

Collections Projects Program 2023

University of Melbourne

Burnley Campus Archives

Project Description

Significance Assessment project, Burnley Campus Archives

The Project

This project involves completing a significance assessment on the Burnley Campus Archives located in the Main Building, Burnley. The significance assessment will be used to inform the status of the collection and future collection management decisions in areas such as conservation, acquisition/de-accession, valuation and access.

Background

The University of Melbourne's Faculty of Science, Burnley Campus, was formerly the Burnley Horticultural College amongst other incarnations. It has been teaching horticultural courses for a variety of educational institutions since 1891, although land was first put aside at the site for the Victorian Horticultural Society in the 1850s.

The [Burnley Campus Archives](#) consists of over 50 metres of boxed materials plus unboxed large items that relate to the Burnley Horticultural College. It comprises of materials that date back to the 19th century including the College's official records (principals' administration records, registers, student attendance books, alumni deposits, student club documents etc.), photographs, news cuttings, maps, plans and films. It also contains artefacts such as ploughs, leadlight windows and jodhpurs. The Science Library, Burnley is the enquiry point for requests by students and members of the broader community to view materials held within the Burnley Campus Archives.

Details

Using the established significance assessment methodology and criteria outlined in [Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections](#) (Collections Council of Australia Ltd, 2009), as the intellectual framework, the student working in consultation with the Archivist and Museums and Collections Program Coordinator develop a significance assessment for the Burnley Campus Archives. This project would suit a student who is interested in the history of horticulture and/or the Burnley campus, and has an understanding of collection management principles (progress towards the completion of an Arts degree or degree in Art Curatorship, Museum Studies Archival Studies, or similar would be ideal). Knowledge of the correct procedures for the safe handling of archival material is desirable, as this project requires handling and close inspection of collection items. To be successful in this project role, good communication and excellent research and writing skills are recommended, as are a methodical approach with a keen eye for detail and the ability to work independently and as part of a small team.

Benefits

Opportunity to work at close hand with the University of Melbourne's extensive cultural collections. Professional development through experience gained in collection management procedures and practice and from completing a significance assessment on the Burnley Campus Archives. This assessment will lay the foundation for future collection management decisions and increase our long-term understanding, accessibility, management and appreciation of the collection. If applicable, the completion of this project may be able to be used to earn a digital credential for Community Engagement through the 'Melbourne Plus' Program.

Supervisors

Jane Wilson, Archivist, Burnley Campus Archive

Helen Arnoldi, Museums and Collections Projects Program Coordinator

