



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Expressions of Interest

Conservation Interns - volunteer
Grimwade Conservation Services

Summary

Seeking 1-2 volunteer Conservation Interns to assist with the conservation of Rippon Lea ceiling tiles

Expressions of Interest Due:
25 February 2022

Lab-based treatment work,
opportunity to work off-site
at Rippon Lea

About this project



The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and Grimwade Conservation Services are partnering to deliver conservation treatment services to sections of an ornate decorative ceiling at Rippon Lea mansion.

The treatment works include working with paper conservation and conservation technicians to:

- Clean, flatten and repair a group of detached moulded paper ceiling tiles
- Observe and assist with casting and recreating lost panels
- Support conservation staff to install finished tiles at Rippon Lea
- Document conservation treatment for on-line and social media content

This opportunity is ideally suited to students who would like treatment experience in our paper lab. The tiles are made of compressed paper. Students interested in paper or object conservation are encouraged to apply. Completion of Working at Heights training would be desirable, but not essential.

When: March to April 2022 in lab, onsite installation dates tbc

Time commitment: Estimated at 1 day per week in the labs, Tuesday to Friday, flexible.

Location: Grimwade Conservation Services labs, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne, and onsite at Rippon Lea mansion.

Further information:

Penny Tripp

General Manager

Grimwade Conservation
Services

ptripp@unimelb.edu.au

Rippon Lea estate

Rippon Lea estate, owned by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), is a large 19th century mansion surrounded by 14 acres of Victorian pleasure gardens. It is listed on the National Heritage Register as one of the finest examples of original suburban estate in Australia.

The mansion was completed in 1868 and was built for Frederick Sargood. The property is named after Sargood's mother's maiden-name, Rippon. Lea is an English word for meadow. The property originally featured a large, self-sufficient farm, about twice the size it is today. The mansion itself was originally 15 rooms; it currently has 33 rooms. Sargood moved in with his first wife, Marian, and their 9 surviving children. There were 7 maids, a butler, 7 gardeners, a coachman and a groom. Sargood was a typical man of the Victorian Age – visionary and practical. This resulted in an elaborate underground watering system and the house having its own electricity supply. Unusually for its time, the house had internal toilets.

Sargood was a keen gardener who was particularly interested in orchids and ferns. The garden is complex and covers almost 14 acres, which includes a large lake, extensive shrubberies and flower gardens, an orchard of historically significant fruit varieties, a fernery, rose gardens and many other features of historical, landscape and architectural interest, all forming the setting for the polychrome brick mansion completed in 1868. The mansion and gardens are tended by six gardeners and a team of volunteers.



Interior ceiling tile loss

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>



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 25 February 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

Grimwade Conservation Services



twitter.com/cultcoms



[Instagram.com/grimwadeconservation](https://www.instagram.com/grimwadeconservation)