



MayDay 2012 focuses on free regional workshops

Blue Shield Australia's annual MayDay campaign for disaster response and cultural heritage fuses two concepts – the distress signal, and the first day of May – in order to create a memorable calendar date for events that improve disaster preparedness for cultural heritage collections and places.

The campaign, which runs from 1-31 May, prompts Australia's archives, galleries, libraries, museums and heritage sites to revisit their disaster planning. This year the focus is on free regional workshops to promote local co-operative agreements.

Blue Shield chair, Robyn Riddett, explained "There are already several examples of successful co-operative agreements around the country, which bring together cultural institutions in a particular location. These agreements provide museums, galleries, libraries and heritage places with practical benefits such as combined disaster response training for staff, shared resources and reciprocal support arrangements, for example the safe storage of precious items in the aftermath of a fire or flood."

The MayDay workshops will take place in Mandurah, Western Australia, on 1 May; Kadina, South Australia, on 3 May; Oatlands, Tasmania, on 8 May; Townsville, Queensland, on 16 May; Darwin, Northern Territory, on 23 May; Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, on 30 May, and Yackandandah, Victoria, on 7 June.

The workshops have been made possible by funding from the Australian Government through the Cultural Development Program of the Office for the Arts, and by residual funding from the Collections Council of Australia. They have been supported by the City of Mandurah, History SA, Southern Midlands Council, Queensland Museum, DisNT, Charles Sturt University and Indigo Shire Council.

The workshops are free of charge but places are limited. For more information and to register your interest, contact Donna McDowell donna@thelibraryagency.org.au.

ENDS

Other Inquiries:

Nancy Ladas

Blue Shield Secretariat

E: info@blueshieldaustralia.org.au

T: 0408 240 490

W: www.blueshieldaustralia.org.au

F: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Blue-Shield-Australia/316266557776>

Notes for editors:

- MayDay originated with the Society of American Archivists in 2006.
- Blue Shield is the cultural equivalent of Red Cross, and works to protect the world's cultural heritage threatened by wars and natural disasters.