

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		
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/copiesdirect?source=cat&sourcevalue=1781776</p>

CONTACTING RELEVANT ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Aboriginal Victoria	Museums can contact AV to find out how to get in contact with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), and other relevant Aboriginal communities.	Melbourne freecall 1 800 762 003 Fax: (03) 9208 3292 Email: Aboriginal.Heritage@dpc.vic.gov.au
Indigenous Community Engagement Brokers Department of Planning and Community Development	There are regional and metropolitan Indigenous Community Engagement Officers who may be also be a source of information about Aboriginal groups.	https://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/25-aboriginal-affairs/491-indigenous-community-development-brokers
Local Government	The section of your local government that is concerned with community development may also be a source of information about Aboriginal groups.	
Regional Arts Development Officers (RADOs)	Regional Arts and Culture Brokers may be a source of information about Aboriginal art groups ideas for collaborative projects involving the arts. There are RADOs based in Ballarat, Sale, Port Fairy and Alexandra.	http://www.rav.net.au/your-artistic-development/develop-your-practice/meet-your-creative-arts-facilitator/
Victorian Aboriginal community organisations, listing by Yarra Healing	List of many Aboriginal groups in Victoria	http://www.yarrahealing.catholic.edu.au/indigenous-organisations/index.cfm?loadref=56

GUIDELINES FOR NON ABORIGINAL ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

<i>Aboriginal Welcome to Country</i> Museums and Galleries NSW	NSW focus, has some case studies and examples	http://mgnsw.org.au/sector/resources/online-resources/aboriginal/welco
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<i>Australian Indigenous Art Code</i>	Code of conduct for buying or selling Indigenous art. Worth looking at if purchasing artwork to help tell the story of Aboriginal life in the area, or if selling Aboriginal artwork.	http://www.indigenousartcode.org/
<i>Continuous Cultures, Ongoing Responsibilities; Principles and Guidelines for Australian Museums Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage.</i> Museums Australia 2005	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	http://www.nma.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/3296/ccor_final_feb_05.pdf
<i>8.4 Indigenous Protocols</i> <i>Museum Methods: A Practical Manual for Managing Small Museums and Galleries</i>	Brief, practical information, national focus	Museum Methods can be purchased http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au/site/publications.php
<i>Interpreting Culture and Country: Guidelines for Interpreting Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture and Country</i> , Interpretation Australia 2006	National focus rather than Victorian, about both places and objects, short and clear.	http://preview.tinyurl.com/interp-aus-Aboriginal-guide
<i>National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries V.01.04</i> 2014	Standard B1.1 pp 40-42 Succinct overview of good museum practice relating to involving communities	http://www.mavic.asn.au/assets/NSFAMG_v1_4_2014.pdf
<i>Taking the Time, Museums and Galleries, Cultural Protocols and Communities- A Resource Guide</i> , Museums and Galleries Services Queensland 1998	A Queensland publication about consulting with diverse communities; includes case studies.	http://www.magsq.com.au/cms/page.asp?ID=7918

OBTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT ABORIGINAL COLLECTION ITEMS

<p>The book <i>Meerreeng-an Here is My Country: The Story of Aboriginal Victoria</i> contains images of Victorian Aboriginal items, a starting point may be comparing items in the collection to see if they look similar, see also Culture Victoria Aboriginal culture section.</p>		<p>May be available at the Koorie Heritage Trust or local library. Edited by Chris Keeler and Vicky Couzens, 2010.</p> <p>http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/aboriginal-culture/</p>
<p>Aboriginal Victoria Registration Cards</p>	<p>Copies of AV 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 AV. 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>Aboriginalaffairs@dpc.vic.gov.au Ph: 1800 762 003 Fax: 03 9208 3292</p> <p>https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/heritage-tools-and-publications/heritage-publications.html</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 emailed photographs, email first to see if the service can currently be provided</p>	<p>http://www.koorieheritagetrust.com/</p>

EXHIBITIONS		
Bangerang Cultural Centre	Shepparton	http://www.bangerang.org.au/
Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre	Halls Gap, the Grampians	http://www.brambuk.com.au/about.htm
First Peoples, Bunjilaka, Melbourne Museum	Melbourne	http://museumvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka
Koorie Heritage Trust	Melbourne	http://www.koorieheritagetrust.com/
Krowathunkooloong Keeping Place	Bairnsdale	http://www.gegac.org.au/cultural-business/ (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, 2005	Excellent general overview. Written for a general audience	Available in bookshops and libraries.
<i>The Aborigines of Victoria 1878</i> R.B Smyth		Available in bookshops and libraries
Culture Victoria website, Aboriginal Culture	Range of Aboriginal cultural videos and artworks	http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/aboriginal-culture/
<i>First Australians</i> SBS	Website based on the 2008 SBS television series. Website includes 37 searchable mini-documentaries about	http://www.programs.sbs.com.au/firstaustralians/content/#/search/

	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.	
<i>Meerreeeng-an Here is My Country: The Story of Aboriginal Victoria Told Through Art</i> , Chris Keeler and Vicky Couzens (Editors) Koorie Heritage Trust 2010	The Koorie Heritage Trust bookshop sells their books and other publications on Indigenous culture. <i>Meereng-an</i> is available in many libraries. The Koorie Heritage Trust has a library, check website for opening arrangements.	http://www.koorieheritagetrust.com/
Local libraries for any local histories or thematic studies relating to Aboriginal life in the area		
<i>Living Aboriginal history of Victoria stories in the oral tradition</i> , Alick Jackomos, Derek Fowell, Cambridge 1991	Victorian Aboriginal people telling their own life stories	Look for it in libraries
<i>Mission Voices</i> ABC	Interactive ABC website about 6 Aboriginal mission stations and reserves in Victoria	http://www.abc.net.au/missionvoices/
State Library of Victoria listings of books re traditional Aboriginal society in Victoria		http://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/content.php?pid=135047&sid=1157401
Stolen Generation testimonies	Very powerful personal stories	http://stolengenerationstestimonies.com/index.php/testimonies/index.1.html
Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages	Has information about languages and maps of language group areas.	http://www.vaclang.org.au/
VCOSS Victoria's Indigenous Communities	Background information on Indigenous Victorians today	http://www.vcross.org.au/documents/VCOSS%20docs/Indigenous/REP%20-%20Victoria's%20Indigenous%20Communities_CA_Oct06.pdf

walata tyamateetj: A guide to government records about Aboriginal people in Victoria	Public Records of Victoria and National Library of Australia publication, can download.	http://prov.vic.gov.au/publications/walata-tyamateetj
<i>The Journal of William Thomas, Assistant Protector of the Aborigines of Port Phillip & Guardian of the Aborigines of Victoria 1839-1867</i> , 4 volumes Marguerita Stephens	First had descriptions of many Victorian Aboriginal tribal groups, recently transcribed for the first time. Published by the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages in 2014.	Can be purchased http://www.vaclang.org.au/Shop/order-forms.html or perused at State Library and other libraries
Yarra Healing video stories	Many stories from Elders including from the Melbourne area	http://www.yarrahealing.catholic.edu.au/stories-voices/index_wide.cfm?loadref=15
FUNDING for history projects, recommend collaborating with relevant Aboriginal groups		
Australian Directory of Philanthropy	Paid subscription available to up to date directory of philanthropy	http://www.philanthropy.org.au/seek-funding/access-grant-makers/
Community Heritage Grants	Administered by the National Library of Australia, grants for significance assessments, preventive conservation and interpretation.	http://www.nla.gov.au/awards-and-grants/chg
Local History Grants	Administered by the Public Record Office of Victoria, grants for a range of community history purposes	http://prov.vic.gov.au/community-programs/grants-awards/local-history-grants
Our Community	Paid subscription available to up to date directory of grants	http://www.fundingcentre.com.au/