

11 August 2024

Save the Powerhouse, email and Facebook

Luke Grant interviewing Dr Lindsay Sharp, the Founding Director of the Powerhouse Museum on 2GB on Friday 9 August (refer to our previous post) commented that his “understanding is that the current head of the organisation has had no experience as a curator or anything else.”

“You have to differentiate between contemporary art installations and the like and commercial activities and actually running a museum” replied Dr Sharp.

Grant went on to ask “What is motivating the Government or motivating the people managing the museum now to do this?”

“As far as we can tell it’s **a very different view of what culture is about**. It’s all about rave, fashion and music. You look at the backdrop of the Catalina which was lowered. Most of that lowering was to facilitate some kind of DJ and music and fun. I am not against that. It’s just that it is not appropriate” answered Dr Sharp.

Listen to the interview HERE <https://www.2gb.com/podcast/the-ray-hadley-morning-show-full-show-august-9th-7/> from 1:23:50.

Meanwhile the NSW Government appointed to the MAAS Board of Trustees Kate Pounder, a former managing director at professional services company Accenture.

Read B&T of 9 August <https://www.bandt.com.au/kate-pounder-appointed-to-powerhouse-board-of-trustees/>

According to the **Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences Act 1945**

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-1945-031> (article 3.1) “there shall be appointed nine trustees...”

After the departure of Suzie Landy at the end 2021 and the death of Lang Walker in January 2024 there were only 7 trustees left.

President Peter Collins’ initial term ended on 31 December 2023 but was extended by 6 months (to 30 June 2024). He still holds that position.

Pounder declared “Tech jobs are one of the biggest opportunities in Australia today – **there will be one million Australians working in tech jobs by 2025**. The opening of Powerhouse Parramatta is **an incredible opportunity to inspire kids across the state to consider a tech or innovation career**.”

Will the “all about rave and fashion and music” current museum management’s practice of desecrating tech marvels such as the Catalina, Loco No1 or the Boulton & Watt engine into “Instagram backdrops” ever inspire any kid “to consider a tech career”?

If you have not done so yet sign our joint petition <https://www.change.org/p/keep-the-powerhouse-museum-in-ultimo-open> and encourage your family and friends to do the same. It is reaching 7,600 signatures and still growing!

Save the Powerhouse

 **Savethepowerhouse**



“A very different view of what culture is about ”