

• ARCHIVES • HISTORIC PRESERVATION

LIBRARIES • MUSEUMS



# MayDay

SAVING OUR MUSEUMS  
MAY 1 • 2008

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

PREPAREDNESS PROTECTS OUR HERITAGE

During the month of May, archives, galleries, libraries, museums, cultural heritage sites and organisations across Australia are encouraged to participate in MayDay—a national campaign for the protection of cultural heritage from disaster. An initiative of the Blue Shield Australia Committee, MayDay aims to raise awareness about disaster preparedness and to encourage people to perform at least one disaster-preparedness task in May each year.

There are many types of emergencies that we can be better prepared for, from the potential impact of faulty electrical wiring in the building next door, to bushfires, cyclones and floods. Cultural heritage organisations are encouraged to print-off the MayDay 2008 flyer and post it on notice-boards before 1 May (from the Blue Shield Australia Committee website in April: <http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au/australian+national+committee+of+the+blue+shield.aspx>). Then act upon one or more of the suggested activities. Here are some of the suggestions from this year's flyer:

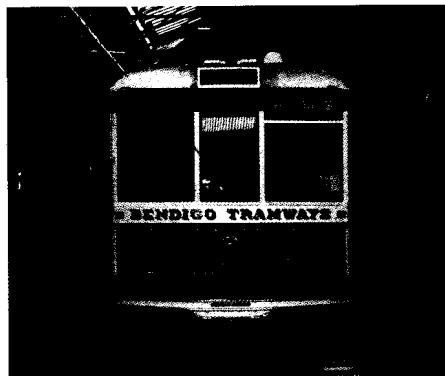
- If you have a disaster plan, dust it off and make sure it's up to date or make a timeline for developing one.
- Get to know your local firefighters and police and invite them to tour your organisation and give you pointers on safety and preparedness.
- Identify the three biggest risks to your collection or heritage site.
- Meet with the people working in the other cultural organisations in your area to see how your can share resources in the event of a disaster.
- Attend a Disaster Planning for Cultural Collections workshop in your city between May and September.
- Participate in activities associated with 'Business Continuity Awareness Week' between 28 April–2 May.

For more information contact Veronica Bullock, Development Officer, Collections Council of Australia, at [blueshield@collectionscouncil.com.au](mailto:blueshield@collectionscouncil.com.au), or call (8) 8207 7287.

Veronica participates in Blue Shield meetings as a member of its Secretariat.

## Snapshots and Stories: a collaboration and an exhibition

Corinne Perkins, Bendigo Art Gallery



In March this year Bendigo Art Gallery will host a local heritage exhibition, *Snapshots & Stories: Exploring Heritage Collections in Bendigo*. This exhibition is the result of a collaboration between the Bendigo Art Gallery and eighteen central Victorian based heritage organisations. *Snapshots & Stories* will draw on the collections and research of this diverse selection of community groups and celebrates the valuable contributions they make to preserving and interpreting our history. The exhibition will be a window into our past by exploring the lives and events that have contributed to Bendigo's rich history.

This exhibition will explore the idea that the objects, photographs and documents we collect that can offer us snapshots into the lives and experiences of the individuals who people our history. Every object and each person has a story to tell. Collectively these stories weave together creating a multi-layered glimpse into our history. A postcard written in the trenches on the Western Front, late 19th century tailors scissors, a tram conductor's hat, an internment peg, a Cornish miner's family bible, the 1854 first edition of the Bendigo Advertiser or a pair of children's shoes, are each objects with fascinating stories to be shared. Other items to be on display include artwork, photographs, oral history and short film.

The range of local history covered in *Snapshots & Stories* includes the childhood epidemics of the 1930s, the rise and fall of the eucalyptus industry, the Indigenous experience, the history of the Bendigo Easter Fair and the contribution of local migrant groups. Each of the heritage groups involved will be contributing objects, oral history or

research to an individual topic area relevant to their own collection or community. The groups involved include:

- Bendigo Cemeteries Trust
- Bendigo Health
- Bendigo Historical Society
- Bendigo Irish Association
- Bendigo Tramways
- Bendigo & District Caledonian Society
- Bendigo & District Cornish Association
- Campaspe Run
- Central Deborah Gold Mine
- Eaglehawk Heritage Society
- Elmore Progress Association Museum
- German Heritage Association Bendigo
- Golden Dragon Museum & Chinese Association
- Heathcote Mclvor Historical Society
- Huntly & Districts Historical Society
- Jaara Jaara Loddon Aboriginal Corporation and La Trobe University
- National Trust (Victoria) Bendigo Branch
- and the Bendigo & District RSL Military Museum.

*Snapshots & Stories* is as much an exhibition about the richness of Bendigo's history as it is about the diverse and passionate groups who preserve and treasure it for the future.

Corinne Perkin is the Professional in Residence with the Bendigo Art Gallery. The Professional in Residence position is funded through Arts Victoria under their Community Partnerships program, for information visit: [www.arts.vic.gov.au](http://www.arts.vic.gov.au).

*Snapshots & Stories* is on from 1 March–20 April 2008. Bendigo Art Gallery is located at 42 View St Bendigo and is open every day from 10am–5pm, entry is by donation. For further information visit: [www.bendigoartgallery.com.au](http://www.bendigoartgallery.com.au) or call (03) 5434 6088.

**Above right** Furphy's Farm Water Cart c1942. Collection, Campaspe Run HV McKay Rural Discovery Centre Elmore. Photograph by Rebecca Perkin.