Creswick Campus Historical Collection

Student/Volunteer Position Guide

Position Title: Exhibition curatorship – display cases, Creswick Campus Historical Collection

Supervisor: Gerard Fahey, Liaison Librarian, Science and Engineering, University Library
Helen Arnoldi, Museums and Collections Projects Coordinator

Position Goal: The goal of this project will be the curation of a series of exhibition display cases using items from the Creswick Campus Historical Collection. The display will be located at the University’s Creswick campus and be made available online. This project will promote and increase awareness of this unique collection amongst students, staff, the University more broadly and visitors to the campus.

Background: The Creswick Campus Historical Collection contains an estimated 12,000 objects, documents and photographs relating to the more than one hundred years of forestry education at the University of Melbourne’s Creswick Campus. The collection recounts the personal and professional histories of those who have studied, worked and lived at the forestry school. Notable items include numerous examples of staff and student work, photographs, and several natural history collections. A substantial school herbarium contains specimens collected by former staff and students as well as esteemed scientists including Baron Ferdinand von Mueller.

The display will be located in the Creswick Library 24/7 Study space on the University’s Creswick campus. It is anticipated that the exhibitions in this space will be changed twice a year, with each display focusing on the students’ exploration of specific area of the Creswick Campus Historical collection. In addition to the physical display on the Creswick campus, a digital exhibition will be made available online via the CCHC’s Omeka website. The 2017 exhibition may be viewed at: https://omeka.cloud.unimelb.edu.au/cchc/exhibits/show/soth
If interested, the student/volunteer will be encouraged to publish a short article on their research for either Collections magazine, the Library’s cultural collections blog or similar.

Responsibilities: Working in consultation with the Liaison Librarian, the student/volunteer will be required to develop a theme for an exhibition to be held in the display cases on the Creswick campus. This work will first involve exploring the collection materials, developing a theme and then selecting items for the display cases. The student will also be responsible for writing the text for the theme and object labels accompanying the display, preparing items for display and installing the exhibitions into the display cases. As part of the process the student will be able to consult with the Conservation Programs Coordinator regarding issues related to the display eg. layout and installation of the items in the cases, pages of texts to be open for display, and the consideration of preservation and reproduction needs.
Please note to complete this project it will be necessary to spend a couple of days based at the Creswick Campus, accommodation during this time will be provided.

**Qualifications:**

The student will need to have a basic understanding of curatorship and collection management principles (progress towards the completion of a degree in Curatorial/Museum Studies and/or previous volunteer experience with an Archive, Museum or Historical Society is desirable).

Knowledge of the correct procedures for the safe handling of objects would be advantageous as this position requires the handling and close inspection of vulnerable collection items.

Sound organisational skills and good communication and writing skills are needed.

The ability to work independently, and in consultation with a small team.

**Training and Supervision:**

On-the-job training specific to the requirements of the position will be given.

Occasional meetings with the Museums and Collections Projects Coordinator to review how the project is progressing and discuss any ideas or problems encountered.

The Liaison Librarian, based at Creswick, will provide access to the collection, advice on its content and ongoing support of the project while the student/volunteer is based at Creswick and during the designing of the exhibition.

**Benefits:**

Opportunity to work at close hand with a unique collection of objects and curate a display which will assist in showcasing this collection to students, academics and the wider community.

Professional development through experience gained in curatorial and collection management procedures and practice. This includes experience in handling museum objects as well as an understanding and application of the processes involved in the curating of a small exhibition. The exhibition will also be available on the CCHC’s Omeka website.

The option to write an article for publication in Collections magazine, the Library’s Cultural Collections’ blog or similar.

Satisfaction gained from working closely with the Creswick Campus Historical Collection and promoting the collection to the wider community. Through the project, you will be contributing to make the University’s cultural collections more accessible and facilitating their interpretation.

For more information on this position please contact:
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