



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

15 December 2008

Appointments to the Visions of Australia Committee

Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett, has appointed Mr Geoffrey Edwards to the Visions of Australia Committee. The Visions of Australia program supports not-for-profit organisations and public collecting institutions to develop and tour exhibitions of Australian cultural material across Australia, and the Committee assesses applications and makes recommendations to the Minister.

Mr Edwards is a senior arts administrator with an international reputation and extensive management experience in metropolitan and regional art museum environments.

Mr Edwards is currently Director of Geelong Art Gallery, Victoria, one of Australia's largest and oldest regional galleries.

There he initiated a national campaign to raise \$4 million to acquire Eugene von Guérard's colonial masterpiece *View of Geelong* (1856), one of the most expensive Australian paintings ever purchased by an Australian public collecting institution.

He was previously a senior curator at the National Gallery of Victoria, where he was responsible for the sculpture and glass collections.

Mr Edwards is recognised for his curatorial expertise in both fine and applied art, and he has published extensively on historical and contemporary art subjects.

He has also been a member of many national and international committees including the Australia Council's Visual Art and Craft Board, Deputy Chair of Craft Australia, Museums Australia (Victoria), National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and Deputy Chair of the International Council of Museums (Glass committee).

Ms Mary-Louise Williams, Director, Australian National Maritime Museum, and Ms Meg Larkin, Chair, Regional Arts New South Wales, have each been reappointed for a further three years. With their experience and expertise they have made a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee.

The Visions program makes a significant contribution to the cultural lives of Australians by providing them with high-quality cultural exhibitions, particularly in regional and remote areas. See www.arts.gov.au/visions

Media contact: Eleanor Dean, DEWHA Arts Public Affairs 6275 9574