



Managing Small Museums and Heritage Places

An Advanced Professional Development Short Course presented in association with the Braidwood Museum.

Date: 11 - 15 February, 2013

Venue: Sir Roland Wilson Building 120, ANU, Canberra and the Braidwood Museum, Braidwood, NSW.

Cost: The event cost is \$1,750 (incl. GST)

Details:

The course focuses on developing skills in managing small museums located within heritage places and/or precincts. This course is situated in Braidwood, NSW at the Braidwood museum. The museum was built originally as a hotel in 1840 and was sold to the Grand United Order of Oddfellows in 1870. It was purchased by the Historical Society in 1970, after which it was turned into a museum dedicated to the heritage of Braidwood. The collection is diverse and the museum faces many of the challenges of small museums anywhere in Australia.

Braidwood is heritage listed by both the National Trust and the NSW Heritage register. The town was settled in 1822 initially as a farming district but in the 1850s the population boomed as a consequence of 'gold mining fever' in the surrounding areas. Much of the 19th century architecture remains and it is one of the only towns in Australia to retain most of the original Georgian plan.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn practical heritage management skills relating to small museum and collections management. Lectures and workshops will be held primarily at Braidwood and will include hands-on activities with collections.

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Enrol and pay: Details of how to enrol and pay will be available soon on the IPPHA website at <http://ippha.anu.edu.au>. Expression of interest forms are available on the website.

Course description

This advanced short course focuses on developing skills in managing small museums located within heritage places and/or precincts. The course covers the following:

- The practical challenges of managing at once a heritage place and a significant collection;
- Heritage place and museum collection management philosophy, guidelines and protocols;
- Developing practical skills in cataloguing, writing, significance assessment and strategic planning;
- Physical conservation issues and knowing when and where to get specialist advice;
- The challenges and politics of managing small museums at a heritage place with often only limited resources;
- Working with local communities, volunteers and developing outreach programs;
- New developments in small museum and heritage place management.

Course aims

The aims of this course are to assist course participants in:

1. developing a range of skills for managing small museums and collections associated with heritage places;
2. gaining skills in cataloguing, significance assessment and writing about objects and collections for a range of different audiences;
3. understanding the physical conservation requirements of objects and collections, including when to seek specialist advice;
4. preparing strategic plans that making best use of often limited resources, and fund-raising for small museums;
5. gaining an appreciation of current trends and innovation in museum and heritage management as they relate to small and/or regional institutions;
6. understanding the importance of community engagement and the contribution of volunteers;
7. working as part of a team to address key problems associated with managing small museums at heritage places; and
8. fostering awareness of the unique practical and political context of managing small museums associated with heritage places.

Course program

Session details

Activity

Presenter

Day 1 Monday 11 February (Location: Sir Roland Wilson Building, ANU)

9.00–9.30am	Welcome	Sally May
9.30–10.00am	General overview of the topic	Sarah Scott
10.00–12.30pm	The small museum challenge	Sally May
12.30–1.30pm	Lunch	
1.30–3.30pm	Overview of significance assessment	Sally May
3.30–5.00pm	Significance assessment (activity)	Sally May
5.00–7.00pm	Drinks and Dinner	

Day 2 Tuesday 12 February (Location: Braidwood Museum, Braidwood)

9.00–10.30am	Introduction to the Braidwood Museum, tour and discussion of management	Anthony Davies
10.30–12.30pm	Developing a strategic plan for your small museum or heritage site	Sandy Blair
12.30–1.30pm	Lunch	
1.30–5.00pm	Developing a strategic plan for your small museum or heritage site – discussion	Sandy Blair

Day 3 Wednesday 13 February (Location: Braidwood Museum, Braidwood)

9.00–12.30pm	Collection Management	Anna Edmundson
12.30–1.30pm	Lunch	
1.30pm–5.00pm	Designing exhibitions	Anna Edmundson

Day 4 Thursday 14 February (Location: Braidwood Museum, Braidwood)

9.00–12.30pm	Introduction to collections cataloguing: policies and procedures	Sally and Sarah
12.30–1.30pm	Lunch	
1.30–5.00pm	Collections cataloguing (activity)	Sally and Sarah

Day 5 Friday 15 February (Location: Braidwood Museum, Braidwood)

9.00–10.00am	Community engagement and use of volunteers – tips and traps	Sarah Scott
10am–12.30pm	Community panel	Convenor: students
12.30–1.30pm	Lunch	
1.30pm–3.00pm	Summary, discussion and close	

Reading List

Essential reading:

- Australia ICOMOS (1999) *The Burra Charter. The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, http://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/BURRA_CHARTER.pdf
- ICOM (2004) *Running a Museum: A Practical Handbook*, http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.phpURL_ID=32886&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
- Museums Australia (1998) *Strategic Planning Manual for Small Museums*, http://www.collectionsaustralia.net/sector_info_item/67
- Museums Australia, Victoria (2009) *The Small Museums Cataloguing Manual: A guide to cataloguing object and image collections* at http://www.mavic.asn.au/assets/Small_Museums_Cataloguing_Manual_4th.pdf
- Roslyn Russell and Kylie Winkworth (2009) *Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections*, Collections Council of Australia, <http://significance.collectionscouncil.com.au/>

Further reading:

- Clarke, P (1986) *Colonial Woman: The Life and Times of Mary Braidwood Mowle*.
- McGowen, B (2012) *Dust and Dreams*. UNSW Press, Sydney.

Course presenters

The course will be presented by staff of the Australian National University and the Braidwood museum. This includes:

Sally K May, ANU



Sally K. May is convenor of the Graduate Program in Liberal Arts (Cultural and Environmental Heritage) and lecturer in heritage, museums and material culture at the Research School of Humanities & the Arts (ANU). Previously she was an ARC Postdoctoral Fellow based at Griffith University (Gold Coast) and a lecturer in the Department of Archaeology at Flinders University. Sally's PhD was in interdisciplinary cross-cultural research and focused on the role of art and community art centres in remote Indigenous Australian communities. She is currently undertaking rock art research in different parts of Australia and overseas including research for the ARC Discovery Project 'Picturing Change: 21st century perspectives on recent Australian rock art' and working as part of an ANU team to produce the new cultural heritage management strategy for Kakadu National Park. She is the author of the book 'Collecting Cultures: myth, politics, and collaboration in the 1948 Arnhem Land Expedition' (2009) and co-editor (with Ines Domingo Sanz and Danae Fiore) of the volume 'Archaeologies of Art: time, place and identity' (2008).

Sarah Scott, ANU



Sarah Scott is lecturer in Heritage, Museums and Material Culture at the Research School of Humanities & Arts (ANU). Prior to her appointment at ANU, Sarah was a Lecturer in the School of Creative Arts and Humanities at Charles Darwin University (Darwin) for three years. She has also taught at Swinburne School of Design (Melbourne), the University of Melbourne (Art History and Australian Studies) and the Tasmanian School of Art. Sarah's PhD examined exhibitions of Australian art for Export to Europe during the 1950s and 1960s. She is currently completing research concerning the History of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

Sandy Blair, ANU



Dr Sandy Blair is Program Coordinator of the ANU's Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts (IPPHA). She also runs her own consultancy company undertaking history and heritage projects. She is a historian and educator who specialises in cultural heritage conservation, management and interpretation. Sandy has over 30 years' experience developing and delivering heritage policies and programs at State and Federal Government levels, as well as a wealth of industry experience. She especially enjoys working with communities researching and recording the histories and traditions associated with cultural heritage places and landscapes. Current projects include a consultancy with Kakadu National Park working closely with Traditional Owners to research and assess the cultural heritage significance of major historical site complexes within the park that may have tourism potential. Sandy is also working with Injalak Arts and Craft to prepare a cultural heritage plan for Gunbalanya (Oenpelli) in West Arnhem Land and the Nipapapanha community on a Heritage Assessment and Feasibility Study for Irish Well Hut in the Nanatawarrina Indigenous Protected Area. She is author of several publications and reports relating to heritage place management in Australia and internationally, is a former national president of Australia ICOMOS and is Australia's current voting member on the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Cultural Routes and Itineraries.

Anna Edmundson, ANU



Anna Edmundson is a curator and arts writer with extensive experience in the Museum sector. Previous positions include: Senior Curator in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander program at the National Museum of Australia; Director of the MuseumLink Program at the Western Australian Museum; Curator Anthropology at the WA Museum; and Curator and Collections Manager Ethnology at the Macleay Museum at the University of Sydney. Anna has a wide range of experience managing and delivering museum programs including major gallery developments, temporary and touring exhibitions, public programs, policy development and collection management. She has an M.Phil in Visual Anthropology from Oxford University and has recently submitted a Doctoral dissertation (on Colonialism & Collecting in Papua New Guinea) at the Australian National University.

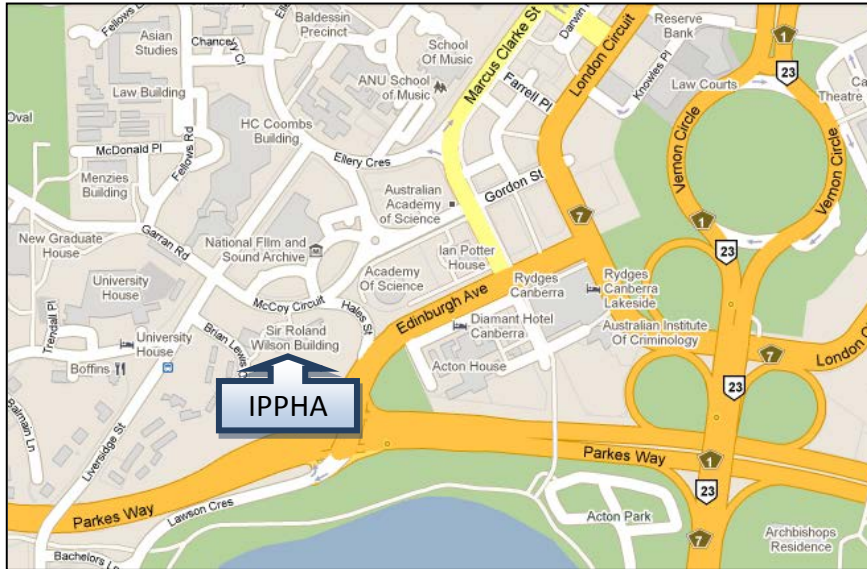
Logistic arrangements

This course will be held in Canberra at the Sir Roland Wilson Building (Building 120) at the Australian

National University in Canberra and at the Braidwood Museum in Braidwood, NSW.

Participants are responsible for finding their own accommodation in Canberra and in Braidwood.

Accommodation close to the venues include:



Canberra:

1) University House

<http://www.anu.edu.au/unihouse/>

2) Liversidge Court Apartments

<http://accom.anu.edu.au/UAS/189.html>

Braidwood:

1) The Snow Lion Bed and Breakfast

<http://www.snowlion.com.au/html/contact.html>

2) The Braidwood Hotel

<http://www.braidwoodhotel.com.au/>

3) Royal Mail Hotel Braidwood

<http://www.royalmailhotelbraidwood.com/#>

Participants are responsible for making their way to and from the teaching venues. We will arrange seats in cars for anyone needing a lift to and from Canberra to Braidwood.

You will also be responsible for your own food during this course (including lunch). There are many options for lunch in both Canberra and Braidwood. Morning tea, afternoon tea and the welcome BBQ will be provided.

Registration and payment

To register and pay for the event, please go to the IPPHA website page for this event at <http://ippha.anu.edu.au> and use the 'Register' button which links to the ANU's electronic enrolment and payment system. This will be available soon, prior to this becoming available, please submit an expression of interest form.

The cost for professional development participants covers tuition, course folder, welcome BBQ and morning and afternoon teas.

