

## Future Directions

Following a great deal of analysis in the past few years the Trustees again spent considerable time exploring various operating models for The Johnston Collection in order to reduce the annual deficit. These were complex and difficult considerations and ultimately, we agreed to accept a certain level of operating loss each year for the next five years but at the same time endeavour to reduce this by externally commissioning two new exhibitions each year and retaining the William Johnston exhibition series as an in-house curation, reining in expenditure where possible and continuing our fundraising program. In doing so we determined to maintain our commitment to a balance between appealing to our traditional audiences and reaching out to new audiences through more contemporary programming. This may be unpopular with some of our supporters but, like all cultural institutions, we believe it is necessary if we are to maintain relevance and attract new visitors.

## Trustees

The Trustees adopted a policy on Trustee appointments that will see more regular turnover of members by limiting appointments to three terms of three years each. At the same time, we reviewed the skills needed on the Trust and are well advanced in appointing a number of new Trustees as the present ones retire in an orderly way.

## Staff

Sue Chapman, Visitor Services and Retail, retired in February 2017 after nine years at The Johnston Collection. Sue played a major role in the rebuild of the Shop, as well as being the public face of the museum for many years in her previous role in Visitor Services. We thank Sue for her many years of wonderful service and wish her all the best for the future.

Fil Ntarelli completed ten years at The Johnston Collection during the year. She has been the mainstay of the administration, and much else, and we took the opportunity to congratulate and thank Fil for her wonderful service.



# Collections Policy

For a number of years, the Director and Trustees have been developing a Collections Policy. This is a seemingly simple task but has not proven to be the case. Collection Policies need to sit within a clear, long term strategic direction and it has taken time to determine this. However, I am pleased that this is finally taking shape and will be a very useful tool.

The one area of collecting that remains clear is the several bequests we hold for the specific purpose of building the porcelain collection. During the year, and with the advice of porcelain expert Robyn Ives, we have acquired a number of objects which complement the existing collection and I thank Robyn for her professionalism in managing these acquisitions.

We were very grateful to one of our greatest donors and long-time Ambassador, Andrew Dixon, who supported the purchase of a number of items to the collection valued in excess of \$31,000.

## Ambassadors

Following changes to the Ambassadors program I reported last year we were pleased to appoint a number of new Ambassadors and we welcomed, Christine Bell, Bill Brown, Robyn Ives and Robert Thompson.

## Thanks

As ever I acknowledge the exceptional work done by staff and the volunteers. It is always a please to walk in the front door and be greeted by the warmest and most genuine welcome and I know all visitors feel the same.

I particularly thank all the Volunteer Guides who do such an outstanding job taking visitors through the house and others who volunteer their time housekeeping, cataloguing and doing a multitude of tasks. I also thank the hard-working Committee of The Friends and also the Opening Doors Fundraising Committee and those who have supported its work by making donations during the year.

I acknowledge the great work of my fellow Trustees, our Honorary Treasurer Joe Groher (who has announced his intention to step aside following the completion of this year's annual accounts), and the wonderful staff lead by the indefatigable Louis Le Vaillant.

*Peter Watts AM*

**CHAIRMAN**

2021