres Strait and the Tiwi Islands.

Areas to be developed

- The future scope of the collection will be expanded to build on existing themes and collections and to illustrate regional differences in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Future collecting will also include gathering documentation on the objects collected and the people who produced or used them. This information is considered of equal importance to the object itself and will be collected as directly as possible from the original source, either from the producers themselves or from advisers in the field.
- Explore the social and material exchanges that have occurred and continue to take place between Indigenous communities such as the transference and modification of language and spiritual concepts across communities.
- Objects relating to national and international trade.
- Torres Strait Islands' traditional ship building technologies.
- Objects that are not of Indigenous origin but have influenced or impacted on Indigenous communities, for example the King George plates, Makassan tools, pearling and fish technologies.
- Non-Indigenous archives, manuscripts and diaries that contain representations of indigenous cultural practices.

- Water tenure and management systems on the reefs and islands of Western Australia and the Great Barrier Reef.
- Current commercial enterprises operated by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, such as fishing.
- Pearling in the Torres Strait and Northern Australia.
- Indigenous relationship with the Australian Navy past, present and future.
- Maritime and river trade routes including the Torres Strait trade routes to the Pacific.
- Material produced by women and children.

Priorities for the next three years

- Inland river and coastal communities
- Indigenous concepts of time, navigation, astronomy
- Traditional crafts and textiles from the communities of Cape York, Torres Strait, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Issues for this Focus Area

- An important aim of the collection is to show the rich and diverse maritime culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and its relevance to life today.
- The Museum will consult the appropriate people before collecting a particular object or group of objects to give Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders greater say in the collection and management of their material to ensure that it is broadly representative of their culture. The appropriate people could be the local Aboriginal-controlled Art Centres or Keeping Places or the Island Coordinating Councils of Torres Strait.
- The Museum will not collect secret sacred material or human remains. Consequently, issues of repatriation of this type of material should not arise.
- The Museum will subscribe to the principles enunciated by Museums Australia in the document *Previous Possessions New Obligations: Policies for Museums in Australia and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, Sydney, 1993. In the past, Australian museums have tended to collect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands material with a strong emphasis on utilitarian objects and items of scientific interest. Objects that were sacred to indigenous communities and the skeletal remains of people have not always been treated with sensitivity.

- The Australian National Maritime Museum will respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customs and express the wishes of Indigenous communities in matters relating to the use of their cultural heritage and protocols.

Focus Area No 2: Exploration and European Settlement

Status

Exploration encompasses the discovery and maritime exploration of the Australian continent prior to European settlement in 1788, and subsequent charting and initial settlement during the colonial period 1788-1901. European, Pacific and Asian exploration are included in this definition.

The collection ranges in date from 1602, the Blaeu celestial globe, to contemporary perceptions of the explorers.

The collection in this Focus Area is small but of high quality. While strongly paper-based with documentary material and topographic images, there are a number of unique items such as the Wallis screen, the Blaeu celestial globe, the *Resolution* sternpost section, a portrait of Willem de Vlamingh by Jan Verkolje, and the painting by Gustave Alaux, *Bougainville at Tahiti*. A number of ship models and a small group of navigational instruments are present also. French material, acquired with the sponsorship of Louis Vuitton, includes an attractive collection of children's literature and boardgames.

This core collection is supplemented by Commonwealth shipwreck material distributed to the Museum under the Australian Netherlands Committee on Old Dutch Shipwrecks agreement (ANCODS), relating to the four Dutch shipwrecks off the Western Australian coast.

Current collecting themes

- The careers of European mariners, explorers and traders: Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, French and British.
- The lives of Asian traders: primarily the Makassans.
- The coastline discovered, surveyed and charted: 17th century Dutch explorers, Tasman, Dampier, Cook, King, Flinders.
- Famous navigators: Cook, La Perouse, Bass, Flinders.
- The life, journeys and death of Captain James Cook.
- Perceptions of 'Terra Australis': of the people, landscapes, flora and fauna.
- Indigenous perceptions of European explorers to the present
- Colonial maritime settlement and surveying.
- Exploration of Australasia and the Pacific.

Duplication of original material in existing Commonwealth holdings has generally been avoided. Such material includes maps and charts - areas in which the National Library of Australia in particular is very strong.

Areas to be developed

A growing emphasis will be placed on the following areas not yet adequately represented in the National Maritime Collection:

- The development of viable sea routes: for example Brouwer's route, Barrier Reef, Torres Strait, Bass Strait.
- The life of William Bligh.
- The voyages of the *Beagle*, the most famous discovery vessel of the 19th century.
- World theories of the Great South Land.
- Maritime exploration of Antarctica.
- Extend the examination of the exploration of Australasia and the Pacific to include New Guinea and New Zealand.

Priorities for the next three years

Growth in this area will continue to be modest (primarily due to the high cost associated with the acquisition of this material) and incremental, and will be governed by the ongoing needs of the *Navigators* exhibition in the short to medium term.

Focus Area No 3: Convicts, Migrants and Refugees

Status

Immigration is a central part of Australia's history and most migrants, from the First Fleet to recent refugee arrivals, have come via the sea.

Our collection on immigration history covers chronologically the earliest years of European arrival and settlement, i.e. from 1788, to the present day.

The aim of the collection in this Focus Area is to represent the experiences and stories of those who travelled to Australia voluntarily, involuntarily, and as assisted or unassisted migrants – under the many schemes which have existed.

The broad categories range from convicts, free and assisted migrants, indentured workers and travellers to skilled migrants, displaced persons and refugees.

Current collecting themes

- To date the collection has concentrated on international migration and passenger travel to Australia. The existing collection includes paintings, posters, prints, photographs, books, pamphlets, brochures, manuscripts, luggage, furniture, clothing, and ship models.
- The collection includes personal material from individuals and families with an emphasis on collecting children's experiences of migration.
- Shipping line, corporate and promotional material including menus, posters, china, passenger lists, tickets, souvenirs etc.
- Memorabilia and other corporate-branded material such as fittings, utensils and uniforms from the ships and shipping lines that brought people to Australia.
- The strongest area of the collection is material from the enormous post-World War II migration to Australia from Britain and Europe. This material from includes sentimental and symbolic items, luggage, clothing, personal effects, travel documents and paperwork, tools of trade, photographs, diaries and mementos of their homeland.
- There is also a substantial collection covering the Vietnamese exodus (post-1975), when the South Vietnamese regime collapsed following the Communist takeover.

Cultural groups represented

The collection includes material from people of British, Irish, European, Eastern European (including Jewish) and Indo-Chinese origin.

Areas to be developed

- While the Museum will need to build on the existing collection as the opportunity arises, future collecting should also concentrate on material related to convict transportation, 19th century assisted migration and migration schemes, missionary society activities in the Pacific and voyages from Australia.
- Earlier periods of 20th century migration i.e. 1900 to World War II.
- The Pacific Island labour trade (blackbirding) to Australia.
- Australian-New Zealand immigration.
- East Timorese arrivals, especially since mid-1970s.
- Recent Pacific Island emerging communities in Australia i.e. Tongan, West Samoan and Fijian.
- Lebanese migration i.e. from early itinerant traders in the late 19th century – early 20th century to 1970s post-civil war political refugees.
- Past and present Government policies on migrants and refugees, including the development of the White Australia Policy and challenges to it.
- The refugee and immigration policies of influential fringe groups including anti-immigration and anti-refugee propaganda.

Priorities for the next three years

- Convict transportation
- Forming links with the East Timorese in Australia, and recently established Pacific Island communities.
- Documenting Middle Eastern arrivals from the early Afghan camel drivers to the boat people of recent years.
- Lebanese migration.
- Political cartoons, posters and papers on immigration and refugee policy.
- The activities of influential groups including One Nation and National Action.

Issues for this Focus Area

- It is important that the Museum maintains links with immigrant communities and local historical societies building on established networks to assist in developing the collection.

The Museum should be seen as a place of deposit for these communities, especially in relation to 20th century immigration.

- Intangible, or non-object based histories, are an important way of recording the immigration experience. Oral histories are a valuable way of exploring the emotions of leaving a homeland, the experience of the voyage, the uncertain new days in unfamiliar surrounds and the process of becoming part of multicultural Australia.

Focus Area No 4: Australian Naval History

Status

When the Museum opened in 1991, Navy was one of the seven core galleries dealing with the broad range of stories that make up Australia's maritime heritage.

Every seven - ten years the core galleries are redeveloped in line with improved design and technological techniques. The Navy Gallery is scheduled for this work in 2003. Work has already begun and the new Gallery will be open to the public in December 2003.

The main aim of the development is to make Australian naval history relevant to the school curriculum and to present to all visitors in an exciting and hands-on way.

Australian Naval History covers the ships, life and experiences of the Royal Navy in Australian waters from 1788 to 1911, the Colonial Navies from 1855 to 1911, and the Royal Australian Navy since its inception in 1911. It also includes significant visiting navies and strategic defence alliances.

Current collecting themes

Collecting to date has concentrated on the following topics and the Museum has strong collections in these areas:

- Social history of naval life including daily life and work conditions at sea, dangerous occupations, medals and decorations, memorabilia, discipline and punishment, naval hierarchy and administration, and uniform and heraldry.
- The role and impact of naval technology from mines and minesweeping to torpedoes and missiles, hydrography, cartography and oceanography.
- Australian colonial navies, particularly the New South Wales and Victorian brigades.
- The epic HMAS *Sydney*/SMS *Emden* battle.
- The Royal Navy's part in colonisation, on the influential social role played by the Navy in colonial life, on the Royal Navy as an organisation maintaining its own culture and tradition.
- The Nelson legend - an important stream of naval tradition with an associated body of literature and commemorative material.
- First Australian fleet unit – particularly the commemorative events surrounding its arrival in Australia.
- The training ship HMAS *Tingira*.
- A comprehensive collection of uniforms including protective clothing, dress uniform, insignia of branch, trade and rank.
- Women in the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS), the Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service (RANNS) and the Royal Australian Navy.
- Original journals, logs and personal collections relating to life in the Navy.

- Lives and contributions of Indigenous Australians in Naval history
- Vessels – former Attack class patrol boat HMAS *Advance*. Also representing naval history but not part of the National Maritime Collection is the former Daring class destroyer HMAS *Vampire* and the former Oberon class submarine HMAS *Onslow*.
- The Australian Submarine Squadron.
- Medals and decorations relating to naval service in times of conflict from the Boer War to the present.

Areas to be developed

Collecting to service the *Navy* exhibition will continue and acquisition will aim to constitute a collection that is representative across the field of naval service.

- The Royal Australian Navy during peacetime – exercises at sea, rescue at sea, the interception of vessels undertaking illegal fishing activities or people smuggling operations, naval participation in security events, accidents, losses and disasters and issues in navy life.
- In mid-1985 the WRANS as a separate service ceased to exist and all female recruits were liable for sea service. Material related to female naval service from 1985 onwards will be a priority.
- Naval bases and support – training, repair and supply.
- Recreation and welfare at sea and ashore for serving personnel and their families.
- The history and role of Australian troopships, hospital ships and other ancillary merchant and private craft used by the Navy during wartime including landing craft and interrelations with the other forces.
- Fleet Air Arm: The history of the Fleet Air Arm is currently under-represented. The Museum will aim to have a representative collection covering aircraft type, general history and major deployments. The collection will not compete with the Museum of Flight in Nowra, NSW but rather work in conjunction to complement each collection and display.
- Promotional and marketing material designed to attract recruits and raise the profile of the Australian Navy.
- A selection of material generated by anti-war movements that comment on the operations of the Australian Navy within the domestic and international arena.
- An oral history program recording the experiences of personnel past and present across all areas of the Royal Australian Navy.

Priorities for the next three years

- The RAN during peacetime.
- The Fleet Air Arm.
- Naval oral histories.

Focus Area No 5: Shipping and Trade

Status

This Focus Area explores the importance of shipping and trade in the development of 18th and 19th century colonial economies to an Australian national economy. The movement of imports and exports by sea continues to be vital to Australia's national interests.

This area represents the lives of those who built, worked and sailed on the ships and those who ran the shipping lines. It also explores the development of Australian ports and port workers and the changing role of unions and the Commonwealth government's role in shipping and trade.

Current collecting themes

- The Collection has a large variety of items from representative shipping companies including the coastal shipping line McIlwraith McEacharn, the inter-island line Burns Philp, Adelaide Steamship Company and Howard Smith. The items include shipping ledgers, correspondence, ship plans, ship portraits, ship cutlery, ship crockery, menus and ship models.
- The Focus Area also has a substantial body of personal material representing the lives of merchant mariners and other maritime workers, including wartime experience from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century. Several extensive individual collections are included, notably the McKilliam, Bayldon, Helm, and Brett Hilder Collections reflecting careers of merchant mariners, and the Harold Browne sailmaker's collection. These collections include personal documents and memorabilia as well as tools, navigation instruments, uniform, clothing, professional certificates and discharges.
- The history of working the waterfront is well represented in personal papers, memorabilia, clothing and tools and a small, selective collection of pictorial works. These include: art by social realist artists Roy Dalgarno, Ralph Sawyer, Rod Shaw and Clem Millward; the union banner of the *Federated Painters and Dockers Union* painted by Edgar Whitbread in 1903; and the monumental Wharfies mural painted by the Studio of Realist Art for the Waterside Workers Federation offices in Sussex Street, Sydney in the 1950-60s.
- The rich photographic collections include images of commercial shipping and maritime industry on the waterfront from the late 19th century to the 1970s in the Hood and Wilkinson, Stewart and Watt collections related to the ports of Sydney and Newcastle.
- There is a small collection on safety at sea including sea rescue, lighthouses and light beacons around Australia and relevant government legislation.

Cultural groups represented

- Merchant mariners from shipmasters to crew members and their families, shipowners and shipping company employees, workers in maritime trades, members of maritime trade unions and their families.

Areas to be developed

- The development of coastal and river ports within national and international trade and transport routes.
- Australian ship builders including Halvorsen Boatbuilders Pty Ltd.
- Australian ship building and the reasons behind its decline.
- The development of Australian shipping companies (the Australian National Line).
- The development of maritime trade unions.
- Changes in trade in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Australia-Japan shipping and trade links.
- Australia-Pacific Islands shipping and trade links.
- Trans-Tasman trade
- International law of the sea protocols and their changing affect on international shipping routes
- Piracy in our region.

Priorities for the next three years

- The globalisation of trade and changes in Australian shipping company ownership. The once large Australian Register of Shipping is now diminished to a relatively few Australian ships. Containerisation and the increasing use of ‘flag of convenience ships’ are central to this area, which should also look at the issue of free trade and the World Trade Organisation. This area represents the contemporary aspect of the Focus Area and needs development. Coastal and river port development.
- Inter island trade and transport
- The continuing conflict between the dock owners and workers over the use of flag of convenience ships and crews.

Issues for this Focus Area

- Contemporary changes in Australian shipping and trade in the context of globalisation.
- Develop and maintain links with Australian companies that retain Australian shipping line material. The Museum should target special stories and key objects such as paintings, presentation gifts, models, and illuminated addresses from these large collections.

- Develop links with foreign owned shipping companies that operate in and out of Australia.
- Maintain links with the Maritime Union of Australia and other maritime unions. Develop and maintain contacts in the various port authorities.

Focus Area No 6: Environment and Industry

Status

Environment and industry is about the interrelationship of industries and the environment in rivers, dams and oceans around Australia. This Focus Area explores all non-shipping maritime industries which have played a role in Australia's development, from the 18th century to the present.

Themes include whaling, sealing, fishing, pearling, oil exploration, and more recent industries such as aquaculture. The Focus Area includes indigenous subsistence practices where relevant.

Current collecting themes

- The whaling industry is well represented in this Focus Area with try pots, harpoons, whale products, engravings, documents and scrimshaw. An outstanding collection of scrimshaw has been created from the Tilbrook and Desmond Liddy collections.
- Technological, cultural and trading material from the subsistence whaling community of Lamalera in Indonesia is a highlight of this Focus Area.
- There are also a number of items relating to tuna fishing, abalone diving and lobster/crayfish trapping.
- The small pearling collection was greatly enhanced in 2003 by the acquisition of the Denis George Pearl culture collection. This large, unique collection was developed by Denis George (1917-2001) during his pearl culture activities from the 1950s to the 1980s. The collection comprises cultured spherical and blistered pearls, pearl shell jewellery and components, pearl shell, pearl culturing and processing equipment, diving equipment, books, journals, albums, notebooks, research notes, personal papers, photographs, slides, video and audio cassettes.
- The Focus Area also includes a large collection of 207 oral histories recording people involved in the commercial fishing industries around Australia undertaken by the University of Western Australia.

Groups represented

Fishing communities, whalers and sealers, environmental groups, offshore mining companies, fishing fleets, community activists.

Culturally and linguistically diverse communities and Lamalera in Indonesia.

Areas to be developed

- Fishing fleets, fish markets and fishing communities.
- Fisheries and fish stocks, including over-fishing, illegal fishing and management of fisheries in Australian waters.
- Prawn trawling, aquaculture, oyster farming and offshore oil and gas drilling.
- The El Nino weather pattern and the impact of global warming on the climate, river systems, coastal environment and fishing industry.
- The history of environmental lobby groups and of Government policy on maritime industries.
- The development of tourism in marine environments (i.e. the reefs of Western Australia and Queensland).

Priorities for the next three years

- To document Australia's leading role in world negotiations on whaling within the International Whaling Commission.
- The changes in the management of the fishing industry and representing communities around Australia.
- The development of the Great Barrier Reef including tourism, Government and Indigenous reef management systems.
- The development of river communities, their industries and economies and the effects on the river system.
- The effects of agricultural industries on the Murray-Darling River system.

Issues for this Focus Area

- Build and strengthen links with the various regulatory authorities in the fishing, whaling, offshore mining and environmental protection areas to chart contemporary issues.
- Maintain links with the Australian Customs Service in relation to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) 1975.

Focus Area No 7: Maritime Technology

Status

This section covers the technology of ships and ship building involving vessels greater than 50 tonnes and including ship machinery, fittings, equipment and modern marine navigation as they pertain to Australian maritime service.

In the broadest terms, this collection provides material which aids in the interpretation of how ships were constructed, how they work and how this has changed over time.

The Museum will continue to strengthen the collection in this Focus Area previously known as Ship Technology.

Current collecting themes

The existing collection includes paintings, engravings, photographs, printed material, ships' plans, manuscript material, ship models, machinery, equipment and fittings from vessels.

Areas to be developed

- Marine navigational equipment and systems in non-naval use including satellite navigation.
- International and local Australian shipyard design and practice.
- International and local ship design and appearance.
- Ship operation and practices.
- Ship propulsion.
- Ships' equipment.
- Oral histories relating to the Australian shipbuilding and design industry.

Priorities for the next three years

The acquisition of operable items will take priority and both surface ships and submersibles will be included. Although nothing is more evocative than a real ship, models will often be our best source of information about construction and operation. Relics, equipment, plans, blueprints, images, technical drawings and information will form the basis of this collection.

Focus Area No 8: Maritime Archaeology

Status

Maritime Archaeology involves material, including relics, from shipwreck sites in Australian waters that are subject to, or are potentially subject to, the Commonwealth *Historic Shipwrecks Act* (1976) or similar State legislation.

The following procedures have been adopted to deal with maritime archaeological material:

- Any items assessed as suitable for permanent retention in the National Maritime Collection are processed according to established procedures. This number is small and this action is generally avoided in preference for the next procedure.
- Any items, which are assessed as suitable for repatriation to a state, regional or local repository will be relocated through relevant State, delegated authorities.
- Any items which are assessed as not suitable for either of the above actions are held by the Australian National Maritime Museum using a temporary tracking number and placed in temporary storage until reassessed.
- See also reference to the Commonwealth Shipwreck Collection in the Focus Area No 2: Exploration and European Settlement.

Current collecting themes

The Museum does not have a substantial maritime archaeological collection having adopted a policy of not actively acquiring this type of material (see *Australian National Maritime Museum Maritime Archaeology Policy*, 1991, 1995, 2002 and 2005).

Areas to be developed

The Museum has a policy of borrowing maritime archaeological material from the relevant State delegated authorities for exhibition. This is in line with current Australian and international archaeological practice.

Priorities for the next three years

Lack of ANMM resources to properly excavate, conserve and manage a large collection of maritime archaeological material has led to the Museum having a significant and active ongoing role of providing archaeological advice and expertise to other authorities on a state, national and international basis. This service will continue to be the major focus of the section.

Focus Area No 9: Sport and Lifestyle

Status

The collection received renewed focus from 1999-2000 when the core exhibition *Leisure; Sun Surf and Sails* in the ANZ Gallery was redeveloped as *Watermarks – adventure, sport and play*.

This redevelopment provided an opportunity to reassess the collection and the themes of importance in contemporary Australia – ten years after opening. The Museum has been able to build on the existing collection and target new directions, all within the framework of assessing how sport and leisure lifestyles in Australia explore issues of identity.

The new core exhibition presents themes of rowing, swimming, surfing, solo sailing, ocean racing (Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race), regattas, canoeing, adventure kayaking, water-skiing and lifestyles of Indigenous communities on the Murray River. These themes replace the America's Cup, speed boating, beach culture, the open boats of Sydney Harbour, wooden boat building and surf lifesaving.

Current collecting themes

- One of the strengths of this Focus Area is the rich collection of material illustrating the history of beach culture and swimming in Australia which includes fashion, popular culture, sporting equipment and children's toys. It includes the history of the surf lifesaving movement and of surfing as a sport and lifestyle
- The sailing collections include club histories, programs and trophies, personal memorabilia and sailing apparel ranging in date from 19th century open boating to selected 20th century racing classes. The Museum holds several rich archival collections including archives from the prominent yachting journalist Lou d'Alpuget, the eighteen-footer sailor 'Wee' Georgie Robinson and sailing entrepreneur Mark Foy.
- The pictorial collections include: approximately 3000 negatives in the Hall photographic collection of sailing and boating activity on Sydney Harbour from the 1880s-1940s; watercolours and oil paintings of sailing vessels, and the frieze of Sydney Harbour painted by Muriel Binney in 1907.
- Ocean racing is well represented. Themes covered include solo, fleet and match racing. Highlights are the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, the America's Cup, the BOC round the world challenge and solo sailing.
- The Museum collections of solo sailing were greatly enhanced with the recent acquisition of the approximately 1000 items from the Kay Cottee, *Blackmores First Lady* collection relating to Kay Cottee's record breaking circumnavigation in 1988.
- Boatbuilding includes amateur and professional building of leisure and sporting craft in timber, fibreglass and carbon fibre. Commercial boatbuilding is also covered in the Shipping and Trade, Navy and Maritime Technology Focus Areas. The Sport and Lifestyle collections related to boatbuilding include an extensive range of tools, drafting equipment, plans, models and small boats.

- Fishing is represented in a small selection of angling and game fishing.
- The history of rowing is a strength of the collection, with the Kevin Webb Rowing archive and three rowing shells.
- This Focus Area also includes material on speed pursuit, and racing and recreational motor boating. The world water speed record holder *Spirit of Australia* and several motor boats dating from the 1930s are highlights of this theme.

Cultural groups represented

Sporting groups, surf life saving clubs, boating clubs, model boating associations, boat builders, recreational sailors, recreational anglers and game fishers, surfers, Torres Strait Islanders, Indigenous coastal and river communities, and culturally and linguistically diverse coastal and river fishing communities

Areas to be developed

- Lifestyles in river communities across Australia.
- Coastal development, travel and tourism including the history of the Great Barrier Reef and the rise in popularity of recreational diving/snorkeling.
- Sports previously under-represented or emerging such as water polo, beach volley ball synchronised swimming and extreme and cross-over sports such as para-surfing and free diving.
- Recreational fishing (angling, spear fishing, saltwater fishing).
- Sailing, rowing and motor-boating practices across Australia.

Priorities for the next three years

- Increasing representation of sport and leisure lifestyles of river and rural communities.
- Surfing lifestyles and popular culture in Australia and around the world.
- Representation of Indigenous Australians in aquatic sports.

Issues for this Focus Area

- This Focus Area holds a collection of small vessels including motor boats, sailing and paddling craft. This collection needs to be reassessed in the light of resource priorities.

Focus Area No 10: Australian-American Maritime Experience

Status

Australian-American Maritime Experience encompasses historic material that reflects the common development of the two nations and their maritime connections in commerce, culture, immigration, exploration, technology, defence, sport and marine science.

In August 1987, the Prime Minister accepted a gift for the Commonwealth of Australia from the United States of America for the 1988 Bicentenary. This gift came in the form of US\$ five million to establish a permanent gallery – the USA Gallery – to commemorate Australian-American maritime history.

The USA Gallery's brief to represent Australian-American maritime links presents a special challenge to the ANMM. Collection has occurred across a broad spectrum of subject areas and while many of the themes echo other Focus Areas, emphasis has been placed on material that relates to both Australia and America. This has led to an emphasis on collecting material with prominent Australian and American flags or other such nationalistic references. We now have a strong collection of oil paintings, works on paper and souvenirs showing vessels flying American flags in Australian ports or other such obvious imagery and can now move onto other areas of collecting.

Due to the scope of subjects covered and the imperative of exhibition driven collecting, the resulting collection is uneven and of variable quality. In the future the Museum will focus on collecting key pieces to strengthen established collecting areas which can be augmented in displays by material borrowed from other sources. The high cost of acquisitions relating to material from the 18th and 19th centuries will mean that growth will be modest in this area.

Current collecting themes

Collecting so far has concentrated on the following themes within the USA Gallery

- American 18th - 19th century merchants
- 19th century commerce
- Whaling
- Clipper ships
- Gold discoveries in California and Australia
- The Melbourne visit of the Confederate raider *CSS Shenandoah*
- Australia's defence relationship with the United States from 1908 through to the present
- The history of the America's Cup yacht race.

Within the above mentioned thematic areas the following material has been collected:

- Works on paper: encompassing prints, drawings and watercolours, photographs, sketchbooks, albums
- Oil paintings: principally ship portraits and maritime scenes
- Folk art: scrimshaw, whaling rugs, weathervane
- Souvenirs: postcards, pamphlets, guidebooks, America's Cup memorabilia, sheet music, newspapers, cigarette cards, jigsaw puzzles, certificates, pennants, stereoscope cards, badges and pins
- Ceramics: Chinese export porcelain
- Ship and boat models
- Printed books and manuscripts: letters, diaries and ships' logs
- Surfboards
- Whaling tools

Areas to be developed

- 20th century trade between Australia and America
- Ship technology - steam and paddle wheel technology
- 20th century passenger travel across the Pacific
- 19th and 20th century trade expositions and entrepreneurs
- Whaling communities
- Travellers' tales - Australians' impressions of America and vice versa
- The Massachusetts ice trade to Australia

Priorities for the next three years

- Exploration of the Pacific and Antarctica
- Influence of American popular culture on Australia from the 19th century to the present
- Surfing - including its culture and technology
- Trans-Pacific immigration
- Post-WWII naval alliance

Issues for this Focus Area

It must be stressed that in this area of collecting, because of the specific nature of the USA Gallery brief, material will not always be available through the usual channels of purchase or donation. The USA Gallery, more than any other curatorial department will continue to be dependent on borrowing material from overseas cultural institutions as well as from those within Australia. The maintenance of close working relationships with these institutions will remain critical to ensuring material will be made available for exhibitions.