

# Museums and Collections Projects Program 2021

## University of Melbourne

### Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum

#### Project Description

#### Cataloguing project, Australian Dental Association Collection

#### The Project

This project provides the opportunity for two students working in partnership to catalogue the items in Australian Dental Association Collection which has recently been gifted to the [Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum](#). The project work will involve initially cataloguing the materials via a spreadsheet, with these new records subsequently added to the HFA Museum's electronic database, *Vernon*. The project contributes to the accessibility, long-term preservation, storage and appreciation of the collection.

#### Background

The Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum contains over 2500 objects, photographs, documents and catalogues relating to the history of dentistry and dental education in Victoria. Objects in the collection date from the early 1700s and provide insight into the changes and developments within the dental profession and its striving to improve the standard of dental education, dental health and dental care within Victoria and more broadly in Australia. For more information see [Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum](#).

The [Australian Dental Association](#) is the professional association for Victorian dentists and had its beginning in 1884, with the founding of the Odontological Society of Victoria (OSV). The ADA Victorian Branch has entered into an agreement with by the HFA Dental Museum to care and manage the collection although it will still be housed in the ADA head office in South Yarra. The collection includes objects, newsletters, photographs, publicity material and records of meetings and conferences.

#### Details

In consultation with the Registrar, the students will be required to catalogue the materials that comprise the Australian Dental Association Collection. Project tasks will be undertaken on site at the ADA head office in South Yarra, and may include: the completion of cataloguing fields onto a spreadsheet, assigning accession numbers and labelling or numbering of the objects. Where appropriate the student/s may be required to rehouse objects to meet museum standards. The catalogue information will be incorporated into the museum's database (Vernon CMS) at a later time. This project would suit students who have an interest in dental/medical history and a basic understanding of collection management principles specific to the documentation of museum objects (progress towards a relevant degree is desirable). Knowledge of the correct procedures for the safe handling of objects is required as is a methodical, prudent 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 one of the University of Melbourne's extensive cultural collections and for professional development through experience gained in collection management procedures and practice. Satisfaction in working closely with the ADA Collection and seeing it catalogued and accessible. The application of collection management principles to the University's cultural collections enhances our long-term understanding, management and appreciation of the collections.

#### Supervisors

Dr Jacqueline Healy, Director Museums – Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences  
Tessie Scott, Registrar – HFA Dental Museum and Medical History Museum

