



KATOOMBA, NSW, 1 - 3 NOVEMBER 2017

Guns, Maps and locks of hair: Inter-organisational outreach and advocacy in the ACT

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ABSTRACT

Over the last three years the ACT Division of AICCM have collaborated with the University of Canberra and Canberra Museum and Gallery to present events during the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. These have comprised of an evening of talks and two conservation clinics. These events have been successful and well subscribed, and have helped develop strong relationships between the bodies involved and the Canberra public. The aims of these outreach events at a grassroots level is to connect the profession with the wider Canberra community and increase the knowledge about conservation to the public. Ultimately these efforts hope to increase the support base for heritage conservation. The inter-organisational collaboration also allows heritage and conservation students to be exposed to an environment beyond the classroom and major cultural institutions. It has also given them an opportunity to learn from experienced conservators as they interact with the public through the conservation clinics. The paper outlines the strategies behind the collaborations, how ideas were formulated, and the planning and staging of the events. It will also reflect on interesting aspects of community outreach that can be used for future advocacy efforts. It is hoped that the experiences and lessons learnt from the ACT will assist other state divisions or institutions in furthering their own community outreach efforts.

BIOGRAPHIES

Ian Batterham was among the first intake of students for the original materials conservation course at the CCAE. He graduated in 1980 and took up a position at the National Archives of Australia. Now retired, Ian teaches at the University of Canberra, where he mentors and guides students in heritage conservation.

Hakim Abdul Rahim is a wearer of many cardigans. He is currently pursuing his PhD that looks into the entangled relationships of university material culture within the university. His interest lies in the

natural sciences and their collections, youth engagement in heritage, university museums and collections, and crocheting.

Alison Wain is the Course Convenor for the Bachelor of Heritage, Museums and Conservation at the University of Canberra. Alison has a background in the conservation of archaeological and historic objects and is particularly interested in the ways in which people value, preserve and display large heritage machinery. Her other research interests include the preservation of intangible and digital heritage, the use of lasers for the analysis and cleaning of heritage artefacts, and the development of materials conservation practice and conservation science.