# Collections management: telling stories through objects



South East Queensland – Small Museums Conference 8-9 October 2016

Lydia Egunnike
Queensland Museum Network





Ned Kelly's armour, State Library of Victoria



Skeletons visit the museum Photographer: Julian Foot Rights:© Australian Museum

# THE POWER OF OBJECTS



Terror Hàza M**ú**zeum , Budapest.



### Leonard Donoghue, 9 April 2015 Shield from Wrights Creek, Cairns region

Purchased from Joseph Campbell, 1914 (QE1131)

# This is my heritage

- 1 August to December 2016,
   Cobb + Co Museum
- This is my heritage explores the profound connection that objects have to family, country and culture through the personal memories and experiences of 12 of Queensland's Indigenous artists and educators.
- Through images and film, the exhibition reveals the surprising connections and strong spiritual links that can be explored when people engage with the collections of the Queensland Museum.



QUEENSLAND MUSEUM NETWORK

SCIENCENTRE THE WORKSHOPS RAIL MUSEUM

MUSEUM OF TROPICAL QUEENSLAND











MYMUSEUM

MUSEUM SHOP

SCHOOL **PROGRAMS** 

Membership



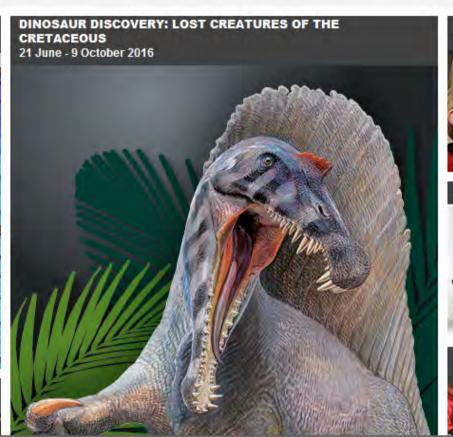
HOME VISITUS EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS COLLECTIONS RESEARCH FIND OUT ABOUT LEARNING RESOURCES ABOUT US SHOP BLOG

HISTORY MEDIA SUBSCRIBE TO E-NEWS SUPPORT US WORK WITH US CONTACT US PUBLICATIONS

### **VISIT US ON GOOGLE NATURAL HISTORY** PLATFORM



**HADRON COLLIDER** 9 December 2016 - 25 April 2017



# WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

### Who we are & what we do

### **Queensland Museum**

The Queensland Museum was founded by the Queensland Philosophical Society on 20 January 1862. Today, the Queensland Museum enriches and enlivens the cultural, social and intellectual life of all Queenslanders through its dynamic network of research facilities, regional outreach services and public tourist attractions.

These venues include: Queensland Museum & Sciencentre in Brisbane, Cobb+Co Museum in Toowoomba, The Workshops Rail Museum in Ipswich and the Museum of Tropical Queensland in Townsville. The Queensland Museum also operates the Lands, Mapping and Surveying Museum & at Woolloongabba (in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines).

### **Our vision**

Queensland Museum — discovering Queensland, inspiring generations.

A museum for all Queenslanders that actively partners with diverse communities to enrich understanding of self and place.

### Our mission

To inspire generations of Queenslanders to discover, celebrate and value our distinctive natural and cultural environment.

### Queensland Museum Foundation

Established in 2003, the Queensland Museum Foundation seeks to build partnerships with individuals and private and public sector organisations to provide resources and financial support to further the strategic priorities of the Queensland Museum.

The Queensland Museum Foundation is governed by a board of Trustees under the Chairmanship of Mr David Liddy, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Queensland Limited.

For more information or to make a donation, visit the Queensland Museum Foundation website.

### Legislative framework

The Queensland Museum operates under the legislative framework of the Queensland Museum Act 1970, available on the Queensland Legislation website &

# THE POWER OF GOOD COLLECTION MANAGEMENT





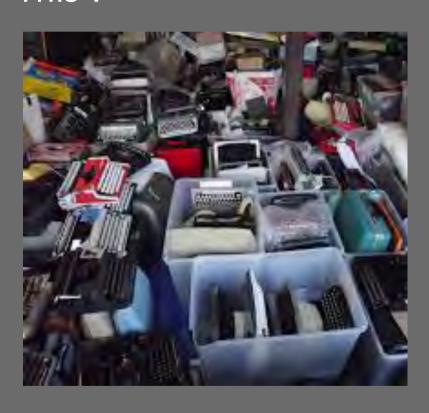


# Collection management activities

- Collection development: acquisition, loan or transfer, and disposal
- Risk management: conservation, security and environmental control
- Stock management: documentation, cataloguing, and digitisation
- Access management: interpretation, rights management, and research
- Legal compliance: evidence of ownership, good governance

# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

### This?



### Or this?



### 4.3.ACQUISITION CRITERIA

### What criteria guide the collection of museum objects?

e.g. The Committee will consider the following criteria before approving acquisition of an object:

Relevance

The museum only collects objects that relate to the museum's purpose and key collecting areas

Significance

Priority is given to objects which are significant for their historic, aesthetic, scientific/research or social/spiritual value.

Provenance and Documentation

Priority will be given to objects where the history of the object is known and associated documentation and support material can be provided.

· Condition, intactness, integrity

The condition of the object must be taken into consideration when acquiring material. Badly damaged material will not normally be accepted into the collection.

· Interpretive Potential

Objects that tell a story that adds to the interpretation of museum themes will be prioritised.

Rarity

Objects may be prioritised if they are rare examples of a particular kind of object

Representativeness

Objects may be prioritised if they are an excellent representative example of a particular kind of object

Duplications

Objects that duplicate items already in the collection will not be accepted unless they are of superior condition and/or historic value. In such a case the duplicate may be considered for deaccessioning.

Legal Requirements

The museum only accept objects where the donor/vendor has legal title to the object

# LEGAL COMPLIANCE



# STOCK MANAGEMENT

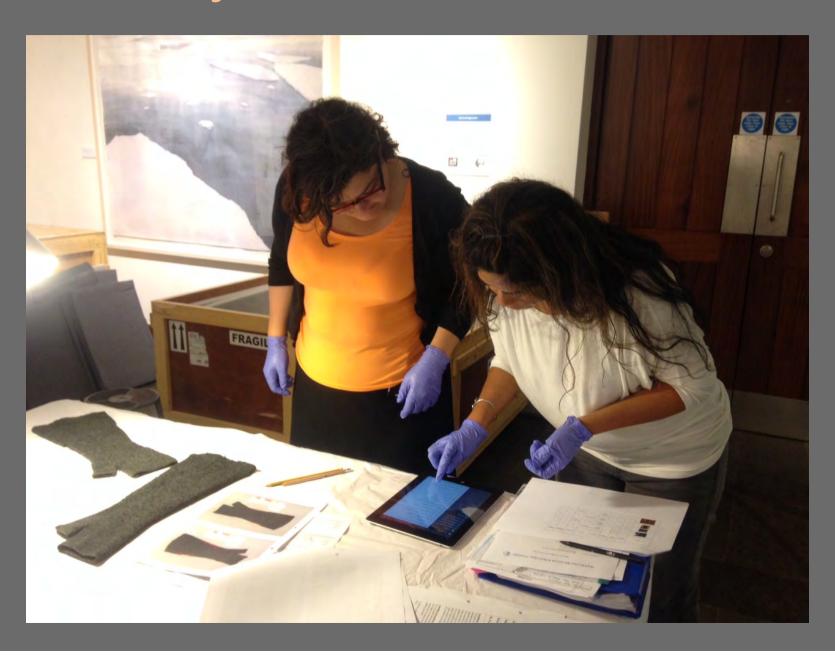
This?



Or this?



# Object documentation



# Significance Assessment

## Significance 2.0



Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections (2009)



'significance is the sum of all values'

http://arts.gov.au/resources-publications/industry-reports/significance-20 http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/112443/20101122-1236/significance.collectionscouncil.com.au/index.html

# RISK MANAGEMENT

This?



Or this?



# Preventive preservation & display

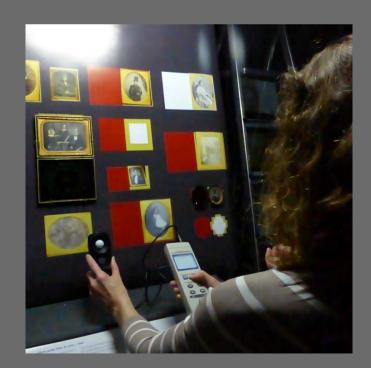


# Safe environment

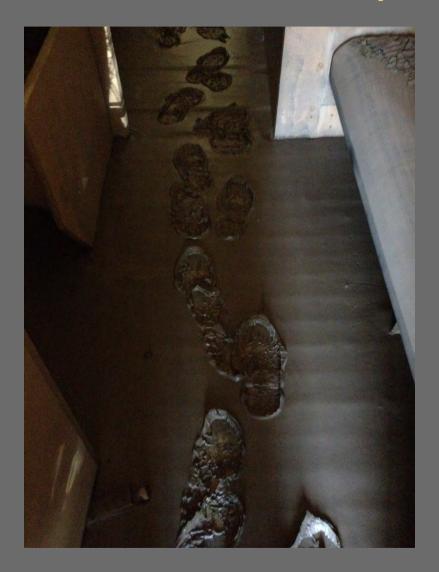








# Disaster preparedness





Railway carriage, Bundaberg Historical Railway Museum after 2013 floods...

# **ACCESS MANAGEMENT**

This?



Or this?





# Interpretation policy

- Think about key topics, themes and stories
- Target audience
- Key objectives
- Interpretative media

# Developing a display





MDO Melanie Piddocke and volunteers from the Bowen Museum and Historical Society carrying out initial research for an ANZAC exhibition.

# Object led displays



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HISTORY
OF THE
WORLD
AV 100
OBJECTS



AND THE (NEAR) FUTURE...