

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Australian  
National  
University



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# Letter from the Chair, Collection Advisory Group

**Dr Douglas  
Robertson**

Director, Research  
Services Division

THE AUSTRALIAN  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

It continues to be a pleasure to Chair the Collection Advisory Group, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank its members for their continued support and guidance. The collections at ANU are significant institutional and national assets. In addition many collections give incredible insights into the University's history and to the development of specific disciplines whilst being curated into significant tools as part of the research and teaching infrastructure of the Institution.

This year, the University was once again put to the test with the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the very substantial impacts, collection managers have continued to go above and beyond, with progress being seen in the recognition of another Collection and the creation of central Guidelines to support collection work. Work is also continuing on a number of larger-scale projects laying the foundation for the next five years, including commencing investigation into delivering a University-wide Collection Management System.

I would like to thank the incredible academic and professional staff working on collections for their patience and perseverance during another challenging year.

I hope you find the contents of this report interesting, and we look forward to continuing developments in 2022.

## INTRODUCTION



Classics Museum Collection (CASS)

## 2021: a year in review

2021 proved to be a productive, yet challenging, year for the ANU Collections community. On top of balancing heavy workloads and a second lockdown in the ACT, the University's professional and academic staff continued to go above and beyond in the management and promotion of the collections in their care.

This year, there was a focus on developing central infrastructure to support collections and collection work at ANU. At the end of 2020, it was recommended that Collection Guidelines should be developed to sit as an attachment to the ANU Collection Policy. These would be a vital resource for the ANU Collections community, protect the University's assets and support Collection Managers in their work. Several Guidelines have been developed and implemented, outlining the University's expectations and required processes for disaster management and response, loans for teaching and exhibition, the use of ANU Collections in internal and external research and how to handle and respond to ownership claims. These Guidelines will continue to be developed and tested during 2022 in partnership with collection managers, focusing on collection development, access and provenance research.

In addition to the development of guidelines and processes, a central ANU Collections filing system was also established within the University's Electronic Record Management System (ERMS). A central repository for collection files (provenance research, Deeds of Gift, loans paperwork and other collection

documents) ensures that collection information and corporate knowledge is easily accessible during staff changeovers and disasters. Central collections folders have been added, and College-based collection folders will continue to be developed with Collection Managers during 2022.

In 2021, ANU Collections began several important opening conversations with the ANU First Nations Portfolio. University collections and museums are well-placed to not only participate in, but **lead** discussions and practices around de-colonising collection data and storage spaces, truth-telling and community engagement, repatriation and restitution. Building meaningful relationships will not only allow First Nations communities to have sovereignty over their collections and traditional knowledge (e.g. repatriation of material, data management, access and use) but also — to quote the title of CAUMAC's 2021 symposium — adds a



# Introduction

## At the Australian National University, collections are valuable assets that support the research, teaching and engagement activities of the Institution.

In addition to the significant material held by the ANU Archives, ANU Library and Drill Hall Gallery, the University holds over 60 research, teaching and heritage collections. These include artworks, antiquities, a herbarium, cultural material from Australian, Asia Pacific and African Regions, geological and archaeological samples, biological specimens, scientific instruments, mid-century furniture and a wood library.

When curated and discoverable, these nationally and internationally significant collections:

- are a tool which can be re-examined and actively built upon by researchers, students and First Nations communities to allow for complex, multidisciplinary research and teaching;
- allow the ANU to connect to rich networks of multi-generational stories — regularly featuring distinguished researchers, collectors and thought-leaders who have contributed significantly to their discipline; and
- present a tangible connection to the University's past — a window to explore and understand world-class research, teaching, design and innovation.

Since 2015, the University has been actively working to strengthen its capacity to curate, manage and make discoverable its diverse collections as **research infrastructure**, in-line with industry best practice standards.

## Vision

ANU Collections, and its associated data, will be curated and made accessible as infrastructure to support the academic community with complex, multi-disciplinary research, teaching and learning, and will allow First Nations communities sovereignty over their material and traditional knowledge.

Arm chair designed by the ANU Design Unit, Historic Furniture Collection (F&S)



*polyphonic perspective* to research, teaching, exhibitions and public programming using these collections. Incredible work is already underway at the ANU to ensure the respectful management of these collection, research the provenance of the material and begin conversations with First Nations communities about repatriation. The work already happening in this space at ANU, echo a larger, industry-wide discussion happening at the national-and international-level which has lead to the ICOM-UMAC special project, *'The Ethics of Restitution and Repatriation'*. I look forward to continuing to build on this important work with collection managers, academics and the First Nations portfolio over the coming year.

2022 also saw the ANU Collections community face several 'disasters' impacting collection work. On the 30 April, four works displayed in the CAP Research Services and CAP Finance Offices were destroyed after the building caught fire. Three of the works were part of the CAP Art and Artefacts Collection and one was part of the ANU Art Collection (managed by Drill Hall Gallery). In the second half of the year, the University's collections were physically inaccessible for the duration of the ACT's lockdown. This unfortunately meant that collection work, particularly those involving volunteers or student interns, have had to be delayed until 2022. Finally, the RSES Collection and the ANU Historic Furniture Collection have been battling an ongoing issue with mould in the collection storage areas. RSES and Facilities and Services are in the process of completing works to rectify this issue moving forward. As always, these collection disasters, though challenging,

provide an opportunity for the ANU Collections community to reflect on current issues, find areas of improvement, build on the collective expertise of the institution and work across Colleges and Divisions to improve the overall management of collections at ANU.

2022 presented several opportunities to showcase the University's collections — many of which are usually publically inaccessible. Alumni Week, the ACT Heritage Festival and the ANU 75th Anniversary celebrations allowed the broader Canberra community to engage with some of the University's collections through tours, interactive displays and virtual events. These events also provided an opportunity for ANU Heritage and ANU Collections to build a joint mailing list to ensure that we can keep interested members of the Canberra community up-to-date with any ANU Collection and Heritage news and events in the future.

The work that the University is undertaking in the collection space would not be possible without the support and dedication of our collection managers. The academic and professional staff, who often manage collections as an additional or voluntary duty, continuously go above and beyond to manage and promote the collections in their care. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the collection managers, and the broader ANU Collection Managers Network, for their enthusiasm, support, commitment, patience and resilience during 2021.

**Claire Sheridan, Senior Collections Advisor**  
RESEARCH INITIATIVES AND INFRASTRUCTURE



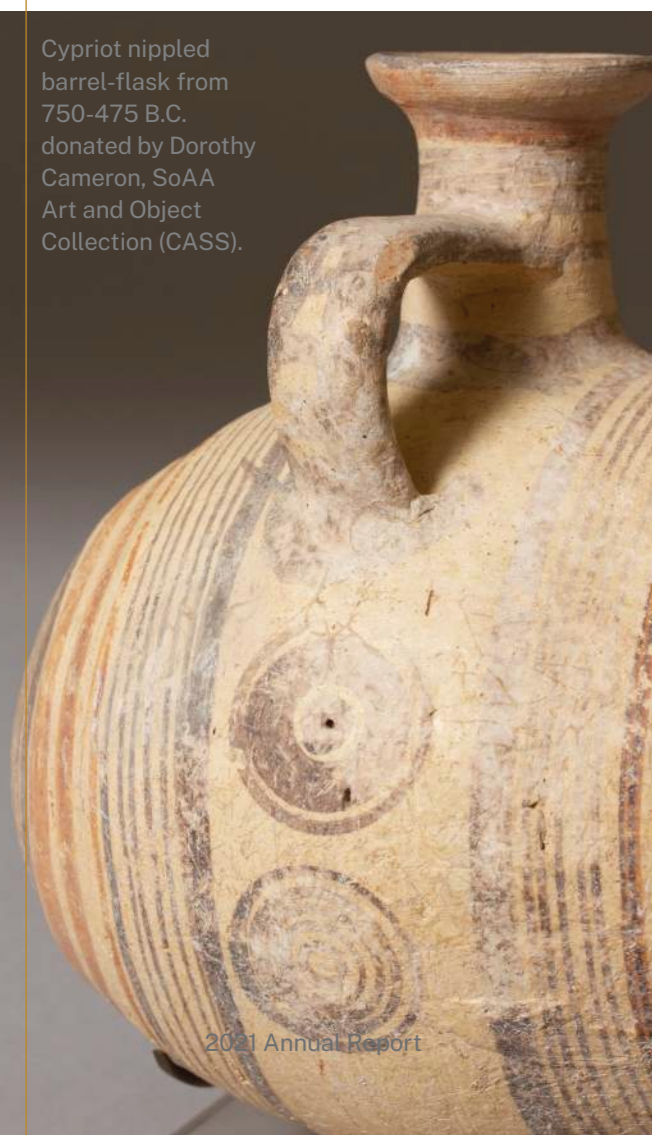
# Collection Advisory Group

The Collections Advisory Group was formed in 2017 to provide advice and recommendations to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) on the management and use of the ANU Collections. This advisory body plays an instrumental role in supporting the University's mission to manage its diverse collections in-line with industry best practice standards. The Group consists of internal and external stakeholders, including AIATSIS, the Australian Museum, CSIRO and the National Museum of Australia.

The ANU would like to thank outgoing members Cameron Slatyer (Australian Museum), Amy Jarvis (ANU Heritage Advisor) and Lyndall Ley (AIATSIS) for their support and contributions since 2017.

## Membership

Douglas Robertson (Chair)	Director, Research Services Division, ANU
Dale Holland	Operations and Business Manager, Research Initiatives and Infrastructure
Claire Sheridan	Senior Collections Advisor, Research Initiatives and Infrastructure
Amy Jarvis	ANU Heritage Advisor, Facilities and Services
Kathryn Dan	University Archivist, Scholarly Information Services
Gwen Horsfield	Head of Advancement (University-wide), ANU Advancement
Anna Edmundson	Lecturer, Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies, CASS
Elizabeth Minchin	Emeritus Professor and Curator of the ANU Classics Museum, CASS
Tim Senden	Director, Research School of Physics
Nicki Middleton	Director, Facilities and Services
Cameron Slatyer	Head of Natural Sciences Collections, Australian Museum
Lyndall Ley	Executive Director, Collections, AIATSIS
Andrew Young	Director, National Research Collections, CSIRO
Ian Coates	Head, Collection Development Unit, National Museum of Australia

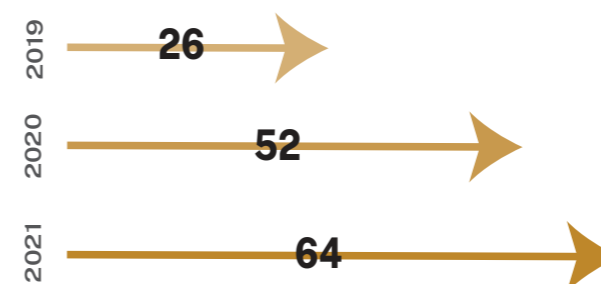


Cypriot nipped barrel-flask from 750-475 B.C. donated by Dorothy Cameron, SoAA Art and Object Collection (CASS).

# ANU Collection Managers Network

The Collection Managers Network is a collaborative 'community of practice' dedicated to the best-practice management and use of ANU Collections. Run by the Senior Collections Advisor, the Network meets quarterly and provides a platform to hear about other collections, understand the challenges that are being faced by collection managers and seeks to increase collaboration between collection staff. This network includes Collection Managers, other interested academic and professional staff, and more recently, collection staff from external institutions including CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and University of Canberra.

Network membership has grown significantly since the first meeting in 2019, and the meetings have proved to be a successful platform for finding cross-College solutions to Collection problems.



Collection Managers Network membership growth since 2019.



## 2021 Presentations

TITLE	PRESENTER
CSIRO's journey to a holistic Collection Management System	Simon Checksfield (CSIRO) Andrew Young (CSIRO)
Australasian Pollen and Spore Atlas Collection-Background, Project Updates and Future Plans	Ulrike Proske, APSA Collection Manager (CAP)
SSO Visitor Centre -Lessons Learnt from Updating the Exhibition Space	Claire Sheridan, Senior Collections Advisor Brad Tucker RSAA
A Case Study: Classics Museum Fundraising Project	Elizabeth Minchin, Emeritus Professor and Classics Museum Curator Andrea Morris, Head of Advancement (CASS)
Disaster Management and Response Planning-new process	Claire Sheridan, Senior Collections Advisor
Curriculum Engagement: Strategies for systematic collection-based learning	Chris McAuliffe, Head of Centre for Art History and Art Theory
UC Collections: QR Codes and Digital Content	Alex Stalker-Booth, Collections Coordinator (University of Canberra)
Mould in the RSES Collection	Colleen Bryant, RSES Collection Officer

# ANU COLLECTIONS

## List of Collections

### College of Arts and Social Sciences

#### ANU Permanent Collection

- Biological Anthropology Collection
- Classics Museum Collection
- Historic Keyboard Collection
- Isabel McBryde Collection
- John Mulvaney Collection
- Mary Jane Mountain Collection
- New Guinea Collection
- Tikopia Collection
- Wilfred Shawcross Collection

#### Identified Collection

- Archaeological Parenchyma Reference Collection
- Archaeological Stone Artefact Collection
- Archival Recording Collection
- CASS Zooarchaeology Collection
- Earthenware Pottery Collection
- HRC Poster Collection
- SoAA Archaeology Collection
- SoAA Art and Objects Collection
- SoAD Teaching Collection
- Starch Reference Collection
- World Music Instrument Collection

### College of Asia and the Pacific

#### ANU Permanent Collection

- Australasian Pollen and Spore Collection
- CAP Art and Artefacts Collection
- China in the World Art Collection

#### Identified Collection

- ANH Mollusc Shell Reference Collection

- CAP Zooarchaeology Collection
- Asia Pacific Archaeological Collection
- Asia Pacific Dried Plant Reference Collection
- Asia Pacific Obsidian Reference Collection
- Asia Pacific Sediment Core Collection
- Asia Pacific Seed Collection
- Pacific Wood Reference Collection
- Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PAMBU) Historic Equipment Collection
- PNG Digging Stick and Wooden Tools Collection
- Weston Fire-Damaged Collection

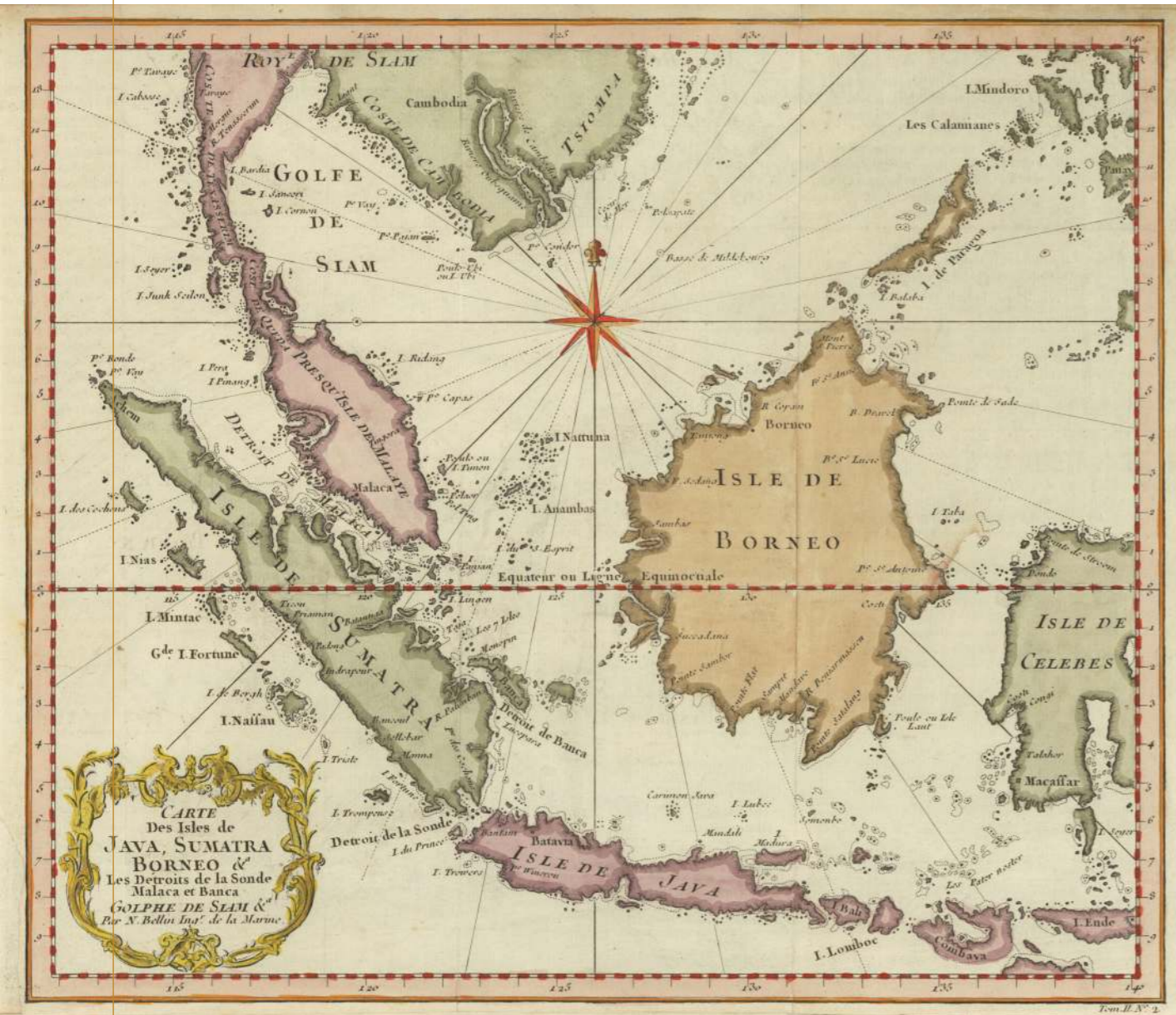
### College of Science

#### ANU Permanent Collection

- ANU Xylarium Collection
- Mount Stromlo Photographic Plates Collection
- RSES Collection

#### Identified Collection

- ANU Forestry Cups Collection
- CML Fungal Collection
- Fairy Wren Pedigree DNA and Blood Samples Collection
- Gauba Herbarium Collection
- Mount Stromlo Original Building Plans
- National E.coli Collection
- Physics Historic Equipment Collection
- RSAA Historic Equipment Collection
- RSAA Meteorite Collection
- Siding Spring Original Building Plans
- Siding Spring Photographic Plate Collection
- Zoological Collection



18th century map of the Asia Pacific region (c.1746), Asia Pacific Maps Collection (SIS).

## College of Health and Medicine

### Identified Collection

- Bio-specimens Collection
- JCSMR Art Collection
- NCIG Collection
- PATH Through Life Collection

## College of Engineering and Computer Sciences

### Identified Collection

- Master of Applied Cybernetics Program (MACP) Collection

## Facilities and Services

### ANU Permanent Collection

- ANU Historic Furniture Collection
- University House Fred Ward Furniture Collection

### Identified Collection

- Kioloa Farm Collection
- London Collection of African Artefacts
- Public Artworks Collection

## Scholarly Information Services\*

### ANU Permanent Collection

- Asia Pacific Maps Collection

### Identified Collection

- Historic Cartographic Equipment Collection

*\*Please note that these are the only Collections within Scholarly Information Services recognised under the ANU Collection Policy. There are many other significant collections cared for by Scholarly Information Services, however these are governed under different ANU Policies.*

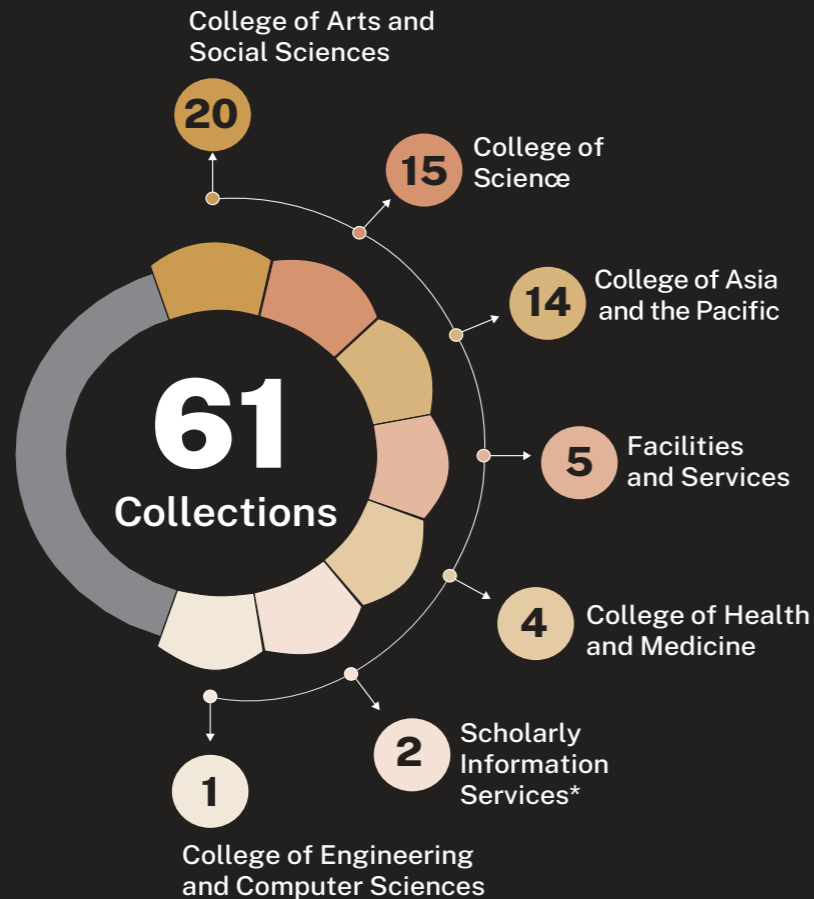


Coolamon painted with Emu Dreaming design by Dolly Daniels Nampijinpa, SoAA Art and Object Collection (CASS).

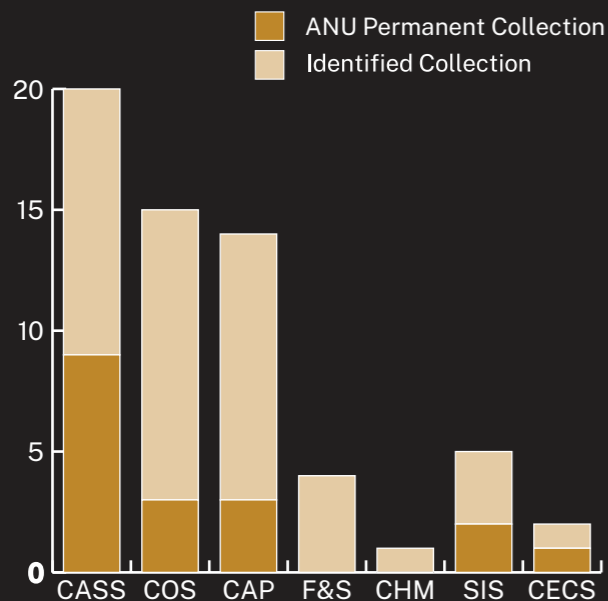


# Current Status

ANU has identified a total of 61 Collections that can be governed by the ANU Collection Policy. These collections are held in Colleges and Divisions across the University, and have the potential to be significant pieces of the research infrastructure landscape. It is likely that the total number of collections at ANU will continue to evolve as legacy research material is uncovered and assessed, some collections merge and others are deaccessioned to more suitable institutions or repatriated back to communities.

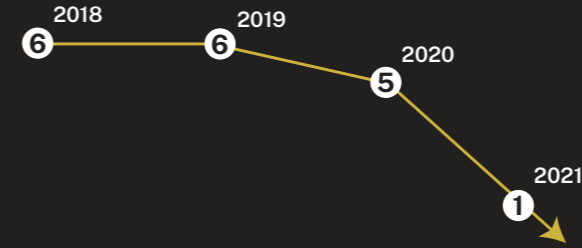


\*Scholarly Information Services has two collections recognised under the ANU Collections Policy, but many other significant collections governed by other policies.



Collections can be divided into 'ANU Permanent Collections' and 'identified collections'. An ANU Permanent Collection refers to all collections that have followed the process outlined in the Collections Policy, and have been formally recognised as ANU Collections by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation).

To date, 18 collections have had a Collection Management Plan endorsed by the Collection Advisory Group and are recognised as an ANU Permanent Collections.



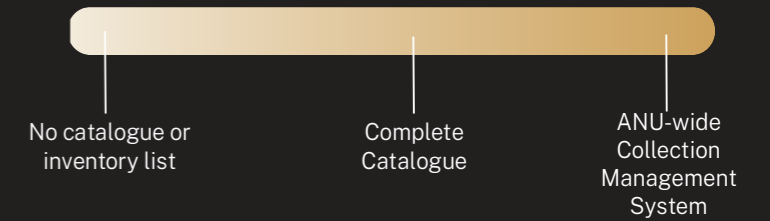
There has been a notable, though not entirely unexpected, decrease in the number of Collections being put forward for recognition by Colleges and Divisions. Improving the management of even one collection to meet industry best-practice standards can be both an incredibly time-consuming and resource-intensive process, and usually recognition as an ANU Permanent Collection is the first step in a much larger journey. Due to this — and coupled with the ACT lockdowns and reduced funding associated with the COVID-19 pandemic — it is not surprising that the number of collections being put forward for recognition has decreased. With focus shifting to improving the management of recognised collections, it is likely that this trend will continue into 2022, with only 1-2 new collections being recognised each year moving forward.

## First Nations Collections

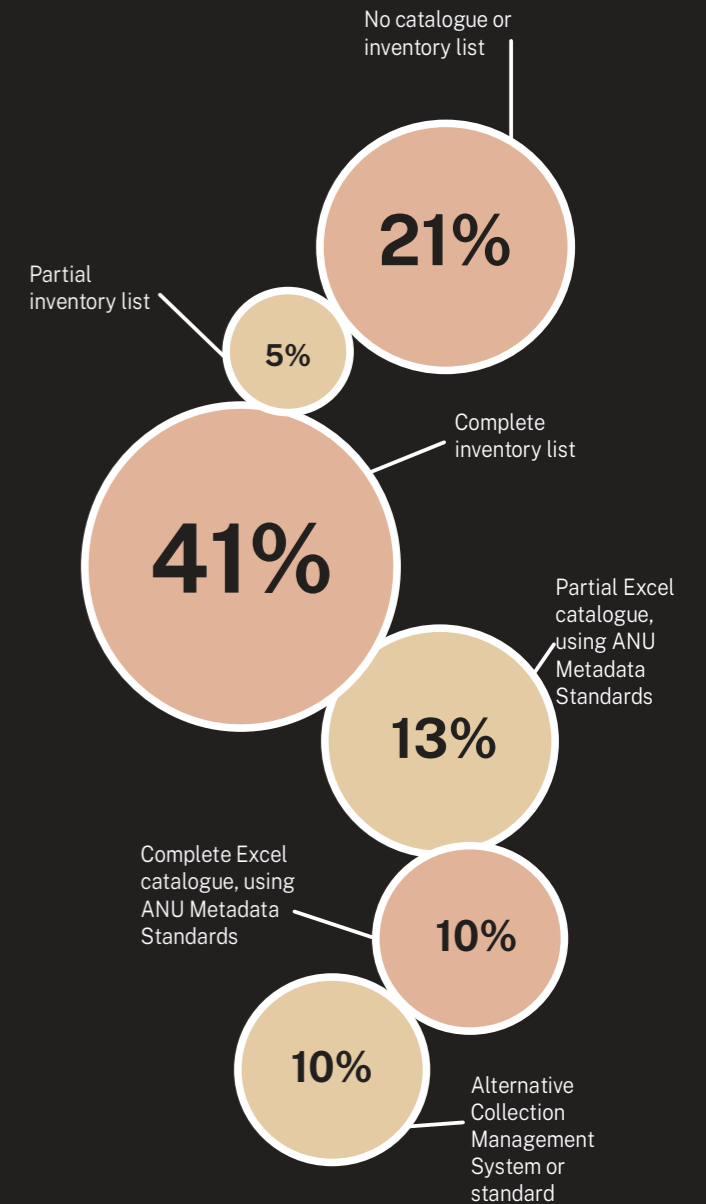


The Australian National University is the custodian of several collections containing material (biological samples, cultural objects and excavated or deposited material) from First Nations peoples of Australia, Asia and the Pacific, and West Africa. These numbers do not include the large amount of legacy research material, or the associated research data, that may contain First Nations items. Engagement with the origin communities is underway for several of the collections, often managed by the academic collection manager or stakeholder who has strong ties with the community. However, extensive provenance research and collection management is still required before a vast majority of collections are ready for community engagement and repatriation.

## Cataloguing



A complete catalogue is an invaluable tool for collection managers to track the movements, conditions and information associated with collection management. In addition to provenance research and a significance assessment, creating a complete catalogue is an important step in improving the management of collections at ANU. Currently, this is done using Excel and the ANU Metadata Standards to ensure consistency, with plans to introduce a University-wide Collection Management System (CMS) in the future.



# ANU Permanent Collections

## ANU Historic Furniture Collection

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The ANU Historic Furniture Collection is a working collection of mid-century modernist furniture designed and manufactured by the ANU Design Unit for the University between 1954 and 1977. Many of these pieces are attributed to renowned Australian designers Fred Ward and Derek Wrigley. This Collection has local and national significance as an important example of integrated Australian mid-century design, and is the only known example of furniture designed in-house by a university Design Unit in the world. This collection demonstrates the value of 'total design' awareness and the University's commitment to excellence from its inception.

## CAP Art and Artefacts Collection

COLLEGE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Art and Artefacts Collection contains significant cultural material from Australia, Asia and the Pacific and forms an important record of the research activities of those who have worked for College of Asia and the Pacific. As a foundational school of the University, the provenance of the Collection represents historical continuity and connection to the University's continuing commitment to engagement with the Asia Pacific region. Many of these items are of great aesthetic, cultural and spiritual significance with some objects no longer produced by their cultures of origin.

## Asia Pacific Maps Collection

SCHOLARLY INFORMATION SERVICES

The Asia Pacific Maps Collection is made up of more than 40,000 topographic, cadastral, aeronautical, tectonic, thematic and tourist maps and bathymetric charts. The Collection covers the world with emphasis on Asia, Australia and the Pacific. The Collection is the largest University-held Asia-Pacific map collection in Australia, with holdings that compliment those of the National Library of Australia. Through digitisation work and material archiving, the Collection serves as a primary repository for ANU's rich past and is a resource for current and future research and teaching across disciplines and regions.

## Australasian Pollen and Spore Collection

COLLEGE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Australasian Pollen and Spore Atlas, originating in 1966, is the largest collection of modern pollen and spores from the Australasian and Pacific region, amounting to over 15,000 specimens. This Collection utilises the unique morphologies of pollen and spores

to identify plants to various taxonomic levels. This scientific reference Collection is used as a comparative tool by researchers worldwide, playing a major role in attracting funding for 13 different research projects from ARC, NHMRC and ANU grant schemes in fields such as palaeo-environmental research, respiratory health/allergens and the geographical origin of honey.

## Biological Anthropology Collection

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Biological Anthropology Collection consists of casts and skeletal specimens that represent human and non-human primates. This Collection is a source of biological and anatomical data and information about human and hominin skeletal variation and morphology that characterized humans and our ancestral species over the past 8 million years. This Collection is significant, as is actively used in research and teaching within Bioarchaeology, Skeletal Biology, Forensic Anthropology, Palaeoanthropology, and Primate and Hominid Palaeobiology.

## China in the World Art Collection

COLLEGE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Australian Centre on China in the World

(CiW) Art Collection has a high degree of artistic and aesthetic significance and houses diverse works including glass, photography, prints, furniture, maps, posters, calligraphy and sculptures. Displayed throughout the Centre, these pieces were selected to compliment the award-winning architectural design of the building. As the hub for China studies at the ANU, CiW aims to foster cross-campus, national and international research collaborations that promote greater understanding of the Chinese world – the People's Republic of China, Taiwan and the Chinese diaspora. The CiW Art Collection aims to further strengthen this connection through the support of arts and culture relating to China and its region.

## Classics Museum Collection

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Classics Museum was established in 1962 at ANU and houses over 600 significant artefacts. From the wider Mediterranean world – from Britain to the Near East region – each of these items has a story to tell about how it was made, how it was used and the context in which it was used. The Collection has strong research significance with the potential to contribute to work in Classics and Ancient History, Archaeology, Art History and the Visual Arts.



Dance Mask from the lower Ramu River communities in Papua New Guinea, CAP Art and Artefacts Collection (CAP).



A collection of skull casts, Biological Anthropology Collection (CASS)



Large wood block specimens, ANU Forestry Xylarium Collection (COS)

## Forestry Xylarium Collection

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

The ANU Xylarium is Australia's only actively curated wood collection. From the first samples collected in 1926 for wood identification, science and teaching, the Collection has expanded rapidly and now includes wood samples from Australia and overseas, prepared microscopic glass slides, timber display pieces and physical index cards that are central to wood identification. The Collection has strong research significance with the potential to contribute to work in wood anatomy, archaeology, anthropology, furniture and decorative arts conservation, art history and forensic science.

## Historic Keyboard Collection

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Historic Keyboard Collection is a unique collection of custom-built copies of historical instruments as well as period instruments, including: clavichord, harpsichord, square, grand and upright piano, as well as other keyboards such as organs, electronic keyboards and a carillon. The Collection has strong historic significance due to its connection to the cultural history of Australia, the ACT and to the people who established the Keyboard Institute at ANU. This Collection also has a high degree of research significance

as the instruments were collected with the intention that they would be played and studied by students at the School, as well as by visiting artists.

## Isabel McBryde Collection

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Isabel McBryde Collection is a collection of archaeological material held by the School of Archaeology and Anthropology. McBryde was a highly respected academic at ANU for twenty years and is best known for her work on exchange networks, her promotion of Indigenous heritage and her influence in training a whole generation of Australian archaeologists. The Collection holds a high level of historical significance due to its association with one of Australia's foremost archaeologists. The collection contains a highly significant assemblage from McBryde's Victorian Greenstone Project, as well as excavated material and the associated documentation from other sites across Victoria, ACT and South Australia.

## John Mulvaney Collection

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The John Mulvaney Collection consists of archaeological material acquired by pioneering Australian archaeologist, John Mulvaney. The Collection contains material from some of the most important and influential excavations Mulvaney conducted and was associated with. The Collection holds historical significance to the ANU due to Mulvaney's long association with the University and his position as Foundation Professor of Prehistory in the Arts Faculty. Of particular significance is the Mungo Peel, which is one of three latex stratigraphic peels taken by Mulvaney and shows the section of a trench wall exposed by the excavations at Lake Mungo in 1974.

## Mary Jane Mountain Collection

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Mary Jane Mountain Collection consists of archaeological and research material from Mary Jane Mountain, a retired archaeologist who has been associated with the ANU since 1979. Mountain's primary research contribution is her work at the Nombe Rock Shelter in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea and the collection contains the complete assemblages of material collected from this site across four excavation seasons. This Collection has high research significance and contains archaeological evidence for:

- Continuous human activity at the site from the early-mid Holocene;
- Episodic human occupation during the Pleistocene (dating back to c. 25,000 cal BP); and
- Human interaction with multiple species of extinct megafauna, including three new species only documented at this site.

## Mount Stromlo Photographic Plates Collection

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

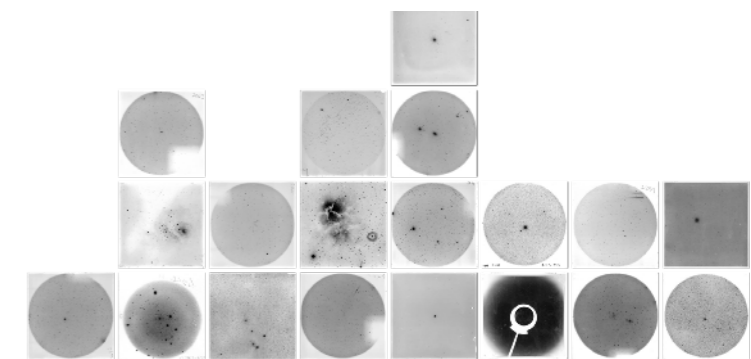
The Mount Stromlo Photographic Plates Collection consists of several thousand glass plate negatives. These images are of the Southern night sky over a period of four decades from the 1950s and are historically connected to Mount Stromlo Observatory period of stellar astronomy. The Collection includes negatives taken by notable astronomers such as Professor Jeremy Mould, Ken Freeman, Bart Bok and Gerard de Vaoucoulers. Other photographic plates are associated with high profile astronomy research programs. For example, the MACHO project involves the search for dark matter which includes one of the first detections of a

planet orbiting another star, measurements of the Magellanic Clouds and measure the size of the Universe and the rotation of galaxies. This Collection holds a wealth of scientific data and research potential –most notably, presenting a historical baseline to allow for looking at long-term changes in astrophysical objects such as erupting stars or moving objects in our solar system –while also maintaining a powerful connection to a historical site of local and national significance.

## New Guinea Collection

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The School of Archaeology and Anthropology's New Guinea Collection is of historical and scientific significance as a representation of early anthropological and archaeological research in New Guinea and surrounding regions. It consists of 1,040 objects collected in the 1950s and 1960s, primarily from the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Highlands, as well as PNG's New Ireland province, Baliem Valley and Bokondini in Papua, Indonesia and a small amount of material from the Torres Strait. The Collection contains material from leading figures in the emergence of both disciplines in the region, including Marie Reay, Ralph Bulmer, R M Glasse and John Barnes in Anthropology and Sue Bulmer in Archaeology. The Collection provides opportunities for new research on the material culture of the region and opportunities for collaboration with Indigenous groups and independent Pacific Island nations.



Glass plates, Mount Stromlo Photographic Plates Collection (COS).

## RSES COLLECTION

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

The RSES collection consists of rocks, minerals and fossils that have been collected by and for the Research School of Earth Sciences and the former Geology Department, since the establishment of the Australian National University. The collection is of scientific and research significance as a major repository of material useful to the fields of paleontology, mineralogy, petrology, astronomy, marine science, geochemistry, biogeochemistry and palaeoenvironments. The collection continues to be used in research (several fossils were MicroCT scanned, with 3D modelling of the jaw of a placodem fish) and is involved in partnerships with other Universities.



The skull and jawbone of *Grippognathus whitei*, RSES Collection (COS)

## Tikopia Collection

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Tikopia Collection consists of approximately 550 cultural objects collected by James Spillius from the Island of Tikopia, Solomon Islands in 1952 and 1953. These objects include wooden bowls, headrests, tapa beaters and clubs, palm leaf mats, fishing equipment, weaving equipment and shell adze blades. This collection provides new research opportunities on material culture of the Western Pacific, the history of the collection and the collectors, the ethics and contemporary significance of material culture

collections and on developing collection management practices in consultation with independent Pacific Island nations.

## University House Fred Ward Furniture Collection

UNIVERSITY HOUSE

The University House Fred Ward Furniture Collection comprises some 4000 pieces of bespoke mid-century furniture designed specifically for University House by Fred Ward between 1949 and 1953, as well as the original design drawings held in the ANU Archives. This collection has a high level of historic significance to the University as an integral part of the design history of the University's first planned buildings. As well as displaying work by notable Australian designer Fred Ward, the collection also features Australian entrepreneurs Catherine Hardress and Edith Groves. University House is an outstanding example of Australian mid-century, integrated design.

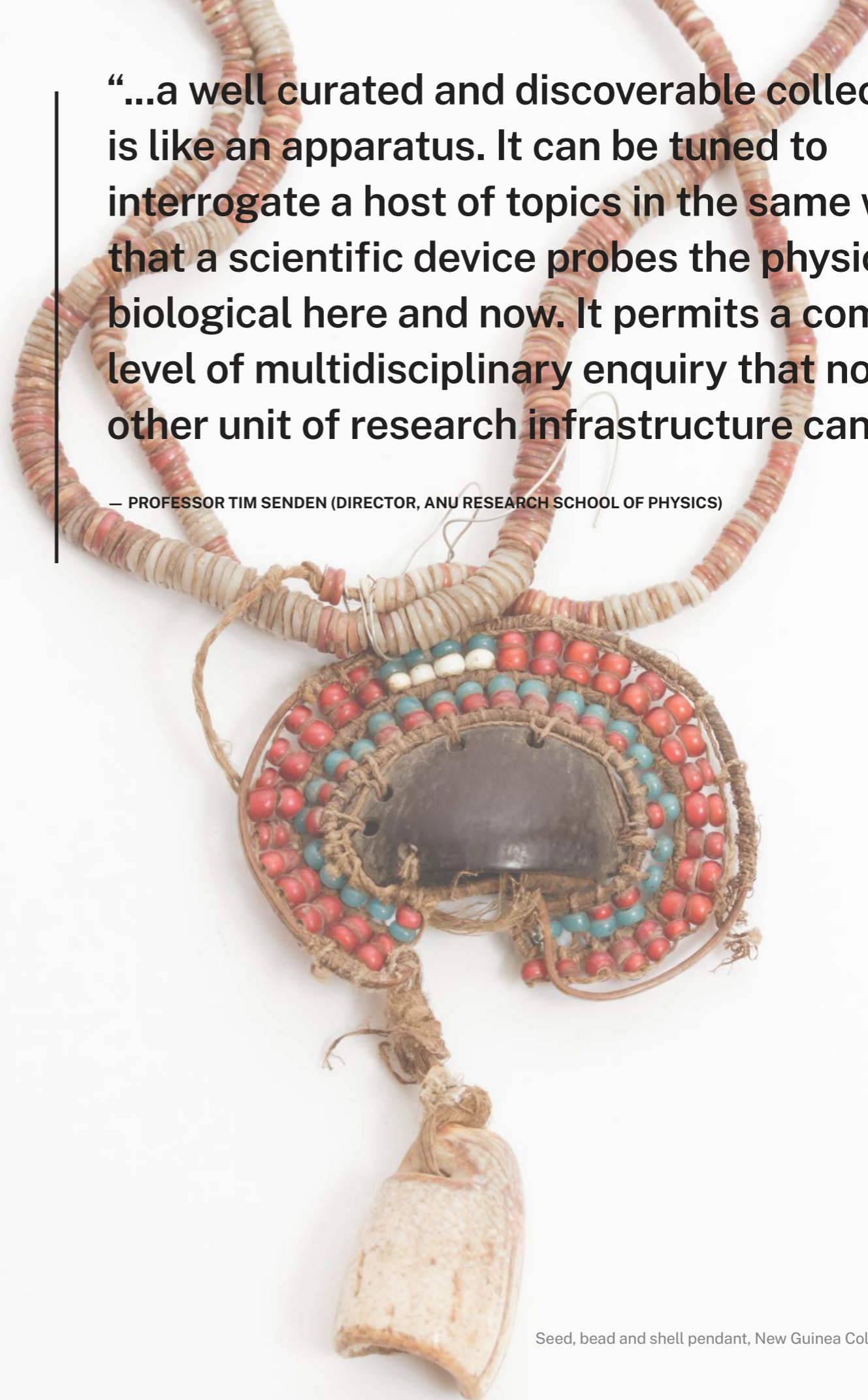
## Wilfred Shawcross Collection

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Wilfred Shawcross Collection is a collection of archaeological, photographic and research material collected by Wilfred Shawcross who held various teaching and research positions at the ANU between 1973 and 1993. The archaeological material is from a 1992 Gerroa Field School, and has research potential for an archaeologist studying Indigenous occupation patterns along the south coast of New South Wales. This site has since been destroyed, making this intact collection significant. The photographic, archival and research material has strong historic significance, recording the University's involvement in key archaeological research at Lake Mungo, as well as the history of teaching in the Archaeology department.

**“...a well curated and discoverable collection is like an apparatus. It can be tuned to interrogate a host of topics in the same way that a scientific device probes the physical or biological here and now. It permits a complex level of multidisciplinary enquiry that no other unit of research infrastructure can”.**

— PROFESSOR TIM SENDEN (DIRECTOR, ANU RESEARCH SCHOOL OF PHYSICS)



Seed, bead and shell pendant, New Guinea Collection (CASS).

# Pathway forward

Since 2015, the ANU has made large strides in improving the management of its collections and in fostering a network of collection management professionals, within and outside of the University. Maximising the use of collections in research, teaching and outreach internally and externally, requires continued support and development in the following key areas.

The implementation of central policies, procedures and guidelines for collection work is a vital resource for the ANU Collections community, and ensures that collection managers are supported in their work. These documents provide the University with an overarching, streamlined method for handling a range of collection management issues, which allows the ANU to work proactively rather than reactively. Work in 2022 aims to finalise the Guidelines and make them accessible in the ANU Policy Library.

The ANU has identified 61 collections across its Colleges and Service Divisions. Of the 61, 18 have been assessed as having research or heritage significance to the University. 43 collections still require provenance research and a significance assessment to either recognise it as an ANU Permanent Collection, or for it to be returned to Community or deposited at another, more appropriate institution. Continuing this work in 2022, ensures that the University is only retaining collections that support the research, teaching and outreach objectives of the ANU.

To maximise the use of collections in research and teaching, collections and collection data must be findable and accessible for internal and external audiences. While the process of making collections accessible physically and digitally has commenced in many areas, there is significant work still to be done to make all collections accessible, to connect this data to other forms of research data at the University and to think holistically about how new collections and collection data should be collected and stored.

Having a collection formally recognised by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) is the first step, of an often much longer process, in improving the management of the collection. This includes cataloguing, upgrading storage and implementing pest management strategies, and creating Disaster Management and Response Plans for the material. This work is critical for safeguarding these significant assets, and provides the foundation to rebuild collections as research infrastructure.

Currently, there is only a fragmented understanding about how ANU Collections are accessed and used internally and externally for research and teaching. Reviewing and improving the way that collection-use data is gathered and analysed will assist the University in identifying priorities and opportunities for funding and research, and finding cross-College solutions to shared problems.

Since 2019, the University has improved the the recording, storage and management of collection data by implementing ANU Metadata Standards and by creating a repository for Collection files in the ANU Electronic Record Management System. Moving forward, it is vital to implement a University-wide Collection Management System (CMS) and investigate existing Digital Asset Management Systems (DAMS) to streamline the management of collections and ensure that they are readily findable and accessible for research and teaching.

There is significant work to be done to improve the University's understanding of First Nation material (including associated data) in its custodianship. This work will allow the University to build strong relationships with First Nations communities so that they have sovereignty over their collections (i.e. repatriation of material, management and storage of collections, data management, access and use). In 2022, ANU Collections aims to continue cataloguing and conducting provenance research for this material, as well as working with the ANU First Nations Portfolio and academic stakeholders and experts to update University-wide processes.



# COLLECTION NEWS



Microscope slides, ANU Forestry Xylarium Collection (COS)

## Collection Events

### Alumni Week

Alumni Week is a time when the ANU alumni community can come together to connect, share and celebrate the University's history and plans for the future. Collections were featured heavily in the 2021 Alumni Week, with two tours: a Public Artworks Tour led by Emeritus Professor David Williams AM, and a tour of the ANU Classics Museum led by ANU Academia Alumna of the Year (Humanities) and Museum curator Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin). In addition to this, ANU Collections and ANU Advancement hosted an [online symposium](#) on the significance of University House and the role it played in the development of Modernism in Canberra. A panel of experts, including Shannon Battisson, Meredith Hincliffe, Amy Jarvis, Virginia Rigney and Dr Jill Waterhouse joined Professor Peter Kanowski (Master, University House) to explore

this fascinating topic. These important social events allow the ANU Community to reconnect, engage and find new meaning in collections or topics that align with their passions.

### ACT Heritage Festival

The 2020 ACT Heritage Festival provided the ANU with an opportunity to showcase its collections to the broader Canberra community. ANU Collections facilitated seven events during the Festival that focused on Collections (two Historic Furniture Collection tours, two Classics Museum tours, a virtual tour of the School of Archaeology and Anthropology's Pacific Collections, an Art and Architecture tour and a symposium on the Art Treasures of University House). In addition to this, two ANU Indigenous Heritage Trail were led by Ngunawal Elder, Wally Bell.

Emeritus Professor David Williams leading the Public Artworks Tour for the 2021 Alumni Week.



Of particular note was the School of Archaeology and Anthropology's virtual tour of its Pacific Collections — one of the only virtual events in the Festival. As the School has several rooms of collections that are rarely on display, the tour allowed a behind-the-scenes look at some of these interesting collections and objects, and particularly showcased the newly revamped Pacific Collection store. Maggie Otto (RSHA Collection Officer) was lucky to be joined by Master's student Bella Shaw who talked about her current research project on the large collection of Tikopian shell adze blades. Conducting the tour virtually, and being one of the few online events in the Festival, meant that the event attracted viewers not just from Canberra, but from around the country. This was a successful first appearance from the SOAA in the Heritage Festival; we hope to continue to be part of the festival and to expand our offerings to in-person tours in the future. A recording of the tour can be viewed [here](#).

In addition to this, Professor Peter Kanowski (Master, University House), Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin, Emeritus Professor David Williams and Terence Maloon (Director, Drill Hall Gallery) held a talk to explore the many art treasures of University House. The talk covered the beginnings of the ANU Art Collection, the Fred Ward Furniture Collection and University House's enduring connection to the Classics Museum Collection. Though the House is still closed, and the artwork and collections are currently in storage, the community's overwhelming interest in, and support of, University House's social history and its future, was incredible. ANU Collections looks forward to collaborating with University House on many more of these events in the future.

Emeritus Professor and Curator of the Classics Museum, Elizabeth Minchin, talking to members of the public during her guided tour of the Classics Museum.

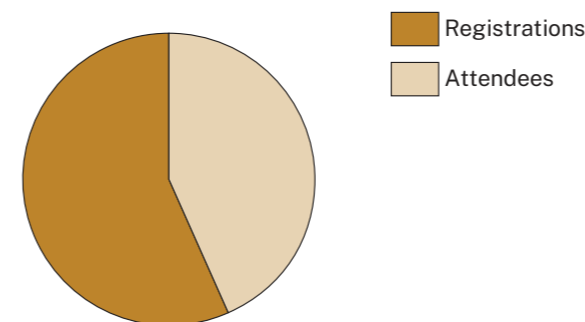


An interactive display of a 1950s-styled student room in University House, set up in the Kambri Cultural Centre.

Interest and participation across the seven events was reasonably high, with 158 people registering interest in the events and 122 attending the events on the day.

### ANU 75th Celebrations

This year, ANU celebrated its 75th Anniversary. Kicking off on the 1 August 2021, this year-long event gives the ANU community the opportunity to celebrate its rich history, while also exploring its vision for the future. The University House Fred Ward Furniture Collection and the Classics Museum Collection featured heavily in the celebrations, connecting the community with two hugely significant and historic ANU Collections.



The ACT Heritage Festival, in addition to providing a platform to showcase the University's many and varied collections, also allowed ANU to begin to understand public interest in collections. A survey was sent to attendees at the completion of the event requesting feedback. In addition to some excellent feedback on what other information and collections they would like to see, the events were given — on average — a 4.68 star rating.

Volunteers offered guided tours of the Classics Museum — exploring everyday life in the Mediterranean world and the significance of this Collection at ANU. In addition to this, an interactive display of a 1950s-styled University House student room, using the original Fred Ward Furniture, was created in the Cultural Centre, Kambri. With University House still closed due to hail damage, this allowed the community to actively engage with the history of the building, and the importance that it holds in the ANU story.



# Classics Museum Volunteers

Words by Classics Museum Curator, Elizabeth Minchin and Classics Museum Volunteers, Jan Finley and Betty Hannaford.

SCHOOL OF LITERATURE, LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS (COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)

Since the opening of the Classics Museum in 1962, Classics staff members have aspired to make the collection of antiquities available to a broad range of audiences, offering tours of the collection and specialised talks on particular items to primary and secondary school students, as well as interested community groups. As community interest in the Classics Museum continued to grow, Jill Greenwell (a retired Ancient History and Latin teacher and *Friends of the ANU Classics Museum* committee member) suggested establishing a volunteer group to assist with showcasing the collection to the wider community. Modelled on the volunteer guides at the National Gallery of Australia, the Classics Museum Guides group was established in 2013 and has gone from strength to strength.

The guides, an interesting group of — in the main — retired members of the community with a special interest in the ancient Mediterranean world, meet regularly for training sessions, sharing their own considerable knowledge and experience. As well as being able to share their enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, the collection, volunteering as a guide provides the opportunity to engage in enjoyable conversation with other members of the Classics community. Through monthly public tours, specialised talks, and hands-on experiences, the guides aim to raise the profile of the Museum, provide programs for schools to enhance their students' knowledge of the classical world, and to cater for other specialist groups. Over the last five years, they have also run several more comprehensive courses, as well as special mornings with the collection for young children. The annual visitor figures indicate the extent to which visitors take up this opportunity to explore this ANU Collection. In 2021, and despite border closures and the ACT lockdown, the guides facilitated hundreds of visitors exploring the Museum collection.

If you wish to join one of the monthly tours of the collection or if you wish to arrange a visit for a special interest group, please contact Jan Finley (02 5100 2348) or Sue Chessell (02 6273 2153). If you wish to find out more about the ANU Classics collection, do visit the Museum on the ground floor in the AD Hope Building (opened 8:30am -5:30pm Monday to Friday) or engage with it [online](#). You may also download the free ANU Classics Museum app — just google it!



A program, presented in early July by the volunteer ANU Classic Museum guides to the general public, gave program participants an introduction to the museum and highlighted key aspects of the collection.



## Adding new meaning to a Square Pianoforte (c. 1770)

Within the ANU Historic Keyboard Collection, a collection designed to be central in practice-led, historically-informed research, sits a 'Henrion' Square Pianoforte created by Henri Henrion, c. 1770. Created in a year that marks the beginning of colonisation in Australia, a project led by Keyboard Institute manager Dr. Scott Davie, added new, polyphonic perspectives to this 250 year old keyboard.

**“The project is a way of mixing and juxtaposing two very different cultures, but doing it in a harmonious way.”**

— DR SCOTT DAVIE (SCHOOL OF MUSIC)

Four musicians from the Ngarra Burria First Nations Composers [initiative](#) — Yuwaalaraay singer song-writer and author Nardi Simpson,

Wiradjuri and Gumbainggir reggae artist Tim Gray, Whadjuk Noongar Yamatji church cantor Elizabeth Sheppard, and Murawari and Filipino rapper and percussionist Rhyan Clapham (aka DOBBY) — were asked to create new music for this piano. Performing the track using the piano and vocals, Rhyan Clapham delivered a 250 year history of Australia titled '1770'. Elizabeth Sheppard composed 'Kalgoorli Silky Pear', with the history, experiences and legacy of her ancestors in mind. Tim Grey's work, 'Lupe's Waltz', is an extension of a larger body of work around an alcoholic werewolf named Lupe. Nardi Simpson's piece, 'The Binary', emerged from her reflections of what it means to be a First Nations woman in Australia in the 2020s. Work is underway to extend this project into an ARC Linkage grant.

You can listen to Ngarra-Burria Piyanna [here](#), and discover more about each song [here](#).



# Historic Furniture Collection Cataloguing Project

Words by Collection Officer, Claudia Reppin

FACILITIES AND SERVICES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

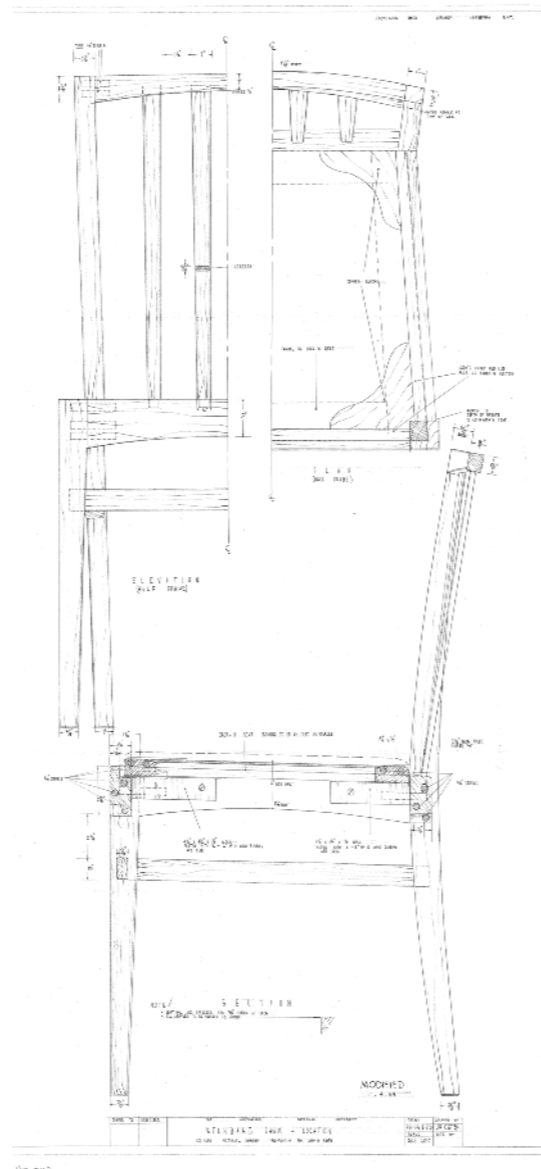
Located all over the ANU campus, the Historic Furniture Collection is a working collection of diverse furniture pieces from the ANU Design Unit which ran from 1954–1977. Helmed by Fred Ward and Derek Wrigley they, along with their colleagues, designed a range of pieces from chairs to tables to lab coat cupboards and document holders. When not in use in the offices and public spaces of ANU the remaining collection has been stored across multiple locations at ANU and Spring Valley Farm. A three month project is currently underway to consolidate and accession the collection. Accessioning involves allocating a unique identifying number, describing, measuring and photographing the object, providing a basic condition assessment and a storage location. Thus far 500 pieces have been accessioned with nearly 300 pieces being stored at Spring Valley Farm and 200 pieces being marked for future deaccession and stored at ANU. These numbers will continue to grow in the New Year as the stored furniture continues to be sorted, catalogued and redistributed.

A highlight of the collection is the *Standard Chair*, designed by Fred Ward in 1953, and modified in 1959. The ANU Design Unit designed a range of chairs with several variations: with arms, without arms, vertical slat, horizontal slats, or solid backs and the list goes on. The *Standard Chair* is usually described as having four vertical slats in the backrest. The design also includes tapered legs, stretches on the front and sides, dowel joinery and a frame for a drop-in seat. Deceptively simple, the *Standard Chair* is a carefully considered and beautifully designed and constructed piece that is anything but ‘standard’.



Photograph and original design drawing of the ‘Standard Chair’, Historic Furniture Collection (F&S).

Design drawing supplied by the ANU Archives.



Polly Prakash, Claudia Reppin and Curtis Shen sorting material in one of the rooms in “the tunnels” under University House.

## The nuclear bunker underneath University House

The first building on campus, University House, has always been at the centre of ANU life for students, academics and visitors — a home-like hub for engaging academic debate and social activities. University House, a heritage listed building in and of itself, also housed the iconic Fred Ward Furniture Collection and significant pieces from the ANU Art Collection.

In addition to the building featuring mid-century furniture, artworks, a grand Hall, beautiful grounds and stunning architecture, there is also a nuclear bunker (nicknamed “the tunnels”) built underneath University House. The tunnels, now used for the general maintenance of the building, have accumulated the most interesting range of material showcasing the building’s history from its opening in 1954 to its forced closure after the hailstorm in 2020. To ready the

building for future remediation and restoration works, Claire Sheridan, Polly Prakash, Claudia Reppin and Curtis Shen spent four weeks organising, cataloguing and appropriately storing and/or recycling 67 years’ worth historic furniture, records, books, archival material, original building furnishings, and other material related to the maintenance and running of the hotel. Interesting finds include hundreds of records featuring German orchestral music, furniture pieces with the original Eclarte upholstery, 1960s’ irons, 1970s’ porcelain kettles, a ‘Caligraph’ typewriter (c. 1880s), and a Nippon Typewriter designed for Japanese characters (c. 1976).

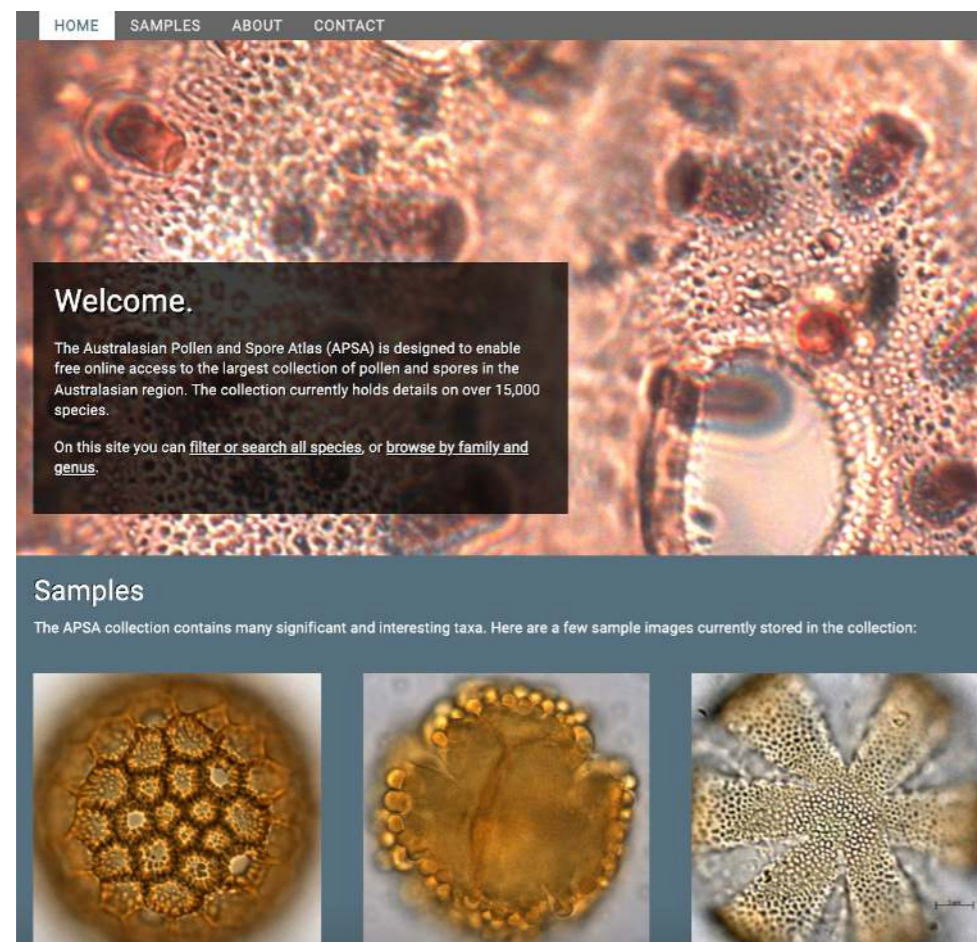
Now appropriately catalogued and stored, there is exciting potential to reimagine and reuse these items in a restored University House in the future!

# A new database for the Australasian Pollen and Spore Collection

Words by Collection Manager, Ulrike Proske

SCHOOL OF CULTURE, HISTORY AND LANGUAGE (COLLEGE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC)

Late in 2020, the online platform of the Australasian Pollen and Spore Atlas (APSA) faced a number of IT issues, which meant that the website had to be discontinued after over 10 years of service. Thanks to the ANU Collection Managers Network, colleagues across campus were soon made aware of this problem. Following a few meetings between the APSA Collection Manager and Tim Senden and Martin Conway (Research School of Physics), who generously offered their time and IT resources, a new in-house solution was found to rebuild APSA v 2.0. In late April 2021, CAP were able to launch the new, sustainable platform and make the database accessible for teaching and research again. The platform can be either searched for a specific specimen or users can browse the database by plant family. Over time, more features will be added to the database, including the ability to upload new specimens, but until then, users can access over 15,000 specimens.



New APSA Database on the ANU Website, Australasian Pollen and Spore Collection (CAP)

# A generous donation from Emeritus Professor Isabel McBryde

Words by Collection Officer, Maggie Otto

SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY (COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)

This year, the School of Archaeology and Anthropology was lucky to receive a very generous donation of \$30,000 from former Professor Isabel McBryde. This donation will go towards the future management of the Isabel McBryde Collection. The School holds extensive collections of material excavated by Professor McBryde during her illustrious career. While the collection is extensively documented and in good condition, it requires an updated catalogue and re-boxing. This work is aimed at preparing the collection to be deposited at the relevant state institutions in the future.

The donation will go towards funding a position for a post-graduate archaeology student to catalogue and research the collection in 2022. The Australian National University would like to express thanks to Dr Mary-Jane Mountain for facilitating the donation, and of course, to Isabel for her generosity.

Professor Isabel McBryde. Photo provided by the ANU Archives.



# Conservation Project with the CAP Art and Artefacts Collection

Words by Collection Manager, Dr Rose Faunce

COLLEGE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Since July 2019, the Asia Pacific Art and Artefacts Collection has undergone relocation, condition assessments and conservation works – important steps in the journey to slowly, but surely, make the collection visible and accessible to the ANU community. Moved out of the HC Coombs Building due to the refurbishment project, the Collection was temporarily stored in a demountable building before being relocated to the basement storeroom of Menzies Library. A pest management programme was implemented with the move, and a professional conservator was contracted to undertake a condition assessment of the collection items. 361 items were assessed and rated (Level A to D in descending order) according to their condition and the potential risk of future damage. Estimates were obtained for the conservation of items in the Level A category (highest priority), with a plan to carry out this work in gradual stages as funding became available. As part of Phase 1, 12 objects were selected for treatment. Archival framing and display cases were also commissioned for these objects, to allow them to be safely exhibited through the Coombs building after conservation is completed.

To offset some of the costs of outsourcing conservation, and in collaboration with RSHA Collection Officer Maggie Otto, low temperature treatment was carried out in-house for an additional eight items requiring urgent pest eradication. Utilising large-scale freezers in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology (CASS), which are permanently set at the required temperature for collection conservation, provided an effective, cost-saving remedy for pest treatment and demonstrates the value of cross-College solutions to collection problems.



Pair of steel engravings tinted with coloured oils on wooden blocks on cream wove paper. London, 1841. The colouring process was pioneered by British print-maker George Baxter (1804-1867), a close friend of Rev. Williams (1796-1839), who created these prints as a memorial to his friend, and as a way of raising funds for the missionary's family.

Image 1: The Reception of the Rev. J. Williams at Erromango, Vanuatu archipelago, South Pacific Ocean.

Image 2: The Massacre of the Lamented Missionary the Rev. J. Williams and Mr Harris.

# Madeleine Tan, 2021 recipient of the AMAGA Internship Prize

ANU Collections is extremely fortunate to have several Masters' students from the Centre of Heritage and Museum Studies (CASS) intern with a collection manager each year. The internship program is invaluable to improving the management of collections across the University – providing additional help to collection managers for specific project work related to improving the management of, or access to, collections. More importantly, it provides hands-on experience to students in the museum and heritage field, fostering an ever-growing community of museum experts in Canberra.

During 2021, Madeleine Tan interned with Jenny Sheehan in Scholarly Information Services, working on the Asia Pacific Map Collection. Madeleine's internship focused on generating a definitive list of Australian Maps in the Collection, as well as reorganising the collection for practical use by CartoGIS. Throughout her internship, Madeleine's drive, curiosity, careful attention to detail, and flexibility made her a delight to work with, and her work with the Australia maps has been an invaluable contribution to the Collection.

The prize, open to students that undertook an internship program in 2021 through the ANU Museum and Collections Program Internship Course, recognised Madeleine's work with CartoGIS and the ANU Asia-Pacific Map Collection in winter 2021. **The CartoGIS team and the ANU Collections community wish to congratulate Madeleine on her receipt of the Australian Museums and Galleries (AMaGA) ACT Branch Internship Prize for 2021, and wish her all the best for her upcoming Doctoral studies!**

Madeleine Tan, winner of the AMAGA ACT-branch Internship Prize 2021.





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**FRONT COVER IMAGE:**

Peng wig made by Meian of the Kugika Clan, South Waghi Valley and collected by Marie Reay, New Guinea Collection (CASS).