**SUPERCROCODILIANS: DARWIN’S ULTIMATE SURVIVAL STORY**

Darwin’s ultimate survival story is an exhibition focused on the evolution of crocodiles which opens at MAGNT on 12th February 2009.

The exhibition has been developed for the Darwin200 global celebrations to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birthday and the 150th anniversary of his publication *On the Origin of Species*. It presents his theory of evolution through the Territory’s most iconic animal and ultimate survivor.

The exhibition traces the diversity and evolution of living crocodilians back to their origins over 200 million years ago and will feature an array of crocodilian specimens from ancient fossils to modern examples.

A free curatorial floor talk about the exhibition and crocodiles, will be held on Saturday 14th February from 11am - 12pm by Dr Paul Horner – Curator of Terrestrial Vertebrates, MAGNT.

All are welcome to attend.
MAGNT holds the largest body of Early Papunya Tula Boards in the world. These works created in 1971-72 sparked the development of the Western Desert Art movement, now internationally recognised as one of the most important events in Australian art history. The extraordinary growth of Indigenous art in recent times is due in large part to the early works of the Papunya artists. The MAGNT Collection holds a total of 223 Boards produced between 1971 and 1973. The Australian and international public deserve to see and access this seminal collection of works.

These works have rarely or never been shown to the public, never been fully documented or published. Additionally, the works need some conservation treatments. In July 2008, the Northern Territory Government made a commitment of $300,000 toward the conservation, storage, family consultations and exhibition development of the Papunya Board Collection. The $300,000 has enabled MAGNT to start the project and undertake conservation treatments on the works.

MAGNT is also developing a touring exhibition and production of catalogue dedicated to this unique Collection. This will require additional support and funds.

MAGNT Foundation is proud to support this new MAGNT initiative and will organise a fundraising dinner dedicated to the Papunya Boards project on the 12th August 2009, at the time of the popular Telstra Arts Awards opening at MAGNT. The aim of the dinner will be to raise awareness of this MAGNT ambitious project and secure funding to cover the costs of employing a senior Fellow to document the works with Papunya artists and their relatives with the view of developing the exhibition project and catalogue content. An auction of artworks from the prestigious Papunya Tula Artists Cooperative will take place on the night. Donations of works are welcome to support our fundraising efforts. Please contact Apolline Kohen on (08) 8999 8220 for further information.

The George Chaloupka Research Fellowship

Last August at the Foundation dinner, it was announced that the MAGNT Foundation had secured through Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) sponsorship funding to run the George Chaloupka Fellowship for three years. MAGNT staff and the MAGNT Board have worked together to finalise terms and conditions of the Fellowship as well as application forms. It is anticipated that the first Fellow will be appointed in July 2009.

A Fellowship of $25,000 will be granted to an individual to conduct research, with a view to publication, in the following areas:

- Dating of rock art;
- Preservation of rock art;
- Researching/documenting the work of George Chaloupka held at the MAGNT;
- Interpretation of sites by custodians/traditional owners;

- Pursuing the recording/data collection of rock art sites in Western Arnhem Land in areas not yet surveyed through the work of George Chaloupka or other researchers.

The first Fellow and research project will be introduced at the next Foundation dinner and we will keep you informed of progress throughout the year.
It is with pleasure that I present this report to the Annual General Meeting 2008. The year has been one of change for the Museum, the Board and the Foundation. I was elected President of the Foundation in November 2007, in June 2008 the Museum Director Anna Malgorzewicz became seriously ill and took extended sick leave. Ms Apolline Kohen, Museum Board Chairman was appointed Acting Director of MAGNT and Mrs Anita Angel was appointed Chairman of the Board. We all experienced a learning curve in varying degrees and I am happy to report that cooperation and collaboration has ensured a good working relationship at all levels.

Constitution
At the last AGM in November 2007 the new constitution was ratified and it has since been accepted by the appropriate authorities (ASIC). The council of the Foundation now consists of a President and five Directors, all of whom are elected by members, plus the chair of the Museum Board (vice President) and a secretary appointed by the Directors. The Director of the Museum is an accredited observer. The net result is that the Foundation is no longer constitutionally under the control of the Museum Board and with this independence the Directors have been invigorated with a sense of direction and vision for the future.

Membership
The Foundation has a nominal membership of 133. Many of these have resigned and many have simply stopped paying their annual subscription. Today 74 are financial. In an effort to attract back some who have strayed and to give others a reason to join, the Directors have reviewed the categories of benefaction and benefits and membership cards have been printed and sent to all financial members.

Office Premises
The Foundation moved into its own premises late last year. The office is in the Girl Guides Centre in Ross Smith Avenue, Fannie Bay. The rent is a reasonable $50 per week and the office provides a central location for records, office equipment and a dedicated work area for the Secretary/Directors. It would be better not to have to pay for office space but until that day comes the Foundation has a secure home base.

George Chaloupka Research Fellowship
Early this year I discussed possible projects that the Foundation could undertake with the then Board Chairman Apolline Kohen, as a result the Museum Board and the Foundation collaborated to establish the George Chaloupka Research Fellowship. The Board in conjunction with the Museum Director will develop the guidelines and supervise the Research Fellowship that will be funded annually at $25,000 per year. The Research Fellowship is to be a tribute to George Chaloupka and the contribution he has made over fifty years to the identification, documentation and understanding of Aboriginal Rock Art in the Northern Territory. The aim of the Fellowship is to promote and support published research and conservation of Aboriginal Rock Art located in Western Arnhem Land. The selected applicant chosen by an appointed committee will be expected to conduct research in a number of areas with a view to publication. Applicants will be interviewed in early 2009.

The Foundation was successful in obtaining the necessary sponsorship. Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) generously offered the full amount of $75,000 and also paid for three tables of ten for traditional landowners from Western Arnhem land to attend the dinner for the launch of the Fellowship. My sincere thanks to ERA for their interest and support. I am pleased to report that this major project between the MAGNT Director, the Board and the Foundation promises to be the first of many that will enrich the Museum and the community.

Inaugural Annual Dinner
The Foundation’s Inaugural Annual Dinner was held on Wednesday 13th August 2008 at the Darwin Convention Centre. 234 guests attended to celebrate the launch of the George Chaloupka Research Fellowship and to raise money for the Museum. The newly opened Darwin Convention Centre was an attraction in itself and a great venue to set up the special effects the Events Committee created for the night. The service was good, the food was excellent and the function received accolades on its success on the night and in the weeks afterwards. Sponsors for the night were ERA, Dominic and Deborah Fracaro who personally donated the excellent Gomersal wines for the dinner and Neville Pantazis of Parap Fine Foods who helped design the menu and provided special foods and liquor. Our sincere thanks to them. A raffle with four prize draws was run by Jeff Pinkerton. Each prize consisted of 1 framed George Chaloupka Rock Art print and a signed copy of his book Journey in Time. The raffle raised $2,180 our thanks to Jeff for his expertise and support and to Gary Single who donated the framing of the prints free of charge.

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The Museum donated the books. The Events Committee worked well as a team to ensure the success of the inaugural dinner and I am sure that their efforts were appreciated. The probable profit for the dinner is $13,100.00, I had hoped for a greater figure and recommend that serious consideration be given as to how this can be achieved at future Annual Dinners.

The Foundation Council
For the past three years Earl James has carried out the work of Secretary and more. Earl has decided to retire from the Council and I thank him for the many hours he has given to the Foundation in all aspects of its administration including the review of the Constitution. In his letter of resignation he has recorded that time spent over a 13 week period, which included work on the Annual Dinner came to 153 hours. The work covered dinner bookings and payments, finances, the newsletter, general administration and membership matters and he estimates that a competent secretary in the future would need to spend 350 to 400 hours a year to do the job effectively. The incoming committee must seriously consider what steps need to be taken to fill the position of Secretary as soon as possible. The Secretary may be a Director of the Foundation, an ordinary member of the Foundation or can be some other person co-opted for the purpose. The Foundation is a Limited Liability Company and has legal responsibilities and obligations that must be properly observed.

Conclusion
The past year has been one of change and interest with the focus on the Inaugural Dinner and the launch of the George Chaloupka Research Fellowship which was undoubtedly a public relations success. We need to increase our membership, encourage corporate sponsorship, and broaden our horizons to south of the Berrimah line. A financial goal is to continue working towards raising at least a million dollars so that the interest (current financial climate notwithstanding) can be spent on enriching the MAGNT collections and programmes in the future. I have every confidence that the incoming Directors will find a way to do this.

I look forward to another exciting and progressive year.

Wendy James
President MAGNT Foundation Ltd.
19th November 2008

Pictured at the AGM

Incoming President Prof Helen Garnett, Acting Museum Director Ms Apolline Kohen and former Vice-President & Chairperson MAGNT Mrs Anita Angel

Member Ms Margaret Wright, outgoing Director Mrs Marilyn Pinkerton and Director Mr Ken Suter

Outgoing President Mrs Wendy James and incoming President Prof Helen Garnett

Retiring Director Mr Earl James and Director Ms Frieda Evans
ABOUT THE MAGNT FOUNDATION

The Foundation exists to maintain, improve and develop the public collections in the Northern Territory by raising funds through Foundation activities and attracting donations, gifts, bequests, endowments and other forms of financial and in-kind support from the community.

Funds raised through the Foundation are used to acquire artworks and objects of artistic, historical, educational or scientific significance and support specialist research projects and associated documentation.

The aim is to ensure the Northern Territory community and visitors to the NT have access to:
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art
- Significant items of NT social history
- Northern Territory visual art
- Traditional and contemporary art and craft of Southeast Asia
- Significant collections from the natural sciences
- Watercraft and maritime memorabilia of the region

COMPOSITION OF THE MAGNT FOUNDATION

Professor Helen Garnett  FTSE FAICD PSM - President
Vacant - Vice-President & Chairperson, Museums & Art Galleries Board of the NT
Mr Ken Suter - Director and Treasurer
Mrs Wendy James OAM - Director
Mrs Frieda Evans - Director
Ms Lorna Tenison-Woods - Director
Mrs Karyn Wernham - Director
Accredited Observer: Ms Apolline Kohen - Acting Director, Museums & Art Galleries of the NT

MAGNT FOUNDATION MEMBERS’ BENEFITS

Foundation members are reminded that the following benefits apply to you:
- 10% discount at Museum shop
- Discount benefits to paid exhibitions at other Australian capital cities and regional art galleries as accorded local members—eg NSW Art Gallery, National Gallery of Victoria etc
- Reciprocal discount benefits at other Australian capital cities and regional museum/art gallery shops and food outlets
- Reciprocal benefits internationally to museum and art galleries that are aligned through the World Federation of Friends of the Museums
- Use of member lounges in some reciprocating galleries

To find out What’s On at your Museums and Art Galleries NT, visit the MAGNT website at: www.nt.gov.au/nreta/museums
Information about What’s On at National Galleries, can be found at: www.artguide.com.au

DIARY NOTE: Wed, 12th August 2009

MAGNT FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING DINNER VENUE TO BE ADVISED
Membership Application

Please accept my/our application for membership of the Foundation in the following category:

☐ One Ordinary member @ $55 (incl. GST)

OR, for a family of two at same address:

☐ Two Ordinary Members @ $100 (incl. GST)

I understand that membership of the Foundation is subject to the payment of an annual subscription fee as determined by the Directors from time to time. I/we agree to meet subscription obligations, to comply with the rules of the Foundation and to further the objects of the Foundation in any way I can.

Herewith please find my/our cheque/cash to the value of $.........................

OR

I confirm that I have transferred $........................... to the Foundation Account,

BSB 015 - 901

Account 2730 32366

Name Museums and Art Galleries of The Northern Territory Foundation Limited Working Account

Signature (a) .................................................... Signature (b) ....................................................

Date ……………………

Office Use Only

Date Application Received ………………… Date application considered by the Council

Date of receipt of first annual membership fee …………. Receipt No: ………………

Date Receipt and Membership Cards dispatched ………

Membership Card/s number/s (a)……………………….(b)………………

Application Forms should be lodged in the box at the reception of the MAGNT, Bullocky Point OR posted to

Secretary
Museums and Art Galleries Foundation Ltd
PO Box 80, Parap, NT, 0804