

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 Haza Múzeum , 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**

QUEENSLAND
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SCIENCENTRE

THE WORKSHOPS
RAIL MUSEUM

COBB+CO
MUSEUM

MUSEUM OF TROPICAL
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HADRON COLLIDER
9 December 2016 - 25 April 2017

**DINOSAUR DISCOVERY: LOST CREATURES OF THE
CRETACEOUS**
21 June - 9 October 2016



**MYMUSEUM
Membership**



MUSEUM SHOP



**SCHOOL
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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

Henry Stearne

Henry Stearne was a metal and leather worker at Charles Burrell & Sons steam engineers in Thetford. He was wounded in France in 1915. Winnifred Brockless nursed him back to health. On 7 July 1923 they married.



The 'Munionettes'

By 1916 Charles Burrell & Sons employed 150 women to produce munitions such as shells. The work was very dangerous and the hours were long. The Thetford 'Munionettes' produced over 50,000 shells.



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

video link to Museum of Victoria https.docx - Microsoft Word


museum object document... Connecting... publishing-museumobject... Insert video into your prese... +

https://museumvictoria.com.au/learning-federation/video-temp/melbourne-story-videos/urinal/ a video in powerpoint presentation → ☆


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Learning Federation RSS **Urinal**

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Object Description
Video of Museum Victoria curator David Crotty talking about the Urinal in the Melbourne Story exhibition.


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RELATED RESOURCES

- Melbourne Story website

RELATED ENTRIES

- Melbourne Story Tour
- Atherton Gardens Model
- Yarra Canoe
- Symphonion
- Stained Glass Window
- Phar Lap's Blanket
- Nelly Greaves Letter

Waiting for leone.museumvictoria.com.au...

A
HISTORY
OF THE
WORLD
IN 100
OBJECTS

