

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES INC

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Hon Editor, Dr Ruth S. Kerr

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1) Endangered Archives Programme

The Endangered Archives Programme's latest call for applications is available on the website below. Those desiring more information may email directly to endangeredarchives@bl.uk

Or visit the website:

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/homepage.html>

Grants from the last funding round are listed on the website below:

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/grants2009.html>

The program is operated by British library.

(Source: aus-archivists@archivists.org.au List – 25 September 2009)

2) Libraries of the future

A news report from New York City on 24 September 2009 outlines how libraries of the future will be operated. Interestingly it highlights the use of specialised collections. Libraries are likely to be sparsely staffed, highly decentralized, and have a physical plant consisting of little more than special collections and study areas. See the website:

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/09/24/libraries>

(Source: aliaaglin@lists.alia.org.au List – 28 September 2009)

3) Australian Society of Archivists (Tasmanian Branch) & Museums Australia (Tasmanian Branch) Archival Support Program

Recognising that many small collecting institutions have material encompassing a wide variety of formats, we have invited Museums Australian (Tasmanian Branch) to collaborate with us in a forthcoming workshop as part of the Archival Support Program. The History Societies and Museums workshop will be held on Saturday November 7th in Oatlands from 10am to 4pm.

Topics to be covered include:

- Textiles conservation
- Exhibitions management
- Databases
- Reference inquiries

There will also be opportunities for discussion and exchange of ideas. Refreshments and a light lunch are included.

Registration forms can be obtained from David Bloomfield at Archives of Tasmania.

I would be happy for you to circulate this invitation to other colleagues who may be interested in attending. The charge is \$38.50 for ASA and Museums Aust members (incl GST) and \$44 for non-members (incl GST). The closing date for registrations is Friday 23 October.

Inquiries to David Bloomfield or Sue Atkinson from Museums Australia (Tasmanian Branch) at museumconsultant@bigpond.com or

Phone: 0407 976 359. (David John Bloomfield, Archivist, Archives Office of Tasmania)

(Source: A Mailing List for Australian Archivists – 21 September 2009)

4) *Historic environment* – call for papers - ‘Convict Heritage’

The Editorial Committee of ICOMOS is proposing a volume of *Historic environment* dedicated to convict heritage, to be published next year to coincide with the decision on the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage nomination. For further information about the current World Heritage nomination and the sites that have been selected for inclusion, the document can be downloaded at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/about/convict-sites.html>. We anticipate that the majority of the papers will be concerned with the Australian transportation and convict experience, with hopefully a substantial contribution of offerings about the challenges of conserving and interpreting these places today, but papers that take a broader international or historic perspective on the phenomenon would also be welcome. If you would like to contribute to this particular theme could you please contact one of the guest editors for this volume – either Jane Harrington (jane.harrington@portarthur.org.au) or Peter Romey (peterr@gml.com.au) with a title and short abstract by **1 October 2009**.

Completed papers will be required by **1 December 2009**.

(Source: ICOMOS Email News No. 404 – 18 September 2009)

5) National compact with the third (not for profit) sector

The Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens MP is leading the Government's work on development of a national compact with the third sector.

The national compact is expected to include:

- the overarching principles and objectives that will underpin the relationship between the government and third sectors, including recognition of their respective roles and contributions;
- the commitments of both sectors to achieving the compact's objectives; and
- monitoring and reporting measures.

Progress to date

The National Compact Joint Taskforce, which included people working in the sector and representatives from a range of Australian Government departments, met three times during May – July 2009 to develop a draft framework for a national compact.

A workshop for the taskforce and around 50 additional invited compact stakeholders and partners was held in Canberra on 20 July 2009 to consider the draft compact framework (refer to www.socialinclusion.gov.au for further information).

Current consultations

The outcomes of the workshop and taskforce meetings will inform a consultation process for the broader third sector and other interested stakeholders from August to November 2009. Following consultations, a draft national compact and associated work plan will be presented to Government in December 2009.

A key component of the consultation process is an online forum launched on 3 August 2009. Discussion topics and an ideas board are now open on the forum and you are encouraged to participate. You can register for the online forum at www.socialinclusion.gov.au/forums.

A consultation paper is also available at www.socialinclusion.gov.au or through the online forum. You can provide your comments on the consultation paper through the online forum or in a submission to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

Further information about the compact and the forum is at www.socialinclusion.gov.au or www.fahcsia.gov.au or you can phone FaHCSIA on **1800 607 839** Monday - Friday from 8.30-5.00pm (AEST). TTY users - phone **133 677** then ask for the phone number you wish to contact.

We would appreciate your help in passing information about the compact and current consultations onto other stakeholders.

Contact: Joanne Miller, A/g Assistant Secretary, Arts Development and Training
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e. joanne.miller@environment.gov.au

(Source: DEWHA Email – 17 September 2009)

6) Collections Council – development of new model for sustainable scientific & cultural collections in Australia

The Collections Council of Australia announced on 22 September 2009 its plans to develop and promote a new model for sustainable scientific and cultural collections in Australia.

The Council's Chair, Noel Turnbull, stated that a model is an urgent national priority for nation-wide benchmarks, policy development and funding of the collections sector.

The URL for the News item about the proposed new Model is on their website:
<http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/Default.aspx?tabid=544&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=133>

Below is their summary of their proposal:

“The Collections Council of Australia plans to develop and promote a new model for sustainable scientific and cultural collections in Australia.

The Council's Chair, Noel Turnbull, said today that such a model is an urgent national priority for nation-wide benchmarks, policy development and funding of the collections sector.

He said the Council plans to consult with the sector and look at a variety of international models which could be adapted to Australian needs.

“Many Australian collections are in a perilous state. The sector lacks integrated support outside capital cities; there is no over-arching framework to guide the creation and management of digital heritage collections; and there is inadequate resourcing to meet the needs of collections and their communities,” he said.

“We aim to achieve better alignment with other major sectors and policy platforms so that Australia's collections in the arts, culture, environment, heritage, information and science fields are seen as active contributors to a national sustainable future.

“The model will provide a platform for future policy development by governments, a blueprint for planning, and new benchmarks for the sector. This will contribute to a host of areas including productivity and international competitiveness, education, research, innovation, economic development including cultural tourism, community connectedness, social inclusion and global recognition,” Mr Turnbull said.

The Council has circulated a position paper on the proposed new model to Australia’s collections sector which includes approximately 5,000 collecting organisations.’

The Collections Council aims to finish the development of the model by the end of 2011.

(Source: Collections Council of Australia website: www.collectionscouncil.com.au – 22 September 2009)

7) Collections Council – ‘Now and Then’ website

The Collections Council is delighted to announce the launch of the **Now and Then** website, which uses wiki technology to enable communities to share information about their cultural heritage.

With funding from the [.auDA Foundation](#), the Collections Council of Australia has worked in partnership with the Mallala and Districts Historical Committee and its Museum in regional South Australia to develop this community heritage wiki.

Go to <http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/collection+connections.aspx> to read more about the project and the launch event.

Go to <http://www.nowandthen.net.au/> to visit the Now and Then wiki, and learn about the places, people, events, organisations and things that represent Mallala’s history and heritage. You can also add your own information, including memories of Mallala!

(Source: Collections Council of Australia e-mail – 30 September 2009)

8) *Care and identification of 19th-century photographic prints*, by James M. Reilly

Care and Identification of 19th Century Photographic Prints, by James M. Reilly is now available. A limited run has made it available again. It has been selling for as much as \$200 on the internet, but it now sells, new, for US\$60.

This book contains extensive detail to approximately date a print, correctly catalogue by print type, provide a safe enclosure, recognize forms of deterioration, store, handle, and display prints safely, manage the preservation of a large collection, deal knowledgeably with a professional conservator.

The book has been used extensively over the years by archivists, curators, librarians, and many others who care for and care about historical photographs as complete reference handbook on all aspects of the identification and preservation of 19th century photographic and photomechanical prints. The text presents technical information in plain, understandable language and is supported throughout by high-quality color reproductions showing the various print types and their forms of deterioration. The fine details of print structure are pictured in numerous photomicrographs.

A key feature of the book is its practical, detailed system for 19th century print identification. The pull-out flowchart that comes with each book is an important component in this system. The front of the chart gives step-by-step guidance for identifying major print types. The reverse side of the chart shows examples of each print type and gives dates of use.

Chapter Titles: The History of Photographic Printing in the 19th Century; The Component Materials of 19th-Century Prints and Their Forms of Deterioration; Stability of Specific Print Materials; Identification of 19th-Century Photographic and Photomechanical Print Processes; Preservation and Collection Management; Storage; Handling, Display, and Care.

For more information or to order,

<http://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/shopping/shopexd.asp?id=34>

(Source: Aus-Archivists@Archivists. Org. Au – 22 September 2009)

9) United Nations Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Australia has become a party to the United Nations Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Arts Minister Peter Garrett announced on 23 September 2009.

"The Convention is an international treaty that outlines protective measures for cultural goods, services and activities and the importance of access to a rich diversity of cultural expressions from around the world. Importantly, it also aims to strengthen links between culture and economic development," Mr Garrett said.

"The Convention is open to all United Nations members that may wish to become a party and Australia is the 101st member to do so. Under the provisions of the

Convention, it will enter into force for Australia three months after Australia officially became a party on 18 September 2009.

"This is an important step in support of our diverse cultural heritage and a vital artistic life for our citizens and fulfils a key Labor election commitment." The Convention emphasises that culture plays an important role in fostering international collaboration. It promotes tolerance and respect for all cultures, and encourages countries to take measures that protect and promote their culture, and allow and encourage a diversity of cultural expressions from around the world.

"Through a comprehensive range of funding programs and policies spread across the full spectrum of cultural, arts and heritage activities, the Australian Government is already taking strong action to protect and encourage cultural diversity within Australia, and to promote international cooperation through dialogue and cultural exchange," Mr Garrett said.

"An International Fund for Cultural Diversity is administered under the Convention, and parties can apply there for funding for projects and activities that further the Convention's aims".

For information about the Convention and its history, see www.arts.gov.au/culturaldiversity and www.unesco.org/culture

(Source; Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and The Arts website: <http://www.environment.gov.au> – Press Releases - 23 September 2009)

10) Local history – Wyndham Historical Society

A report has recently been done by a Western Australian historian, Cathy Day, of the Wyndham Historical Society collection for the purposes of the Society applying for grants for preservation of the records and artefacts. The small community is keen to preserve its artefacts and records and promote the history to visitors. The original town site, View Hill, a little to the north, was opened in 1885. The present town site was surveyed in 1886 to be a port to serve the Halls Creek and surrounding Kimberley Goldfields. The town had a Government resident (his house located slightly to the north of the town in the vicinity of the current Crocodile Farm), wharf, meatworks, Chinese stores, Durack's and Lucanas's stores from 1885-6, Telegraph Station, Customs Office, wharf railway and banks. Wyndham was always known as a drovers', butchers' and miners' town. The town was bombed by the Japanese in World War II.

(Source: Professional Historians Association (Western Australia) Inc *Newsletter*, August 2009, No. 109, p.6)