



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# Expressions of Interest

Conservation Interns - volunteer  
Grimwade Conservation Services

## Summary

Seeking 2 volunteer Conservation Interns to assist with the conservation of a collection of books from the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

Expressions of Interest Due:  
11 March 2022

Lab-based treatment work

## About this project



Grimwade Conservation Services is partnering with the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute to deliver a series of projects to conserve vulnerable and significant items from their Heritage Collection. Conservation will focus on the Ferdinand von Mueller Collection of botanical specimens, rare books and a large fragile 19th-Century oil painting.

Several significant and at-risk items have been identified for as the focus of the first stage of conservation treatment, specifically work to the rare books collection. We are seeking 2 volunteer student interns to assist us with the following activities:

- Photographic documentation and condition reporting
- Dry cleaning and minor repairs
- Construction of functional conservation enclosures including wrapper to support loose and detached board, Mylar jackets, and book shoes.

This opportunity is ideally suited to students who would like book conservation experience in our paper lab. Students interested in paper and book conservation are encouraged to apply.

**When:** 6 weeks from mid-May to June 2022

**Time commitment:** 2 consecutive days per week in the labs preferred, Tuesday to Thursday.

**Location:** Grimwade Conservation Services labs, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne.

### Further information:

Penny Tripp  
General Manager  
Grimwade Conservation  
Services

[ptripp@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ptripp@unimelb.edu.au)

## Rare Book Collections

The Ballarat Mechanics' Institute Collection is of historical significance as the largest and most intact Mechanics' Institutes collection in Victoria. The collection includes rare and valuable items and demonstrates the tastes and interests of the inhabitants of a major regional centre in Victoria. The collection comprises 16,667 books, journals and newspapers acquired by the Institute since its inception in 1859, along with artefacts and the institute archives, available for public access in the Heritage Reading Room.

The largely 19<sup>th</sup>-Century book collection includes early Ballarat and Australian colonial publications and books of a range of subjects including mining, engineering, natural science exploration and history. Conservation treatment will focus on two groups:

- 16 volumes published by Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, and
- 33 significant and high-value volumes.

Conservation treatment will focus on cleaning, stabilisation, and the construction of protective enclosures.



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## Grimwade Conservation Services

Grimwade Conservation Services specialises in all areas of cultural material conservation. As a trusted leader in conservation practice and training in Australia and the Asia Pacific region, our client base includes significant national, state and regional public collections and cultural organisations; commercial galleries; corporate collections; arts communities; and private collections.

The team of 16 specialist conservators have deep experience working across a range of materials and collaborating with University researchers to deliver world class conservation results of global significance.

Grimwade Conservation Services is part of the Faculty of Arts.

Visit Grimwade Conservation Services website for further information:

<https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/grimwade-centre-for-cultural-materials-conservation/conservation-services>



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## Expressions of Interest

Please submit your expression of interest to become a volunteer Conservation Intern to Penny Tripp, General Manager of Grimwade Conservation Services via email **by 11 March 2022**. Your EOI can be in email form and should include:

1. A short statement of 2-3 dot points on why you would like to be involved in this project.
2. A one-page CV

If you have any questions, please email:

Penny Tripp  
General Manager, Grimwade Conservation Services  
[ptripp@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ptripp@unimelb.edu.au)

**Grimwade Conservation Services**



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