

MEG SWITZER  
CURRICULUM VITAE

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**Name** Doric Margaret Ann Switzer  
known as Meg Switzer

**Nationality** Australian

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**Professional Qualifications:** Diploma of Education, Queensland University  
Bachelor of Science, Griffith University

**Career Summary:**

Meg Switzer has had a wide range of experience in Australia in natural resource management, heritage conservation and tourism. As a senior executive in the Commonwealth public sector she has lead professional teams responsible for policy development and strategic programs. She is experienced in facilitation and participatory planning processes in Indigenous communities. She has been employed within tertiary institutions and social movements in a range of roles, and has had key involvement in the development of many key national policies and programs. Ms Switzer now consults through her business, ASM and Associates Pty Ltd, specialising in environment, heritage and tourism management and planning. She is also a senior facilitator with Stepwise Heritage Tourism Pty Ltd that specialises in working with Indigenous communities who wish to develop their tourism opportunities.

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## Professional Experience

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2006-2008

**Consultant and Company Director  
Stepwise Heritage and Tourism Pty Ltd**

*Tourism NT, Northern Territory Government*

- Delivered Stepping Stones for Tourism workshop to community in Daly River to develop an education tourism schools program

*Aboriginal Rainforest Council, North Queensland*

- Delivered Stepping Stones workshop to four groups in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

*Tourism NT, Northern Territory Government*

- Delivered Stepping Stones workshop to Bawaka Cultural Experiences women's community, Arnhemland.

*Tourism NT, Northern Territory Government:*

- Tour leader for development of Indigenous women's tourism products

**Consultant and Company Director  
ASM and Associates**

*ActewAGL Water Division:*

- Developed heritage program for ACT Water Security Major Projects in particular the enlarged Cotter Dam.

*Reconciliation Australia:*

- Developed workbook for the 'Sharing Success' Workshops on governance practices for Indigenous Leaders.

*ACT Greens: Professional development facilitation training workshop*

- Facilitated professional development workshop on facilitation.

1996-2005

**Director in Heritage Division  
Australian Government, Department of Environment and Heritage**

- Developed strategic partnerships with Commonwealth and State Tourism agencies and tourism industry.
- Led a team that provided Commonwealth representation and delivered collaboratively with the States new heritage and tourism policies for the Environment Protection and Heritage

Ministers' Council Economic Incentives Taskforce.

- Led a team that developed and implemented Australia's first online training program for integrating natural and cultural heritage assessment and management for tertiary level accreditation at Curtin University and won an award.
- Led a team that developed and published a series of best practice natural and cultural heritage management planning tools that won several national and state planning awards.
- Representative for the Commonwealth on:
  - Australian Alps Liaison Committee
  - Tourism and Recreational Advisory Committee for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
  - Cooperative Resources Centre (CRC), Sustainable Tourism Resources Research Committee
  - CRC Sustainable Tourism Cultural Tourism Advisory committee

**1990-1995**

**Senior Research Officer  
Centre for Resources and Environmental Studies, Australian  
National University**

- Developed with State agencies floodplain management policies and strategies in Australia's eastern states as part of future Federal government policy options within the LandCare program.
- Researched and co-authored an innovative research paper and policy statement on "Women and Ecologically Sustainable Development: Engendering the Debate" to the Commonwealth Office for the Status of Women.
- Researched and delivered background papers and a training kit in media skills for community liaison to the National Women's Consultative Council for the project 'Australian Women and the Environment'.
- Researched and co-authored "Atlas of Vertebrates Endemic to Australia's Wet Tropics".
- Managed a team to develop a geographic information database system for endemic fauna species in the Wet Tropics.

**1987-1989**

**Senior National Liaison Officer  
Australian Conservation Foundation, Canberra**

*Achievement highlights:*

- Developed a working relationship between key political and bureaucratic persons and the environment community.
- Influenced government policy on the Wet Tropics nomination to World Heritage List and other topical issues.



## Major Presentations and Conference Papers

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2004 . *Indigenous Tourism Initiative*. Conference paper presented to Indigenous Land managers at the Natural Resource Management Capacity Building conference, Townsville

2004 . *Steps to Sustainable Tourism*. Conference paper presented to the ICOMOS Annual Conference, "Loving it to Death: Sustainable Tourism at Historic Places", Port Arthur.

2004. *Planning a sustainable Future for Tourism and the Environment*. Conference paper presented to the Ecotourism Conference, Leading the Business of Sustainability, Blue Mountains.

2004. *Going Places: developing natural and cultural heritage tourism in Australia*. Conference paper presented to the Forum for Advocating Cultural and Ecotourism conference, Perth. Also delivered a workshop entitled *Application of tourism planning model in Purnululu World Heritage Area*.

2004. *Heritage tourism policy developments*. Conference paper presented to the Australian Committee for International Union for the Conservation of Nature (ACIUCN) General Meeting.

2004 . *A national approach to themes and heritage promotion* . Workshop. Naracoorte Caves World Heritage Area, South Australia.

2004 . *Steps to Sustainable Tourism*. Conference paper presented to the Tourism Futures Conference, Townsville.

2004. *Tourism policy Initiatives*. Conference paper presented to World Heritage Managers Conference, Cairns

2002. *Ecotourism Australia-wide*. Developed and delivered first Australian tourism on-line conference, as part of International year of Ecotourism.

2001. *A New Approach: Proposed Changes to Commonwealth Heritage Laws*. Conference paper presented to the Interpretation Australia Association conference, Alice Springs.

1999 . *Heritage tourism policy direction*. Conference paper presented to the Regional Australia Summit, Alice Springs.

1999 . *Australian Natural Heritage Charter*. Workshop developed and delivered to 10 local government agencies

1996. *Applying the Interim Australian Natural Heritage Charter to managing the World Heritage Tropical Forests*. Conference paper presented to the World Heritage Tropical Forests Conference, Science for Better Management and Understanding, Cairns.

1995 . *Biodiversity policy in 1995*. Conference paper presented to the Women and Environment Conference. Melbourne.

1992 . *Out of Rhythm, Out of Balance*. Conference paper presented to the Ecopolitics Conference, Melbourne. Keynote speaker.

1991. *Population issues, women and ecologically sustainable development*. Workshop session developed and delivered for the Population Issues and Women workshop, National Population Council, Sydney.

1991. *Women and ecologically sustainable development: Engendering the Debate*. Workshop session developed and delivered for the Ecologically Sustainable Development Inter-sectoral Issues Workshop. Commonwealth Government, Canberra

1991. *Victims, Vicars and Visionaries*. Conference paper presented to the Ecopolitics Conference, Sydney.

1990. *Integrating health and environment national conference and skills workshop*. Developed and delivered a workshop for the Institute of Applied Environmental Research, Griffith University. It was directed towards developing an integrated framework in Environmental Impact assessment.

1986. *Daintree Doubletalk*. Conference paper presented to the Ecopolitics Conference, Griffith University, Brisbane.

1986. *Daintree: A case history*, Seminar delivered to the Centre for Resources and Environmental Studies, Australian National University, Canberra.

1983. *An attempt to resolve rainforest and development issues north of the Daintree*. Workshop developed and delivered to academics and students at Griffith University, Brisbane.

## Publications

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Beasley L., Currie, G., Jakimow R., Roost K. and Switzer M. *Why Benchmarking? Benchmarking and Commonwealth Heritage Agencies*. Joint Middle Management Development Program, unpublished. 1996.

Smith, DI., Handmer, J., Mackay, J., Switzer, M. and Williams, BJ. *Non-Structural measures for flood mitigation: Current Adoption in Urban Areas*. Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. Centre for Resources and Environmental Studies, Australian National University. May 1995.

Brown, V. and Switzer, M. *Australian Women Care About the Environment*. Conserve. Women's Conservation and Environment Network. Department of Conservation and Environment, Victoria. June 1991.

Brown, V. and Switzer, M. *Women and Ecologically Sustainable Development and Health*, In Touch, June 1991.

Brown, V. and Switzer, M. *Women and Ecologically Sustainable Development: Engendering the Debate*, Prepared for the Office of the Status of Women. Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, 1991.

Fleetwood, R. Means, K. Stannard\*, M. 'An attempt to resolve rainforest and development issues north of the Daintree', in *Australian National Rainforest Study report Vol1*. Proceedings of a workshop on the past, present and future of Australian rainforest, Griffith University, Australian Conservation Foundation, Nov, 1984.

Nix, H.A. and Switzer, M. *Atlas of Australian Rainforest Vertebrates: Species Endemic in North-eastern Australia*. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra 1991.

Stannard\*, M. 'Conondale Range' in *Australia's Natural Heritage*, G. Hutton (ed), Australian Conservation Foundation 1982.

Stannard, P. Williamson, M. Stannard\*, M. *Man and Nature Series Volumes 1-8*, Macmillan Co. of Australia, June 1979.

Stock, E.C. and Stannard, M.A. *Maroochy River Activity Survey*, Institute of Applied Social Research, Griffith University, 1980.

Switzer, M. *Comments on the Environmental Impact Statement for Eden (NSW)*, Australian Heritage Commission, June 1986.

Switzer, M. *Comments on the final Environmental Impact Statement for Eden (NSW)*, Australian Heritage Commission, February 1986.

Switzer, M. *Comments on the Supplementary Document to the Environmental Impact Statement for Eden (NSW)*, Australian Heritage Commission, February 1986.

Switzer, M. *Women: The Invisible Partners in Ecologically Sustainable Development*, National Women's Consultative Council, July 1992.

**\* NOTE: Switzer, M. was formerly Stannard, M.**

## Government Publications

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**NOTE: Meg Switzer contributed substantially to the following government publications.**

Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage, *Steps to Sustainable Tourism: planning a sustainable future for tourism, heritage and the environment*, 2004.

Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage, *Protecting Natural Heritage: using the Australian Natural Heritage Charter*, 2003

Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage, *Australian Natural Heritage Charter for the conservation of places of natural heritage significance*, 2002.

Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage, *Successful Tourism at Heritage Places: A guide for tourism operators, heritage managers, and communities*, 2001.

Australian Heritage Commission, *Protecting Heritage Places: a guide for communities*, 2000.

## Professional Appointments

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- 2002-05 . International Centre for Ecotourism Advisory Board.
- 2003-05. Tourism and Protected Area Forum, TAPAF, Adviser
- 2003- 05. Australian Alps Liaison Committee, Australian Government Representative
- 2004-05. CRC Sustainable Tourism Resources Research Committee, STCRC Sustainable Resources Steering Committee
- 2004 . Indigenous Steering Committee member for the *National Welcome to Country* initiative with Aboriginal Tourism Australia and other national Indigenous representatives
- 2003-04. Environment and Heritage Ministers' Council Tourism Taskforce
- 2003-04. Environment and Heritage Ministers' Council Economic Incentives Taskforce
- 2003-05. Tourism and Recreational Advisory Committee for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- 2003-04. National Reference Group for Making Tourism a National Priority
- 2003-04. National Working Group member for *Leave No Trace: Australia* review
- 2001-02. Reference Group member for several economic research papers on economic valuing of heritage.
2001. Reference Group member for the Lake Eyre Basin Heritage Tourism project.
- 2000-02. Committee for International Year of Ecotourism.
1997. National Steering Committee for the Earth Charter, an Earth Summit initiative.
- 1993-95 . Delegate to NGO Consultative Forum on International Environmental Issues to the Federal Government.
- 1993-95 . Delegate to NGO Consultative Forum on International Environmental Issues Trade and Environment Working Group to the Department of Foreign Affairs.
- 1989-94. Committee for Women and Environment, Canberra.