

Collections Projects Program 2023

University of Melbourne

Burnley Campus Archives

Project Description

Curatorial Research project - Online Exhibition

The Project

This project offers the opportunity for original curatorial research interpreting selected materials from the Burnley Campus Archives collection for presentation in an online exhibition. Under guidance, you will have the opportunity to choose a theme for the exhibition while highlighting materials from the collections. This curatorial research project will increase public awareness of the rich history of the Burnley Campus and its archives.

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

Working in consultation with the Burnley Archivist, this project provides the opportunity to develop a themed online exhibition that explores an aspect of Burnley's history while highlighting the collections from the Burnley Campus Archives. Once the proposed exhibition theme has been approved by the relevant stakeholders and items have been selected, you will develop content for the exhibition including the introductory text and individual 'labels' contextualising the selected collection items. As part of the project, you will be required to research best practice and standards in writing for museums, and be familiar with contemporary techniques for presenting engaging, didactic information for a diverse audience. As part of this project, you will also be able to participate in related collection management activities as deemed appropriate. Ideally you will have an interest in research and interpretation and curating an exhibition within an online space, and be studying history, art curatorship or similar. Excellent communication and writing skills are needed for liaising with key parties and the creation of the exhibition text, while knowledge of the correct procedures for the safe handling of collections materials would be desirable. An interest in the history of horticulture and the Burnley campus would be ideal.

Benefits

The opportunity to gain experience in original research by curating an exhibition with the Burnley Campus Archives. Development of thematic research skills by undertaking high quality, referenced research for a practical museum application (an online exhibition), and experience in interpreting that research to engage broad audiences. Satisfaction in illuminating the history of Burnley and through this project, contributing to make the University's collections more accessible, facilitating others to access and enjoy the collections. Professional development through experience gained in curatorial and collection management procedures and practice. This includes experience in exploring and researching the University's cultural collections as well as gaining an understanding of the practical processes involved in the

curating an on-line exhibition. 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

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