

**In this issue:**

✚ From the CMNN Committee	1
✚ Collection Conversations	2
✚ What if...	3
✚ Awards	5
✚ Insurance	7



**From Pip McNaught  
Committee member**



You must be surprised to hear from me – I am quite surprised to be writing this! Until a new president is elected, the role will be rotated through the committee. I am 'it' for this newsletter. It is good to be back in touch with everyone.

I am still a curator but no longer at the National Museum of Australia. I took a year off – which sadly is nearly up – and have had a great time travelling: to Italy to do an art history and language course, to France to mooch around, to Brisbane to see the wonderful V&A quilt exhibition, to Melbourne, Sydney and Mildura. I also visited two museums in Deniliquin for the Museums and Galleries NSW Standards Review program – a great place with lovely people and interesting museums that I hope to visit again soon.

I have also initiated a reminiscence and significance project in aged care centres that I have really enjoyed curating. I hope to talk about this project at the Museums Australia National conference in Launceston in May next year.

***Please make sure the conference dates are in your diaries:***

**Museums Australia Conference** – Launceston 16 -19 May 2014

**Bursary applications must be received by 31 January 2014** – but please apply as early as you can. Information is available on the Museums Australia website.

'Different levels of bursary funding are being offered to applicants. An applicant may receive a contribution towards travel, accommodation and conference registration fees, or payment of the conference registration fee only. Applications will be considered by all relevant sponsors.' Register online at [www.ma2014.org.au](http://www.ma2014.org.au)

**MAPDA** (Museums Australia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards) and **MAGNA** (Museums & Galleries National Awards) entries open on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014

Now is also the time to start thinking about grant applications for 2014 – a few are listed below. It looks like resourcing constraints will continue across the cultural sector for some time yet. I do hope that there will be enough support and cheer to keep the doors open on the many wonderful collections that keep alive the stories of our regional and remote communities.

***Please confirm that these grants will be offered in 2014:***

**The Community Heritage Grants Program for the preservation of Australia's heritage.** The next funding round will open in March 2014

The Community Heritage Grants Program is funded by the Australian Government through the National Library of Australia; Ministry for the Arts, Attorney General's Department; the National Archives of Australia; the National Film and Sound Archive; and the National Museum of Australia.

Funds are granted to assist in the preservation of community-owned but nationally significant heritage collections.

<http://www.nla.gov.au/media-releases/2013/10/30/community-groups-win-426000-grants>

**ANZAC Centenary Local Program** – applications close in May 2014.

You need to contact your local MP - 'each local MP will be responsible for establishing an Electorate Committee consisting of representatives from community groups interested in the Anzac Centenary (e.g. ex-service organisations, educational institutions, museums, local government, etc.).'

You should contact your MP as soon as possible to obtain the contact details of your Electorate Committee. <http://www.anzaccentenary.gov.au/grants/>

### **Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal**

The program will offer grants up to \$5000 for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities, with populations of 10,000 or less, living in small rural and remote locations in Australia, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.  
[http://www.frrr.org.au/cb\\_pages/small\\_grants\\_for\\_small\\_communities.php](http://www.frrr.org.au/cb_pages/small_grants_for_small_communities.php)

### ***History of medicine is one of my favourite areas of interest and research If you are in Brisbane:***

***Invention, Innovation and Making do*** (which is like innovation but with fewer resources).  
This new exhibition at Marks-Hirschfeld Museum of Medical History, Mayne Medical School, Herston, University of Queensland, Brisbane is on until April 2014 (but check with the museum officer **Email:** [medalum@uq.edu.au](mailto:medalum@uq.edu.au) or phone (07) 3365 5423  
Entry to the Medical School is via Weightman Street while the Dental facility is being built.

**And, if you are travelling in New South Wales:**  
**Alert** by Museums & Galleries NSW has much of cultural interest in New South Wales. The trip planner shows you all the museums, galleries and keeping places on your route as you travel New South Wales (there are nearly 500!) You will never miss out again.  
<http://mgns.org.au/trip-planner/>

**Insurance scheme:**  
Echoing Bill Storer in the last newsletter, the OAMPS insurance scheme developed and partnered by Museums Australia is really worth investigating and comparing for savings on your current insurance payments for volunteer workers, public liability and professional indemnity. For example: you can employ your volunteers aged 18 to 95 for as little as \$52.50 per annum for up to 30 volunteers. There is more information further on in this newsletter or contact Lee in the National Office.

May your visitors be numerous and your community super supportive in 2014.  
As always, Museums Australia is committed to the conservation, continuation and communication of Australia's heritage. I look forward to seeing everyone in Launceston.

Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.  
Keep safe and travel well.

*Pip McNaught*



## **Collection Conversations**

### **Nicole McLennan**

I have recently entered the world of blogging. The People and the Environment (PATE) team at the National Museum of Australia has initiated a blog (<http://pateblog.nma.gov.au/>) that explores our relationship with Australia's natural and built environment. I warmly invite you to have a gander at our posts and to contribute your comments.

As a museum curator I find that writing a blog entry is a very different from the more formal writing I am used to composing for exhibition labels, in articles or for web features. While in all our writing we try to be accessible, in the blog, the approach is generally more chatty ... it is a conversation that invites people to engage with the text.

I find it easier to think of the blog audience as new friends you are wanting to invite into your museum world. Like any conversation, it does need to have some regularity in order to keep your friends engaged. This doesn't mean posting every day, but on a steady basis making contact with the audience you have established. Posts need not be long, but it is a good idea to have some continuity. In the PATE team this means connecting with our collections and exploring more broadly how they intersect with past and present experiences or debates.

If like me you are new to blogging, the ABC has provided some a useful guide on 'How to write a killer blog' to help get you started:

<https://open.abc.net.au/posts/how-to-write-a-killer-blog-part-1-62rs2nl>

<https://open.abc.net.au/posts/how-to-write-a-killer-blog-part-2-85eu1db>

It is also worthwhile reading other museums' blogs. You will very quickly start to recognise what style of writing and subject matter appeals to you. At Community Museums (MA) we would also be delighted if you would share with us details of collection based blogs that you follow or find interesting (and remember they may not even be located in Australia).

*Happy blogging*



## What if...

'What if...' is a new feature in the Community Museums newsletter. Each newsletter we will ask a professional in different museological and related fields to place themselves in three scenarios faced typically faced by community museums and apply their knowledge to best effect.

To help frame their response, they are given a fictional profile of a community museum (see below) that has much in common with many volunteer run museums across the country. Using this profile the museum professional has been asked to suggest what they would do to make a positive contribution (either over the long or short term) to the fictional 'Small Town Museum' if they were faced with the following:

1. There are no available funds, what would you do to make a difference?
2. The museum has a small amount of funds available thanks to donation and raffles that amounts to no more than \$500.00. How could it get the maximum benefit from this small investment?
3. The museum has been successful in winning a moderate grant of \$2500.00. With this money it hopes to make a big impact in the short term or have a lasting effect in the long term, what would you advise?

## The Scenario

### 'Small Town Museum' Profile

'Small Town Museum' museum is located just off the main street of Small Town a centre of no more than 10,000 people. It was established in the 1970s and its property comprises a historic building and a large corrugated iron open-fronted shed (obtained for a peppercorn rent from the local Shire council). The main building is in generally good condition and is double brick with an iron roof. It comprises some four medium sized rooms used for display, one room used for general storage and archives, a small general purpose room, a kitchen, central hallway, bathroom and separate toilet. There is a ramp to the front door, steps to the rear, single glazed windows, no ceiling insulation, the front and rear doors are deadlocked.

The museum is custodian of a mixed collection documenting the history of the town and surrounding region. In the shed are a couple of horse drawn vehicles, a steam engine and horse drawn farm machinery. The display rooms house c. 80% of the remaining collection and includes paper items (letters, diaries, books), textiles (historic clothing, samplers and furnishings), artworks (watercolours, photographs and oils that are mostly framed and on the walls), household items (irons, treadle sewing machine, a pianola, cooking

implements, childrens' toys) and rural items (shearing implements and tools). Some items are fixed/hung on the wall, others are in older style wood and glass showcases and some are on open display behind home made barriers. In the archive and store room are relatively recent donations, volumes of old station and now defunct school records, as well as, a filing cabinet full of materials (original and copies) related to local families and businesses.

Small Town Museum has c. 80 members on its books who make a small annual contribution. There are 10 very active volunteers and there are another five who could be called on if needed. They are mainly retirees in their 60 and 70s among them is an ex school teacher and local historian, a couple are former farmers with good all-round hands-on skills, two more are keen bakers and sew well, three others are old residents with big personalities and willing to share stories, two more ran their own small business successfully in town.

The displays are mostly static, but in recent years, 2 tall showcases in the hall have been used for changing displays in response to local (eg. 100th anniversary of a club) and national events (eg. history week). Donations made in the last 15 to 20 years are documented at collection level on both paper and in a computer spreadsheet and donation agreements have been signed. There is patchy documentation for the remainder of the collection. The museum is open three afternoons a week (including Saturday) and on special occasions. A nominal entry fee is charged. Fees are also charged for family history research for those unable to visit the museum and, on Saturdays, for tea/coffee and cake. About once a month museum staff write a small historical article for the local paper.

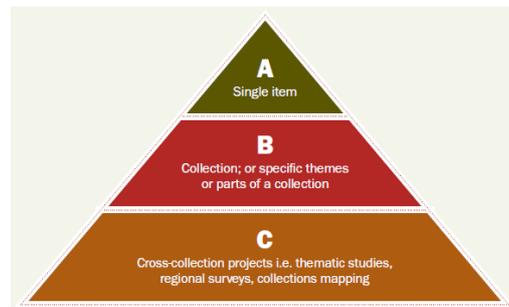
***We are grateful to Vicki Humphrey (National Museum of Australia) who agreed to be the first person to consider what she would do in the three funding scenarios faced by 'Small Town Museum'***

Vicki Humphrey is the Head of Conservation at the National Museum of Australia (Canberra). She trained as a paper conservator and has worked for over twenty years as a manager in the collections sector including as Manager of the Paper Laboratory of [Artlab Australia](#) (then the State Conservation Centre); Technical Editor of [reCollections: Caring for Collections Across Australia](#); and Head of Conservation at the [British Library](#). Vicki is also an assessor for the [Community Heritage Grants](#) scheme.

## What if...

1. *There are no available funds, what would you do to make a difference?*
  - In a Museum access to, and care of, the collection are vital. But when you have very limited resources, it is really important to ensure you deploy those resources in the best way possible. If you do not have good records of what is in the collection you cannot provide access or care for the items appropriately. If you don't

know the relative importance of the objects in the collection, it is almost impossible to prioritise the work. So in a situation with no available funds, I would apply for funds from the Community Heritage Grants (<http://www.nla.gov.au/awards-and-grants/chg>) to have a Significance Assessment done in the first instance, then a Preservation Needs assessment the following year and then, if appropriate, I would apply for funds to address some of the priorities identified through these reviews.



**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA**

Search this site

Collections Services News What's on Visit About us Support us

Home > About us > Awards and grants > Community Heritage Grants >

## Community Heritage Grants

**Applications** for the 2013 Community Heritage Grants funding round are now closed. The next funding round will open in March 2014.

The Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program provides grants of up to \$15,000 to community organisations such as libraries, archives, museums, genealogical and historical societies, multicultural and Indigenous groups. The grants are provided to assist with the preservation of locally owned, but nationally significant collections of materials that are publicly accessible including artefacts, letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and audio visual material.

Since 1994, \$4.5 million has been awarded to community organisations throughout Australia.

The types of projects supported include Significance Assessments of collections; Preservation Needs Assessments of collections; conservation activities and collection management; and training workshops.

CHG is funded by the Australian Government through the [National Library of Australia](#); the [Ministry for the Arts, Attorney General's Department](#); the [National Archives of Australia](#); the [National Film and Sound Archive](#) and the [National Museum of Australia](#).

*Image: National Game Company Melbourne, Around the Commonwealth by Aeroplane c. 1920, colour board game: 36.6 x 37cm, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an2316269*

- 2013 chg assessment report.docx
- 2012 Assessment Report
- 2012 Progress Report Form
- 2012 Progress Report Form
- 2012 Final Report Form
- 2012 Final Report Form
- 2011 Final Report Form
- 2011 Final Report Form

**Community Heritage Grants**

- Projects funded by CHG
- Guidelines and Application Form
- Previous recipients
- Significance assessments
- Preservation needs assessments
- Useful resources
- Contact us
- Harold White Fellowships
- Japan Fellowships
- Japan Study Grants
- Minerals Council of Australia Fellowship
- National Folk Fellowships
- Summer Scholarships

2. The museum has a small amount of funds available thanks to donation and raffles that amounts to no more than \$500.00. How could it get the maximum benefit from this small investment?

- I would still apply for funds from the Community Heritage Grants (CHG). This provides a very useful structure for work on collections.
- If Small Town has a conservator in the vicinity they may be able to afford to get someone in for half a day – to a full day (dependent on their charge out rate) to identify the most immediate problems and provide information about

Integrated Pest Management and handling and cleaning objects.

- Purchase pictorial and written material to help the volunteers identify insect pests that can damage collections. And buy some containers or bags that can be used to isolate infested items.
- Purchase some unbleached, uncoloured cotton or similar material to make covers so that light sensitive items that are on permanent display can be protected. This could be done in such a way that visitors have to lift the covers to view the items – this also provides an opportunity to get the preservation message across to visitors.

3. *The museum has been successful in winning a moderate grant of \$2500.00. With this money it hopes to make a big impact in the short term or have a lasting effect in the long term, what would you advise?*

- Above all, plan and prioritise. The CHG funded significance assessments and preservation needs assessments really assist organisations to do this.
- Firstly, determine what the greatest risks to the collection and to the operation of the Museum are. Using this assessment Small Town Museum should ideally undertake a priority project that can be fully addressed with this level of funding. This will lead to a job ticked off and a sense of progress and achievement.
- Do put a little money aside to pay for external advice.
- Do commit time to ensure that the town hears about the work – especially to make sure the local school children are aware of what is going on and have some sense of the significance of the Museum to the town’s history.



### **MA Awards Program**

The MAGNA program has been running now for three years. MA undertook a review of their awards programs this year and are very happy to announce that there are some great changes to the 2014 MAGNA and MAPDA programs.

I will concentrate here on the MAGNA program, and encourage CMNN members to submit an entry. For further information on MAPDA (which are design awards) see the MA website.

The Museum and Gallery National Awards (MAGNA) will open for submission on 1 February 2014. The awards will now be **free** to enter.

The awards categories have been extended and defined:

#### **Proposed MAGNA category**

##### **Exhibition or Gallery Fitout (Temporary/Travelling)**

##### **Exhibition or Gallery Fitout (Permanent)**

##### **Interpretation, Learning and Audience Engagement**

Various programs developed by the Institution or in collaboration with others to interpret and promote the collection and stories – various media including virtual and hand-held devices



### **Sustainability and efficiency**

Any museum or gallery project which is doing more with less promoting sustainability or efficiency in their use of resources.

May include administration (creative staffing), visitor services (opening hours), collection management (storage conditions) conservation, technology, energy consumption or adaptive re-use.

### **Indigenous Project or Keeping Place**

A project or program developed specifically for Indigenous communities or by Indigenous people. May include gallery or exhibition development or interpretive programming and learning projects.

The entry levels are dependent on the project budget:

entry level	level 1	level 2	level 3	level 4
Project budget	Less than \$20,000	\$20,000 - \$150,000	\$150,000 - \$500,000	More than \$500,000

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy  
and successful 2014 from the CMNN team and  
Museums Australia



***What's happening at your museum?***

The CMNN Team welcome contributions to the CMNN Newsletter

Please send articles to Lee at the National Office at [manager@museumsaustralia.org.au](mailto:manager@museumsaustralia.org.au)



## Insurance solutions Tailored for museums

The complexity of running a business today requires support by an insurance adviser who understands your risk exposures and is able to develop tailor made solutions that adequately protect your business.

At OAMPS Insurance brokers, we've made it our business to get to know the risks associated with running museums.

Working in conjunction with Museums Australia, OAMPS has developed industry specific risk cover and services, including:

- Reduced premiums for Museums Australia members
- Public liability, property insurance and volunteer workers personal accident insurance
- Products for individual consultants including combined public liability and professional indemnity insurance
- National claims support and easy to pay monthly instalment options.

In partnership with



For an obligation-free appraisal of your insurance requirements, contact OAMPS Insurance Brokers or Museums Australia on:

OAMPS Canberra  
**02 6283 6555**  
canberra@oamps.com.au

Museums Australia  
**02 6230 0346**  
ma@museumsaustralia.org.au

[oamps.com.au](http://oamps.com.au)

Ref: 05-184913

Closer to clients  
Closer to communities®



Museums Australia  
PO Box 266  
Civic Square ACT 2608

fax: 02 6230 0360  
email: Lee: manager@museumsaustralia.org.au