

Resources for Victorian museums with Aboriginal collection items

This information sheet has been created for Victorian community museums who are custodians of Aboriginal cultural heritage. The information relates to artefacts such as stone tools and wooden shields rather than artworks. The information is written with particular reference to Victorian Aboriginal objects.

The fact sheet lists sources of information to assist Victorian museums meet their legal and ethical obligations, meet recognised museum standards, and to make Aboriginal cultural heritage and history more accessible to Aboriginal communities and the wider population.

The resources listed below provide information on

- Care for Aboriginal objects,
- Consulting with relevant Aboriginal communities,
- Research resources,
- Funding opportunities.

See also the Museums Australia (Victoria) fact sheet *Information for Victorian museums with Aboriginal collection items* which deals with issues relating to ownership of collection items, consulting with relevant Aboriginal communities, and registering items with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

| CARING FOR ABORIGINAL COLLECTION ITEMS | | |
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| Resource, website or agency | Comment | Where to access it |
| <i>Care of Collections, Conservation For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Keeping Places and Cultural Centres, Karen Coote, Australian Museum 1998</i> | <p>National focus, includes conservation, storage and exhibition issues.</p> <p>Section on stone tools with diagrams of how to store them pp157-159</p> <p><i>The Keeping Place</i> (general conservation information) 25-95</p> | <p>Can get photocopies of sections from the National Library \$13.50 for 50 pages</p> <p>https://www.nla.gov.au/apps/copiedirect?source=cat&sourcevalue=1781776</p> |

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| <p><i>The conservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage</i> Museum Victoria Info Sheet</p> | <p>A brief description of the principles behind conserving Aboriginal items, includes contact details of MV conservators for specific questions</p> | <p>http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/infosheets/the-conservation-of-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-heritage/</p> |
| <p><i>reCollections, Caring for Collections across Australia,</i></p> | <p>Conservation issues for Indigenous items, <i>Chapter 2, p59-80</i> covers wooden items, barks and paintings etc.</p> | <p>http://www.collectionsaustralia.net/sector_info_item/3</p> |
| CONTACTING RELEVANT ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES | | |
| <p>Aboriginal Affairs Victoria</p> | <p>Museums can contact AAV to find out how to get in contact with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), and other relevant Aboriginal communities.</p> | <p>Melbourne freecall 1 800 762 003 Fax: (03) 9208 3292 Email: aboriginal.heritage@dpcd.vic.gov.au</p> |
| <p>Indigenous Community Engagement Brokers Department of Planning and Community Development</p> | <p>There are regional and metropolitan Indigenous Community Engagement Officers who may be also be a source of information about Aboriginal groups.</p> | <p>http://www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au/web7/AAVMain.nsf/allDocs/RWPF6C9D4B2C277ECD8CA2574DC00254235?OpenDocument</p> |
| <p>Local Government</p> | <p>The section of your local government that is concerned with community development may also be a source of information about Aboriginal groups.</p> | |
| <p>Regional Arts Development Officers (RADOs)</p> | <p>Part of the role of these regional arts and culture brokers is 'Advocating and supporting the engagement of Indigenous artists and communities in local arts development.' RADOs may be a source of information about Aboriginal groups and also of ideas for approaching collaborative projects especially those involving the arts. There are RADOs based in Ballarat, Sale, Port Fairy and Alexandra.</p> | <p>http://www.rav.net.au/our-networks/creative/our-rado</p> |

GUIDELINES FOR NON ABORIGINAL ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

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| <p><i>Ask First: A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values</i> Australian Heritage Commission</p> | <p>National focus, about both places and objects.</p> | <p>http://www.collectionsaustralia.net/sector_info_item/57</p> |
| <p><i>Australian Indigenous Art Commercial Code of Conduct, Consultation Draft.</i> The Australia Council for the Arts and Department for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts 2008.</p> | <p>Code of conduct for buying or selling Indigenous art. Launched in draft form in December 2008. Worth looking at if purchasing artwork to help tell the story of Aboriginal life in the area, or if selling Aboriginal artwork.</p> | <p>http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/news/news_items/consultation_on_draft_indigenous_art_code_of_conduct</p> |
| <p><i>Building Better Partnerships Working with Aboriginal communities and organisations: a communications guide for the Department of Human Services</i></p> | <p>This is not museum specific but it is Victoria specific. Some of the information is only relevant to DHS systems but there is some useful background information on culturally appropriate terminology etc.</p> | <p>MA (Vic) has some copies or download from http://www.health.vic.gov.au/koori/</p> |
| <p><i>Continuous Cultures, Ongoing Responsibilities; Principles and Guidelines for Australian Museums Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage.</i> Museums Australia 2005</p> | <p>Museums Australia, policy document 2005, replaces <i>Previous Possessions, New Obligations</i>. Some guidelines would only be possible for larger museums but this is a good general guide</p> | <p>http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au/dbdoc/ccor_final_feb_05.pdf</p> |
| <p><i>Cultural Protocols, Indigenous Welcome to Country</i> Museums and Galleries NSW</p> | <p>NSW focus, has some case studies and examples</p> | <p>http://mgnsw.org.au/uploaded/resources/Fact%20Sheets/Cultural%20Protocols/M&G%20NSW%20Welcome%20to%20Country%20Guidelines%202008.pdf</p> |
| <p><i>8.4 Indigenous Protocols Museum Methods: A Practical Manual for Managing Small Museums and Galleries</i></p> | <p>Brief, practical information, national focus</p> | <p>Museum Methods can be purchased http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au/site/page86.php</p> |
| <p><i>Interpreting Culture and Country: Guidelines for Interpreting Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture and Country</i> Interpretation Australia 2006</p> | <p>National focus rather than Victorian, about both places and objects, short and clear.</p> | <p>http://www.interpretationaustralia.asn.au/infofiles/interp_cult_and_country_0612.pdf</p> |

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| <p><i>National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries V.01</i> 2008</p> | <p>Standard B1.1 pp 40-42 Succinct overview of good museum practice relating to involving communities</p> | <p>http://www.collectionsaustralia.net/sector_info_item/107</p> |
| <p><i>Taking the Time, Museums and Galleries, Cultural Protocols and Communities- A Resource Guide,</i> Museums and Galleries Services Queensland 1998</p> | <p>A Queensland publication about consulting with diverse communities; includes case studies.</p> | <p>http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au/site/page13.php</p> |
| <p>OBTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT ABORIGINAL COLLECTION ITEMS</p> | | |
| <p>Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV)</p> | <p>Copies of AAV registration cards will be provided to museums registering their collections – these may contain information about the likely origin and use of the items.</p> <p>Victorian museums must register collections of Aboriginal objects with AAV. Aboriginal objects are defined as objects which relate to the Aboriginal occupation of any part of Australia, whether or not the object existed prior to the occupation of that part of Australia by people of non-Aboriginal descent; and is of cultural heritage significance to the Aboriginal people of Victoria; but does not include an object that has been made for the purpose of sale.</p> <p>Poster series, eg Aboriginal Flaked Stone Tools (basic information with images)</p> | <p>Melbourne freecall 1 800 762 003 Fax: (03) 9208 3292 Email: aboriginal.heritage@dpcd.vic.gov.au</p> <p>AAV regional offices are contactable via 03 9208 3333</p> <p>http://www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au/web7/AAVMain.nsf/allDocs/RWP6F63CD5959176D8CCA2574E200275A92?OpenDocument</p> |
| <p>Koorie Heritage Trust</p> | <p>The Curators at the Koorie Heritage Trust may be able to provide information about small numbers of images of Indigenous objects in your collection, from photographs.</p> | <p>http://www.koorieheritagetrust.com/</p> |
| <p>Museum Victoria</p> | <p>Museum Victoria may be able to provide information about small numbers of images of Indigenous objects in your collection, from photographs</p> | <p>http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/</p> |

| EXHIBITIONS | | |
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| Bangerang Cultural Centre | Shepparton | http://home.vicnet.net.au/~parks/ide/Bangerang.html |
| Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre | Halls Gap, the Grampians | http://www.brambuk.com.au/about.htm |
| Bunjilaka, Melbourne Museum | Melbourne | http://museumvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka |
| Koorie Heritage Trust | Melbourne | http://www.koorieheritagetrust.com/ |
| Krowathunkooloong Keeping Place | Bairnsdale | http://www.aboriginaltourismvictoria.com.au/experiences/locations/lakes_wilderness/krowathunkooloong_keeping_place Ph (03) 5152 1891 |
| National Museum of Australia | First Australians exhibition Canberra Some information on website | http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/now_showing/first_australians/ |
| RESEARCHING VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HISTORY - PUBLICATIONS AND WEBPAGES | | |
| <i>Aboriginal People of Victoria since 1800</i> Richard Broome, Allen and Unwin 2005 | Excellent general overview. Written for a general audience and up to date. | Available in bookshops and libraries. |
| <i>The Aborigines of Victoria 1878</i> R.B Smyth | | Available in bookshops and libraries |
| <i>Native Tribes of South East Australia</i> A.A Howitt, 1904 reprinted 1996 | | Available in bookshops and libraries |

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| Alick Jackomos Library and Resource Centre | Aboriginal Affairs Victoria has a reference library that can be accessed by the public for a small cost. The catalogue will go online in late 2009. | http://www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au/web7/AAVMain.nsf/allDocs/RWPD96389F4DE777952CA2574DB00137319?OpenDocument |
| <i>First Australians</i> SBS | Website based on the 2008 SBS television series. Website includes 37 searchable mini-documentaries about aspects of Victorian Aboriginal life. Episodes of the series can be viewed, or the DVD purchased, a book based on the series can also be ordered. | http://www.sbs.com.au/firstaustralians/ |
| Indigenous Genealogy, Victorian Resources State Library of Victoria | Includes weblinks to sources of information relating to Aboriginal history | http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/about/using/guides/information/genealogy/indigenous_victorian.html |
| Koorie Heritage Trust | The Koorie Heritage Trust has a library, free to members otherwise \$5 per day, there is a librarian on certain days, non loaning but copying service available, check website. The Koorie Heritage Trust Bookshop sells their book <i>Koorie</i> , and other publications on Indigenous culture. A new book is coming out in 2010. | http://www.koorieheritagetrust.com/library |
| Koorie Records Unit, Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) | Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) holds many records containing information about Aboriginal people and their history in Victoria | http://www.access.prov.vic.gov.au/public/PROVguides/PROVguide067/PROVguide067.jsp |
| Local libraries for any local histories relating to Aboriginal life in the area | | |
| <i>Mission Voices</i> ABC | Interactive ABC website about 6 Aboriginal mission stations and reserves in Victoria | http://www.abc.net.au/missionvoices/ |

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| Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages | Has information about languages and maps of language areas. | http://www.vaclang.org.au/ |
| FUNDING | | |
| <i>Australian Directory of Philanthropy</i> | Book published every 2 years \$65, or the publication is available at some public libraries see http://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au/apps/kss | available from http://www.philanthropy.org.au/publications/directory.html |
| Heritage Victoria <i>Guide to Grants and Assistance for Heritage Conservation in Victoria.</i> Victoria's Heritage Grants | Excellent handbook on funding for heritage organisations in Victoria Grants for Significance Assessments, Interpretation projects, Collection Management, and some conservation projects. | http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/Funding/Guide-to-Grants-and-Assistance.aspx http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/Funding/Heritage-Grants.aspx |
| Indigenous Cultural Support Program | Federal program which funds Indigenous community organisations to run cultural programs, some Aboriginal Cultural Centres have received this funding. | http://www.arts.gov.au/indigenous/Indigenous Culture Support |
| Our Community | Fundraising and grants information, Easigrants e newsletter \$55 for community groups, books for sale, some free info resources on fundraising. | http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/ |