



Australian Society of Archivists

VIC NEWSLETTER:

Winter 2026

ASA Victorian Branch
Committee Newsletter



▶ WOMINJEKA!

Welcome to the Winter ASA Vic Branch newsletter for 2026. Winter is upon us and there are backlogs to tackle, events to organise, and project work to sign off on. Whatever it is you're up to, let us know. This newsletter contains a small taste of what is going on in the archives in Victoria.



▶ IN THIS ISSUE...

- On 21st of April, members of the ASA Vic group, along with friends and family attended the Australian Museum of Performing Arts' (AMPA) inaugural DIVA exhibition
- We ask Kathryn Hore (Melbourne University Archivist) three questions
- Conference Round up event
- NEWS

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▶ ASA VIC BRANCH OFFICE BEARERS

The Victorian Branch Committee for 2025-2026, elected at the AGM held 26 August 2025, is:

- Convenor: Jack Eastaugh
- Secretary: Susannah Tindall
- Treasurer: Jacqui Altman
- Communications Officer: James Lee
- Committee: Nik McGrath, Saribel Minero, Paige Morrison

▶ **DIVA Exhibition Excursion**



On 21st of April, members of the ASA Vic group, along with friends and family attended the [Australian Museum of Performing Arts](#)' (AMPA) inaugural DIVA exhibition. The visit to the museum was followed by dinner and drinks at a nearby bar overlooking Melbourne's Yarra River and Princes Bridge.

The exhibition was a collaborative project between Arts Centre Melbourne and the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), London, and featured more than 60 costumes and 260 objects related to historical and contemporary musicians and performing artists. Items from Art Centre Melbourne included costumes worn by Australian icons such as Kylie Minogue, Olivia Newton-John and Dame Edna Everage. While the V&A contributions included incredible pieces worn by Madonna, Elton John, Björk, and Lady Gaga.

The concept of the 'diva' was also challenged by the exhibit, as it celebrated the full range of performing arts. Displays included modern rock artists, such as Amy Taylor's whoopie cushion outfit from Amyl and the Sniffers 2025 AC/DC tour - to 125-year-old dresses worn by opera soprano, Dame Nellie Melba. AMPA celebrated the broad scope of musical performance, from the stage to the cinema screen.

Unfortunately the DIVA exhibition finished at the end of April, however we would recommend keeping an eye out for future AMPA events, including their upcoming exhibition [ENCORE!](#) which opens on 16 September 2026.

Sincere thanks to everyone who joined us on an uncharacteristically sunny and warm April afternoon in Melbourne. It was a relaxed Tuesday spent reconnecting with colleagues and making new connections, bringing together Victorian branch members, visiting members from other states, and friends and family.

Jack Eastaugh, Convenor - ASA Vic Branch



L: Elton John's 50th birthday outfit and R: Rihanna's Met Gala dress (2018). Photo Paige Morrison



Kylie Minogue's Showgirl Tour dress (2005). Photo Paige Morrison

▶ THREE QUESTIONS WITH...

Kathryn Hore is the University Archivist and Associate Director, Archives & Special Collections at University of Melbourne. For over ten years, she has worked in a variety of senior information management roles within the higher education sector.

She is also a writer of speculative and twisting fiction. Her most recent novel, *The Stranger* is published through Allen & Unwin.



The University of Melbourne Archives (UMA) is one of Australia's largest non-government research archives, with a collection of nearly 20km of records.

<https://library.unimelb.edu.au/asc/collections/archives>

▶ Q1: Why archives?

It's the intersection of two disciplines — history and information management. Like most archivists, I'm a lover of history, and in particular, the materiality of it, the documents and objects that encapsulate the stories of the past. And I've made the management of high volumes of information a career, working across different fields and formats and types, but always with a focus on large collections and how best to organise them. Archives combines it all.

Plus I never could focus on just one time period or topic enough to develop a deep historical expertise in it. As an archivist, I can play across all of history.

▶ Q2. Any advice?

Learn how to write a decent business case and justify the existence of the archive to those who might not understand why it matters. Archives are, usually, a small part of a bigger organisation, and understanding what the archival collections mean to that organisation, and how the collection supports its overall mission, is crucial – especially being able to communicate it in a way that engages those who determine the resourcing.



▶ Q3. What's happening?

History is happening! Tomorrow's history, being created and documented today. And in 2026, it's being recorded almost entirely digitally, so if we're not comprehensively collecting and managing digital records now, we're missing it.

I'll always be curious about what the archives of 150 or so years into the future will look like, if there'll be any big gaps in the record from the early digital decades as we adjusted our archival approaches to the new digital world, and if there'll be an obvious point where our digital archiving and preservation efforts clearly kicked in. Or if we'll have nailed it early enough that the historical record seamlessly shifts from physical to digital.

REFLECTIONS FROM CONFERENCE ROUND UP 18/03/2026

An Overview by **Jack Eastaugh**, Event Convenor.

In March ASA Vic held a conference round-up panel, where industry professionals spoke about their experiences attending and presenting at several GLAMR conferences. The evening began with a short presentation by Jacqui Sanders, where she gave a version of the lecture she gave at the ASA conference, titled 'Lost voices, forgotten lives: Exploring the archives from Ararat Mental Asylum'.

We then invited a panel of guests to discuss several conferences. Jacqui and Alejandro Garcia Munoz discussed the ASA 2025 Conference 'Telling Our Stories: Community, Connection, Resilience'. Susannah Tindall spoke about her presentation to the International Archives Congress 2025: 'Knowing pasts, creating futures' in Barcelona. Lastly, Paige Morrison talked about attending and presenting at RIMPA Live Show 2025.

The group panel was a casual discussion where members of the audience chimed in with insightful thoughts on current GLAMR conferences, as well as the state of the industry. The event was an enjoyable way of taking stock of developments in the archives world, as well as catching up with old colleagues and meeting new professionals. Thank you for Jacqui, Alejandro, Susannah and Paige for speaking.

For further reading about Jacqui's fantastic book, and the history of Ararat Mental Asylum, please listen to the episode of Behind the Walls of the World's Psychiatric Hospitals, featuring Jacqui. [Ep. 97: Interview with Jacqui Sanders](#)

Content Warning: This podcast includes discussion of the history of asylums in Victoria, mental health care, and children in institutional settings. These topics may be confronting for some listeners.

REFLECTIONS FROM CONFERENCE ROUND UP 18/03/2026

Alejandro Garcia Munoz is a professional in library, archival and information science. He has worked in different collecting institutions, including Museums Victoria as a Research Assistant and Collection Deaccession Officer for Sciences. Here are his reflections of the event.

- **Cross-Cultural Perspectives:** Attending my first Australian archivist conference was an enriching experience. It allowed me to compare local practices with those I learned in Colombia, insights I was later able to share during a panel for my university back home.
- **Transformative Research:** A major highlight was Kath Apma Penangke Travis's presentation on using archives to turn Aboriginal history into a 'living story.' Learning recently about my own Indigenous (Muisca) ancestry gave her words a profound personal meaning. It showed me the real potential of applying her approach in South America to give voice to histories that are currently only told through ancient documents.
- **Hands-On Workshops:** I thoroughly enjoyed the 'Linking Archives on Wikipedia' session. It was highly practical and taught us how to use digitized collections to fill information gaps with reliable archival sources.
- **Advice for Future Attendees:** My top recommendations for anyone attending future events are to plan your agenda early to handle overlapping sessions, stay close to the venue, and always be open to networking and asking questions.

PHOTOS FROM CONFERENCE ROUND UP

18/03/2026



ASA Vic Branch convenor Jack Eastaugh convenes the event



Jack Eastaugh introduces Jacqui Sanders



L-R: Paige Morrison, Alejandro Garcia Munoz, Jacqui Sanders & Jack.



Panel including, far left, Susannah Tindall



ASA Vic Branch panel discussion included reflections on the ASA Conference, RIMPA Live Convention 2025, International Archives Congress 2025: Knowing pasts, creating futures.

NEWS:



The International Council on Archives (ICA) has announced the theme for International Archives Week 2026 (#IAW2026): #ArchivesForJustice: Rights, Memory & Futures.

International Archives Week 2026: 8–12 June 2026

The International Council On Archives is encouraging archivists around the world to host an event, webinar, or discussion that explores the role of archives in supporting justice, rights, and memory. Showcase initiatives that highlight accountability, inclusion, and ethical stewardship in archival practice. Collaborate with local institutions, professionals, and communities to create meaningful and engaging activities. Don't forget to share your event with the global archival community by adding it to the #IAW2026 Agenda.

MORE INFO: <https://www.ica.org/international-archives-week/iaw2026/>

▶ MORE STUFF

A huge thanks to all those who contributed to this newsletter. Your generosity of spirit is welcomed and appreciated.



BTW: If you know of, or have participated in any volunteer roles and think others might benefit from opportunities you're aware of, please let us know.



As Archivists, we're naturally curious people. We know you're doing amazing work and we'd love to hear more about it. If you'd like to contribute something in a similar vein to that included here, please feel free to do so. Contact James Lee at asavic@archivists.org.au for all news-related things.