

Melbourne Museum of Printing

UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION, REGISTERED WITH
THE A.C.N.C. AS A CHARITY [No.59907193772]
SINCE THE YEAR 2002. COMMENCED 1977

ANNOTATIONS added
by Michael in this
typewriter typeface.

First established as a typefoundry in 1977 as Australia's older typefoundries were closing. A micro-business with little return, but many printers used its founts of metal type.

Museum-like activities commenced around 1985: restarted as a museum around 1992.

MMOP CONSTITUTION, AS AT AUGUST 2020 annotated

STATUS: an interim constitution. MMOP can, when ready, be registered as an Incorporated Body with these same "purposes, goals and functions". Some of the "standard rules" would need to be changed to suit a museum. Professional assistance would be required.

Rule 1

The name of the Association is "Melbourne Museum of Printing".

It would become "Inc." when incorporated unless we choose an alternative status such as a "company limited by guarantee".

Rule 2

THE PURPOSES OF MELBOURNE MUSEUM OF PRINTING

In many constitutions this "Rule 2" is a simple statement of intentions.

For MMOP I chose to provide full detail, dividing it into preface, goals and functions.

2.1 Preface

Melbourne Museum of Printing (the Museum) is a Charitable Association in which full membership is available to those persons and organisations who have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate a substantial commitment to the purposes of the Association and to the Museum.

The purposes of the Association are:

- (1) to assemble and operate a museum relevant to the technologies, practices and business of books and printing and related crafts and industries, and
- (2) to make its collection and knowledge widely available.

The purposes are more clearly expressed in terms of its goals and its functions.

2.2 The Goals of the Museum are :

(a) To foster in the community an appreciation of the past, present and future role of books and printing in the development of society and an understanding of the history and practices of printing, publishing and related industries, including technologies, working environments and business matters.

The working environment will again be recreated in parts of the Museum, such as a typesetting department, a press-room, a bindery, with realistic rosters of equipment. This will show how a working team would collaborate to produce newspapers or business items or books. [see our filmmaking images.]

"Business matters" are largely represented in the thousands of workplace documents, engravings and typesettings provided by proprietors upon the closure of their printerries.

It is to be hoped that in time, the Museum will receive examples of the modern-day equivalents of those work documents, that these days exist only in digital form. These will be added to the archives and accessible to researchers, subject to any embargoes.

- (b) To provide opportunities for learning and practice of the arts and crafts relating to objects and systems in the Museum's possession and its field of knowledge.
- (c) To transmit traditional and recent knowledge and methods of printing and related crafts to new generations, including to those persons engaging, or considering engaging in the modern-day equivalents of those crafts and related endeavours, or studying the same.
- (d) To develop an academic offering, in conjunction with one or more universities, that is recognised as a useful part of a degree or diploma in study areas ranging from printing and graphics to librarianship and history.

A number of educators over the years have encouraged MMOP to consider this.

- (e) To take part in those organs of society, wherever located, which encourage the study of past technologies and their societal effects including associations of museums and the like;

This includes involvement with national and international organisations that promote and coordinate museums and heritage in general and print-related museums in particular. These include the National Trust (Industrial), the Museums & Galleries Association (AMaGA), the International Association of Printing Museums and the Association of European Printing Museums.

- And (f) To offer encouragement and assistance to other bodies with similar goals.

There are around 30 smaller museums of printing around Australia, mostly depicting the history of the local newspaper and printing works, with limited range beyond that, and depending on ageing craftsmen as volunteers.

The MMOP "Museum Support Program" will offer internships for their younger volunteers with basic training in the craft along with presentation skills.

2.3 The Functions of the Museum include, without limitation :

- (a) The principal function of the Museum is the provision to various audiences of opportunities to learn about printing and related industries, their crafts, their business, their histories and their latest developments. The opportunities may include displays, classes, courses, demonstrations, publications, souvenirs, exhibitions including travelling exhibitions, workshops and other offerings, presented by the Museum alone or in collaboration with others.
- (b) An essential function is to acquire by purchase, by gift or by loan of items relevant to the goals of the Museum or useful for its purposes; to preserve, conserve, restore and manage the collection including necessary de-accession of items for sound management of the collection.
- (c) A further function is the provision of access by various audiences to programs and facilities for instruction and practice of a range of methods of typesetting, printing and related crafts.

This reflects the existing programs for students of graphic subjects and P.D. Program for practitioners of graphic design and other professionals.

- (d) A further function is encouragement of the use of traditional printing and binding crafts for production of editions of artistic works and complete books, mainly by non-mechanised operations.

This reflects the existing program of access to the Printing Studio where visitors have printed books, posters, invitations and other items. Its range of printing methods will expand beyond Letterpress to include lithography and other systems including digital methods.

- (e) A further function is research, and facilitation of research, within the Museum's areas of interest, and publication of relevant findings and for that purpose maintain and develop the archive of documents and printers' objects that record among other things the day-to-day work of the ordinary printer.

Substantial parts of the Archive are still on site, and a call will go out for new contributions. The research program has always been an intention.

(f) A further function is the supply (by sale, gift or loan) of goods and services to other institutions and individuals with an interest in the history, crafts or practice of printing and related industries.

This is part of MMOP's "Museum Support Program" which offers to train the volunteers of other printing museums (see above). Provision by MMOP of hard-to-get supplies has benefited a number of other collections.

2.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the expression “printing and related industries or crafts” includes without limitation, in addition to general printing, the various industries, organisations, occupations, systems and processes that are related to printing and publishing, such as:

(a) organisations that use machinery or technology that is consistent with general printing but may not offer a public printing service, such as publishing, packaging, stationery, labelling, rubber stamp making, and in-plant printeries;

(b) organisations and industries that are within the ambit of the Australian organisation “*Print and Visual Communications Association*” and its successors and equivalents;

(c) organisations or occupations that have a unique dependency on printing and publishing, or did so in the past, for example the industries, trades, crafts or occupations of journalism, advertising, graphic design, signage, packaging, writing and editing, book design, librarianship;

(d) organisations that are suppliers of goods and services that are principally used by printing and related industries. Examples are suppliers of paper, printing plates, printing inks, printing machines and finishing equipment, printing trade services and relevant training organisations;

Trade catalogues, literature and magazines, and examples of the various supplies including their packaging with labels, are part of the archive.

(e) organisations and industries that share or once shared the realm of communications with printing, collaborating or competing with printing, such as telegraphy, telephony, radio and television, film-making, computer systems and networking, and their typical equipment, antique or modern;

Various technologies initially assisted printers and publishers and later competed with them. There have been films documenting the industry such as "The Machine that Made Us" (BBC 2008 Stephen Fry) and at MMOP there have been over a dozen film-making episodes for drama, education and promotional.

These "competing technologies" will mostly be represented with a modest presentation, in some cases just a single object, a photo or two and a description of their link to printing and publishing. There could be "cross-promotion" to other museums.

(f) processes and equipment, used by organisations or individuals, that perform a printing function including typewriters, duplicators, copiers, addressing systems, and computers; and

Many visitors have said that, to them, "printing" means the typewriter and the office duplicator.

(g) trade associations and industry associations relevant to printing and related industries.

The work and the history of trade unions and industry associations such as the former "PKIU", "PATEFA" and today's PVCA are worthy of recognition and research.

Rule 3

Financial year

The financial year of the Association is each period of 12 months ending on 30th June.

Rules 4 to 77 are the same as in the Model Rules specified by Schedule 4 of the Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012, version incorporating amendments as at 15 June 2015.

THE MODEL RULES CAN BE FOUND AT :

www.consumer.vic.gov.au/library/forms/clubs-and-not-for-profits/incorporated-associations/model-rules-for-an-incorporated-association.doc