WA COLLECTIONS SECTOR WORKING GROUP

MAKING PROGRESS

Alec Coles
Kim Jameson
Pauline Joseph
Today

- Collections Sector Working Group
- Three Priorities
- Audience Development

- Skills Development Pilot Project
- Digital Collections Platform
- Discussion – YOU

- Alec Coles
- Kim Jameson
- Pauline Joseph
Collections Sector Working Group: Why?

- Funding cuts to peak body
- Positive response looking for opportunities
- Chance to unite collections sector
- Spirit of Innovation
- Link to other initiatives
- Needs must…
Who’s who in the Zoo?

- Department of Culture and the Arts
- Western Australian Museum
- State Library of WA
- Art Gallery of WA
- State Records Office
- Museums and Galleries Australia WA
- National Trust of WA
- Australian Library and Information Association
- Art On The Move
- Australian Society of Archivists WA
- WA Local Government Association
Collections Sector Development Areas

- Skills Development
- Mentorships
- Networks
- Hubs
- Digital Platform
- Audience Development
- Profile
- Advocacy
Collections Sector Development Framework

- Skills Development
- Mentorships
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- Hubs
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- Audience Development
- Profile
- Advocacy
Audience Development

Western Australian Collections Sector Working Group
Skills Development - Western Australian Collections Sector Working Group
Digital

Can you tell me where I can find the high def paintings?
...strategy is to facilitate the development of links with new audiences to collections and to ensure that more people can access the rich resources available in their own community.
Our Knowledge, Our Land

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE ACKNOWLEDGE MANDJOOGOORDAP BINDJAREB NOONGAR TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND COMMUNITY, AND PAY RESPECT TO ELDERS, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE FOR THEY HOLD THE KNOWLEDGE

OUR MISSION

Mandurah is one of the most vibrant regional cities in Western Australia. Once a small fishing village that boomed during holiday periods, it now has a thriving population of more than 80,000. Covering an area of 173.5km², Mandurah follows the coast from its northern extremity at Madora to the Ramsar-listed wetland Lake Clifton and Yalgorup National Park 50km to the south.

The Aboriginal community of Mandurah are custodians of the land which centres on our

HARRY NANNUP
Western Australian Collections Sector Working Group

Sisters of St. John of God, Broome
The collections sector requires skills development for existing and new practitioners. The highest priority is a cyclical program of flexible modules to deliver comprehensive basic skills, to complement existing tertiary training opportunities within WA, interstate and online. The modules should have the potential to be delivered regionally.
Skills Development – Pilot Project

Building our Stories

• **Professional Development**
  • Sector Need
  • Building Capacity
  • Life-long Learning

• **Collaboration**
  • Collections Sector Working Group

• **Project Lead**
  • Museums and Galleries WA
  • ART ON THE MOVE

**ART ON THE MOVE** Professional Development Workshop: Shark Bay World Heritage and Discovery Centre, Denham, WA
Building our Stories

- **Location**
  - Metro area
  - City of Karratha

- **Purpose**
  - Strong history of storytelling
  - People & Place

- **Objectives**
  - **Skill Set 1:** Object Handling, Curating, Exhibiting
  - **Skill Set 2:** Interpretation

**ART ON THE MOVE** Community Workshop
Mandurah Performing Art Centre
Building our Stories

• **Skill Set 1: Curating and Preparing an Exhibition Description**
  - The role of the curator.
  - Become familiar with the term ‘significance’ and what the entailing responsibilities are around such museum artefacts.
  - Awareness of what preventative conservation and safe handling practices involve.
  - Writing exhibition synopses.

• **Skill Set 1: Object Handling**
  - Identify the need for careful handling of artworks.
  - Safely move artworks.
  - Use collection store moving equipment.
  - OSH issues in object handling.
Building our Stories

**Skill Set 2: Interpretation**

- Understand components of audience development.
- Identify audience types and styles of programs that engage particular learning styles.
- Develop a toolkit of activities that could support an exhibition.
- Understand the need for good exhibition design.
- Become familiar with a variety of different ways to deliver interpretations using a variety of audio visual equipment.
• **Pilot Format**

  • Integrate theoretical and practical applications.
  • Build a story based on a provenanced object and an artwork inspired by that object to give focus to the training.

1021 John Ellwood (Jack) Rudd
Woolen Jumper made from socks
Courtesy: Museums and Galleries WA

Michele Eastwood
*Hanging out to dry*
Courtesy: Museums and Galleries WA
• **Timetable**

**May/June**
- MOU between the training partners.
- Detailed training modules developed.
- Develop an appropriate evaluation framework to measure impact and value of the training.

**July/August**
- Promote the training event to recruit trainees.
- Offer travel bursaries for those travelling long distance (first come first served).

**August/October**
- Implement the course and review the outcomes.

**November**
- Present outcomes and report to Collections Working Group with future recommendations.
Building our Stories

• Conclusion
  • Meet an identified need.
  • Share Resources.
  • Shared Outcomes.
  • Shared Learning.
  • Assess impact and value.
  • Share learning with the sector.
  • Recommendations.

ART ON THE MOVE Professional Development Workshop: Shark Bay World Heritage and Discovery Centre, Denham, WA
a searchable digital platform for all WA collections…

…making it more possible to share stories of local, state and national significance.
What we want?

• WA collections discoverable online
• Want community-based organisations that do not have a system, expertise or resources:
  – to manage & catalogue their collections
  – online system
  – with training
• …user friendly, capture & search collections across GLAM sector
• …harvested by TROVE
• Sustainable options:
  • ownership of the system by a cultural institution
  • sustainable system and training infrastructure
  • sustainably aggregate to a wider Australian collection
What systems we reviewed?

The Tasmanian Collection

The Tasmanian Collection was initiated by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) and Tasmanian Heritage Council (THC) in September 2016 as a way to link collections to physical sites and aggregate the state’s cultural collections.
Decided a 2 phase approach
Phase 1 - decision

The Victorian Collections Platform

victoriancollections.net.au
The following slides have been provided by Museums Australia (Victoria)
The program partnership
There are currently **98,132** objects shared on Victorian Collections contributed by **452** Victorian collecting organisations.

Over **200** people attend training sessions each year.
# Program Statistics

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<th>2012</th>
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Program Statistics

Organisation breakdown on VC

- Libraries: 100
- Multicultural collections: 60
- Religious collections: 40
- School collections: 30
- Specialist collections: 20
- Sporting clubs: 10
- Art collections, family history groups, council collections, historical societies, freemasons, medical collections, military collections: 0
Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village

Item records: 8,517 item catalogued
School collections

Williamstown High School Collection, Victorian Collections.
Ex-service organisations

Frankston RSL Sub-Branch Collection, Victorian Collections.
Sporting clubs

Tennis Australia Collection, Victorian Collections.
The interface
Workshops and engagement
Phase 2 - exploration

How the collection search works...
Enter a term or topic (e.g. 'bridge', 'gold' or 'settlement') in the box above for an array of results from the websites and selected collection databases of our cultural organisations, including museums, galleries and historical societies. To access each organisation’s results for your search, click on their name in the left hand side column of the search results screen.

Our search covers the following websites and collections databases:

- Arts Centre Melbourne Collection Objects
- Arts Centre Melbourne Website
- Culture Victoria Website
- Museum Victoria Collections Online
- NGV Collection Online
- NGV Website
- PROV Wiki
- State Library of Victoria Website
- Victorian Collections
- Victorian Heritage Database

The results from many community collecting organisations are available from the Victorian Collections link.
Infrastructure

WA Discovery Portal

- Australian Collections
  - Community based orgs **without** any systems
- Community-based orgs with systems
- Portfolio Agencies
Next steps…

• Seek funding
• Meet with Victorian Collections
  – Discuss WA requirements
  – Sign contracts
Questions and Discussion