

**Elections for Ordinary
Member 2019-2021**

AMaGA
National Council

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The Australian Museums and Galleries Association National Council Elections 2019-2021

Election for Ordinary Member

The National Council provides the vital representative platform for leadership of AMaGA, and its members are the recognisable interface with the sector, on behalf of the hugely dispersed footprint of AMaGA membership around the country.

Council members bring expertise and experience, source opinion, listen to needs, develop and implement policy, and undertake the strategic governance of the organisation. In particular, they garner the intellectual and human resources that help the association continue to put together informed submissions to public inquiries affecting the sector, and continuing to provide effective advocacy to government on issues and conditions vitally affecting our museums and galleries, and the communities they serve.

Council needs representation from across the geographic spread of the country and covering the intellectual and practical diversity of disciplines and functions that make up the museums and galleries sector, as reflected in the AMaGA membership. Membership include the full gamut of institutions embraced by the ICOM definition: Australia's museums, galleries, herbaria, keeping places, historic houses and heritage sites, scientific collections in research institutions, botanical and zoological gardens, and more.

The Council consists of the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and 6 ordinary members. The current Presidents of the various State/Territory Branches, or their designated representative, are automatically members of Council.

A National Council Handbook is available on the AMaGA website. Many frequently asked questions are answered, and more information on the roles and responsibilities of each position is outlined.

The Voting Form will be sent to all AMaGA members.

Voting will close on Monday 8 April 2019.

Executive positions were nominated without opposition and there will be no election

There are six Ordinary Member positions available

Keep reading for more info on the 11 nominees

This election is for the term 2019-2021

Voting closes 8 April and can be completed by form OR online survey

The new Council will be announced at the AGM in May in Alice Springs

You are voting for your national sector representation - your state is already represented by your branch president at Council meetings



Paul Bowers
Melbourne

Paul Bowers
Director Exhibitions
Australian Centre for the Moving Image

I've served on the Council and chaired the PD committee for the past few years; having spent some time understanding the organisation I would like the opportunity to serve again. Like the sector, AMaGA has been through great change and there is more to do. As a member organisation first and foremost, we need to support members better with resources, advocacy and opportunities to network. I see these as essential for implementing the Indigenous Roadmap, making collections, knowledge and education relevant and accessible, and strengthening the links between urban, regional and remote members.

I'm currently Director Exhibitions at ACMI, Melbourne, leading a team of curators, exhibition producers and touring staff. With degrees in chemistry and communication, and an optimism that cultural consumption can improve lives, I've worked to evolve institutional approaches to public offer planning, inception, creation, delivery and operation from inside and outside major institutions. These have included the Natural History Museum, London, Museum Victoria, Melbourne, the Moscow Polytechnic Museum and the IKEA Museum, Sweden.

You will find me debating and sharing weird things my kids say on twitter @paulrbowers and blogging about museums at medium.com/museum-musings.

Shane Breynard
Director
Canberra Museum and Gallery

I ask for your vote so that I can bring a strong voice and my passion for regional galleries and regional museums, and the communities they serve, to AMaGA's National Council.

I have worked as a visual artist, an arts and policy writer, a cultural planner and an arts facility maker, but it was as chief of staff and advisor on arts, heritage and Indigenous affairs, to the former ACT Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, that I had the privilege to advocate for community cultural outcomes across a diverse portfolio.

Eight years into my current role as Director of Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) I have confirmed my belief that Australia is brimful of regional stories of survival, achievement, beauty, and wonder. These stories need to be told and heard if our diversity is to become an asset and a foundation for future generations. Australia's best galleries and museums already nurture the honest telling and genuine hearing of these regional stories.

If elected I will encourage a rethink of the way Australia's 'distributed collection' is conceptualised and employed. In 2019 it is vital that we reinvigorate not only how the material of our collective history is identified, documented and discovered wherever it resides, but also how regionally significant material, often held in distant capital city collections, can be made more easily accessible for loan to regional galleries and museums.

I am proud of the contribution CMAG makes to AMaGA, through the activities of the ACT Branch, its presence at National Conference and its contribution to sector initiatives and publications. With the support of CareerTrackers, the opportunity to host our first ever Indigenous intern has been one of the recent highpoints for me of working at CMAG.



Shane Breynard
Canberra



Dr Mark Crees
Alice Springs

Dr Mark Crees
Senior Director, Araluen Cultural Precinct
Interim Director, Project Implementation Team,
National Aboriginal Art Gallery

I have been a National Councillor for AMaGA for the past two years, a member of the Strategic Review Taskforce and co-Chair of the National Conference Organising Committee for Mparntwe / Alice Springs in 2019. I am currently the Senior Director, Araluen Cultural Precinct and Interim Director, Project Implementation Team, National Aboriginal Art Gallery.

I oversee the Araluen Cultural Precinct, which is home to some of the most significant artistic, cultural and historical experiences in Alice Springs providing a unique visitor experience and encompassing Central Australia's key cultural institutions and collections, including the Araluen Arts Centre: Galleries and Theatre, which this year plays host to the AMaGA national conference. I also oversee the National Aboriginal Art Gallery Project Implementation Team, with the goal of establishing a flagship national art museum dedicated to the celebration, display and interpretation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, bringing together a globally significant Australia-wide art collection from the world's oldest continuous living culture under one roof in the very heart of the continent.

My role centres on leading the development of project planning, governance frameworks, operating models, and key reference groups, leading the stakeholder consultation process, and overseeing major inter-jurisdictional partnerships.

Penny Grist

**A/g Assistant Director, Collections Access,
Collections and Cultural Heritage, Department
of Communications and the Arts (to June 2019)
Assistant Curator, National Portrait Gallery**



Penny Grist
Canberra

I believe our sector can excel and thrive into the future through creative collaboration and a diverse workforce. Diverse perspectives will be crucial to this sector's future and our contribution to society. As part of the team that founded the AMaGA emerging professionals network, I became acutely aware that opportunities for entry into, and progression through, the sector hinders diversification of our workforce. Addressing entrenched barriers to diversity, with energy and without excuse, is essential. I have been consistently involved in AMaGA since 2013, when I helped organise the national conference. I helped organise the emerging professionals' mini-conference at Museums Australasia in 2016 and I am currently vice-president of the AMaGA ACT Branch. I would relish the opportunity to work with colleagues both supporting emerging professionals and implementing the Indigenous Roadmap to transform the sector over the coming years.

My volunteering and work across the sector has inspired my sense of the vast potential of collaboration. Over the last nine years I have served as secretary and chair for the volunteer board of Megalo Print Studio and Gallery, a community access visual arts organisation. Since 2010, I have volunteered with the Fire Brigade Historical Society of the ACT. I have worked in curatorial and exhibitions at the National Library of Australia and National Museum of Australia. As Assistant Curator at the National Portrait Gallery since 2013, I have undertaken major collaborative projects with artists and institutions. Until June 2019, I am completing 11 months with the Department of Communications and the Arts, where I am gaining insight into government processes. Inclusive, imaginative and open collaboration across our sector creates so much potential. I would love to bring this broad experience across national and community, library, museum, gallery and government settings to help AMaGA to support this potential. Listening, pursuing equity and equality, acknowledging complexity and facilitating collaboration would define my approach to representing, and being a voice for, AMaGA members on National Council.



Michael Harvey
Sydney

Michael Harvey
Assistant Director of Public Engagement,
Research and Collections
Australian National Maritime Museum

I have worked in the fields of museums and science communication for 20 years. Prior to taking up my current role at the Australian National Maritime Museum, I worked as Head of Exhibitions at the Australian Museum and at the Natural History Museum in London, where I managed science communication programs and developed concepts for new galleries.

I have travelled around Australia as a member and a coordinator of the Shell Questacon Science Circus, have taught in Museum Studies at the universities of Leicester and Sydney, and am a past president of Australasian Network of Science and Technology Exhibitors.

Beginning with university studies in Zoology and the History of Science, my key interests now lie in exploring museum leadership, collaboration and professional development, and extending our understanding of audiences and the ways cultural institutions can engage to best share their collections and their research.

Jane King
Gallery Manager
JCG (John Curtin Gallery)

I am the Gallery Manager at JCG (John Curtin Gallery), a contemporary Art Gallery and University Collection, based at Curtin University. I have previously held the roles of Head of Member Development at Artsource the Artists' Foundation WA, Executive Director, State Library of WA Foundation and Executive Officer, Museums Australia WA Branch. JCG is a member of both CAUMAC and UAMA.

I am actively involved in the GLAM sector and a member of the AMaGA WA State Committee. I also represent the sector as Deputy Chair on the board of FutureNow, Creative and Leisure Industries Training Council and on their Collections Sector Industry Advisory Group. In the broader arts sector I was a founding board member of the Chamber of Arts and Culture in Western Australia, and remain involved through the Cultural Executives Group and as an individual member. I am also a practising artist, and freelance curator, and am currently the Co-Artistic Director, at the North Midlands Project, a regionally based arts organisation.

I have degrees in both Economics and Fine Art, a Postgraduate Diploma in Management, and am a graduate of the Museum Leadership Program. Projects I have led have won both MAGNA and MAPDA awards, the 2010 Western Australian Heritage Award and the 2009 WA Business and the Arts Partnership Award. I was honoured as a State finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards 2014.



Jane King
Perth



Jenni Klempfner
Melbourne

Jenni Klempfner
Director
Convergence Design Australia

I have worked in the cultural, museum and interpretative sphere since 1996 as exhibition producer, designer and lecturer in exhibition design and cultural heritage. My early career in architecture and planning let me gain significant experience in architectural design, master planning and heritage projects, working for both Heritage Victoria and in architectural and town planning firms specialising in heritage issues. I have specialist capacity in project management.

Prior to joining Convergence, I held senior roles at Museum Victoria. From 1996-2000 I was a key member of the Museum Victoria Division of Collection Services and Major Projects where I was responsible for client liaison, briefing, development and management of the Melbourne Immigration Museum and Hellenic Antiquities Museum, the briefing, procurement and fitout of the Melbourne Planetarium and the initial restoration of the World Heritage listed Royal Exhibition Buildings. From 2002-2004 I lectured in Exhibition Design at Swinburne University of Technology prior to rejoining the staff of Museum Victoria in the position of Exhibition Producer. I was the project leader and manager for the development and refurbishment of the Melbourne Gallery at Melbourne Museum, Nitty Gritty Super City at Scienceworks (both completed in 2008) and the coordination of the Design 2000 exhibition. From 2008-2010 I had overall responsibility for delivery of the Museo Italiano a new museum for the Italian community of Melbourne.

Since joining Convergence in 2011 I have combined a long-term interest in film and other digital technologies such as story telling media, with my interest in the integration of digital media in traditional museum interpretation. In 2018 I became Convergence's managing director and continue to lead all interpretation projects.

I have served on the board of Craft Victoria as well as lecturing in Exhibition Design at Swinburne University of Technology, Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies at Deakin University, and Project Management at the University of Melbourne.

Rebecca Lush
Curator
University of Queensland

I am the Curator of the Integrated Pathology Learning Centre at The University of Queensland. In my role, I am focusing on developing a strategic plan along with policies and procedures. Prior to this I had been working and volunteering in the museum industry for 9 years in curatorial and education roles across Queensland (regional and metropolitan), New South Wales and Victoria. I am particularly passionate about medical collections and their use in the formal and informal study of health and disease.

I am dedicated to communicating the significance and potential of museums through online blog posts and publications. My main areas of interest include education, public programming and exhibition development.



Rebecca Lush
Brisbane

Craig Middleton
Curator
Centre of Democracy

I am the Curator of the Centre of Democracy in Adelaide, South Australia. I work towards researching, collecting, documenting and interpreting South Australia's democracy and political history. As Vice-President of the Emerging Professionals National Network, I also advocate on behalf of the interests of emerging and early career professionals, including financial access to national conferences.

I am committed to LGBTIQ+ representation in museums and galleries and have published widely on the topic. As a proud queer person I add a diversity of experience and knowledge to AMaGA National Council, on which I have participated the past two years.

If re-elected I will continue to advocate for diversity across the sector, including within AMaGA and the policies it produces. I believe that productive change is possible if sector bodies are open to diversifying their governance structures and believe AMaGA can lead in this space.



Craig Middleton
Adelaide



**Tracy Puklowski
Launceston**

**Tracy Puklowski
Director Creative Arts and Cultural Services
City of Launceston (including Queen Victoria
Museum & Art Gallery)**

I moved to Australia from New Zealand in late 2018 to take up the position of Director, Creative Arts and Cultural Services for the City of Launceston in Tasmania. This role includes the Directorship of QVMAG as well as developing and implementing a Cultural Strategy.

My last position in New Zealand was Director of the National Army Museum, and prior to that I held a range of senior roles at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (Te Papa). My last role at Te Papa was Associate Director of the Museum of Living Cultures, and included - amongst other things - executive project sponsorship of the exhibition Gallipoli: The Scale of our War, which has since gone on to become NZ's most popular exhibition ever.

I have held senior positions across the GLAM sector, including a brief stint as Associate Chief Librarian at the National Library of NZ. I was also on the NZ Archives Council until recently, a Ministerial appointment. Other governance roles have included conservation, regional tourism, and regional museums. I have an ongoing Research Associate relationship with Taiwan's National University of Education's Museum Studies programme.

I believe that museums truly do change lives, and that arts, culture and heritage is instrumental in building happy, healthy, prosperous societies. I also believe that museums have a responsibility to be brave. To that end I have been involved with both the Federation of International Human Rights Museums (FIHRM) and the Social Justice Alliance of Museums (SJAM) since their inception.

I have an MA in Art History, a post-grad Diploma in Museum Studies and I am a graduate of the Museum Leadership Institute at the Getty Institute, Los Angeles.

When I'm not at work you will find me exploring my new home, enjoying wonderful local produce, and rummaging through op shops.

Debbie Sommers
Volunteer Curator
Port Macquarie Museum

I am the volunteer curator at the Port Macquarie Museum, President AMaGA - Mid North Coast Chapter, Treasurer AMaGA NSW Branch and am re-nominating for a second term on National Council. As a leader, manager, mentor, advocate, worker and participant in the sector for the past 17 years I am well aware of the issues facing regional, community and volunteer managed museums.

Volunteer managed, independent and regional community museums need representation at National Council. Our museums hold a large proportion of Australia's significant cultural collections but are generally overlooked when it comes to national planning and resourcing initiatives. Community and independent museums, and particularly our collections, need dedicated and targeted advocacy if we are to survive and thrive into the future.



Debbie Sommers
Port Macquarie