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## **Auckland Museum Hosts CAMD Meeting**

A two-day meeting of the Council of Australasian Museum Directors (CAMD) concluded today at Auckland Museum. CAMD brings together the leaders of the major national, state and regional museums in Australia and New Zealand to share information about the work of each institution, organise research, submissions and surveys, and to examine studies of international museum activity.

“This is the first ever CAMD meeting held at Auckland Museum and we are pleased to host these important discussions. These meetings are invaluable in debating and designing strategies to continue to elevate the Australasian museum sector,” said Auckland Museum Director Dr Vanda Vitali.

CAMD was established in 1967 and its 22 museums operate in over 68 locations across Australia and New Zealand. Members include natural science and social history museums, industry and technology collections, science centres, combined museum/art galleries, heritage houses and outdoor museum sites.

“Museums are amongst the most popular cultural institutions in the world. Last year in Australia, visitors to museums increased by six percent to 13.2 million. This reflected a sustained rise of over 15 percent in the last five years,” said Margaret Anderson, Chair of CAMD.

Ms Anderson warned, however, that the consequences of the global financial crisis had affected the operations of member museums. “All museums reported they had to look for more innovative solutions to funding issues,” she said.

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