CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD OF ICOMOS
CANDIDAT AU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE L'ICOMOS

MCINTYRE-TAMWOY SUSAN

AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIE



Dr Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy (Australia). Associate Director, Navin Officer Heritage consultants (continuing); ICOMOS Vice President, Asia Pacific Region (2023-2026). Susan has a degree in anthropology and a PhD (archaeology) and she has worked in heritage conservation for 40 years. She was selected to the ICOMOS Bureau as a Vice President representing the Asia Pacific Region in 2023. She has served as co-chair of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel since 2025.

PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA

I am standing as a candidate for the Board and for the role of President. I confirm that, if elected as President, I will attend all Board and Bureau meetings. If not elected as President I will stand as Vice President for the Asia Pacific Region, a role that I have filled with dedication for the past three years. If not elected to the Bureau, I agree to serve as a Board Member and commit fully to attending all Board meetings.

In standing for the position of President, I am mindful that this role carries the responsibility of building upon the solid foundations established by our founding members and strengthened by the many presidents and their boards, who have preceded me. My vision for our organisation is one of a strong, unified voice for heritage conservation —an organisation that is heard, respected, and accessible. I want every member, regardless of their region, to feel represented and valued, and I want our organisation to remain cohesive despite the shifting politics and ideologies of the countries we call home. With the support of the Board and the Secretariat, I hope to progress the following areas of work:

1. Humanising and Streamlining Work Practices

To harness the full capacity of ICOMOS, we need al l its bodies to function efficiently and effectively. This means supporting a strong Scientific Council capable of self-regulating its ISCs and serving as an incubator for innovative ideas, research, and methodologies. It also means strengthening the Adcom so it can independently advise the Board and, when necessary, challenge it, on issues raised by NC and ISC Presidents. Working collaboratively with Adcom officers, I would explore ways to enhance the effectiveness, impact, and support mechanisms of these bodies. In particular, I would streamline the requirements for the Annual General Meetings, shortening the duration and thereby reducing costs and putting the hosting of such meetings within reach of our smaller committees.

2. Ensuring Equity and Reducing Member Burden

Our members are our greatest resource. While digital platforms and hybrid meetings have expanded access, we have largely layered these tools onto traditional ways of working instead of reimagining how we operate. This often places disproportionate pressure on members in regions such as South America and the Asia-Pacific, who are expected to participate during the night. I would work with the Board and Secretariat to increase efficiency and achieve more equitable participation globally considering options such as regionalisation of tasks or staff, and rotation of meeting times across time zones.

3. Increasing Indigenous Participation and Strengthening World Heritage Processes

The participation of Indigenous peoples is becoming an increasingly important focus, particularly as the World Heritage Committee turns its attention to this issue and calls for guidance. ICOMOS must demonstrate leadership. I established the Indigenous Heritage Working Group at the request of the Board, but for it to become fully effective, it requires sustained support, training, and resources. My goal is to build a strong and impactful group that meaningfully contributes to our heritage conservation mission.

4. Advancing Climate Change Understanding and Response

For two decades, ICOMOS has been a consistent voice raising the implications of climate change for heritage places, over the last two decades. We now need to take a lead role in understanding how climate change is affecting Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), advising the World Heritage Committee, and developing strategies to manage the evolution or potential diminishment of OUV at cultural and mixed sites. This proactive agenda is essential for maintaining our credibility and relevance.

5. Enhancing Member Value and Securing Sustainable Funding

Funding remains a major concern. While the Secretariat—under strong leadership—has successfully grown project-based funding, much of this support is time-limited and tied to specific deliverables. Working closely with the Treasurer and the new Director General, I aim to diversify and strengthen our funding base to ensure the

organisation's long -term sustainability and to enhance the value we provide to members.

6. Positioning Heritage as a Catalyst for Peace, Cohesion, and Wellbeing

ICOMOS must continue to respond to disasters, but we also need to shift from a predominantly reactionary role—where heritage is often the victim—to one that emphasises heritage as a source of resilience, identity, and community cohesion. In a world where long-standing al liances are shifting and fractures are emerging, heritage can offer connection, continuity, and healing.

We must explore how heritage enriches human experience; how it empowers and binds communities; and how cultural heritage is transported, transformed, and adapted when people move; sometimes through crisis, but also through opportunity. These evolving narratives require us to look at heritage in new and deeper ways, from tangible and intangible expressions to commemorative, relict, and lived heritage.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy (PhD, BA Hons) - is an international cultural heritage consultant and archaeologist with 40 years' experience across government, academia, and consultancy. She is Vice President of ICOMOS, co-chair of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel, and Board Liaison to the Indigenous Heritage Working Group (IHWG). During her tenure, she has strengthened collaboration across the Asia-Pacific region, championed the 2025 AGA in Nepal, and supported the delivery of the 2025 regional meeting in Korea. Her partnerships with National Committee Presidents have revitalised regional engagement and collaborative initiatives across the region include:

· Projects and sessions for the Malaysia General Assembly, focusing on cultural tourism and island heritage.

· A webinar series on Heritage Impact Assessment across our subregions.

· A digital library platform for sharing case studies and research.

· A Regional University Forum developed with colleagues from China, Nepal, and Australia, which has already delivered two events in China, and introduced the theme Heritage and Peace at the Nepal AGA.

As Board Liaison to the IHWG, she oversaw its establishment and representation in ICOMOS's team at a UNESCO workshop in May 2025. She is the liaison with the Advisory Committee Officers and serves on Board task teams monitoring the implementation of General Assembly resolutions and reviewing the Ethical Commitment Statement, the latter resulting in changes adopted at the Nepal AGA.

Beyond ICOMOS, Susan is Associate Director at Navin Officer Heritage Consultants, one of Australia's most established heritage firms. Her experience spans Indigenous and non-Indigenous archaeology, heritage impact assessment, conservation, and heritage planning. A strong advocate for culture-nature and community-based

approaches, she draws on extensive work with Indigenous communities, including years living on Cape York Peninsula.

She is a former President of Australia ICOMOS and the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists and has held significant government advisory roles in NSW, Queensland.