



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 botanical specimens from the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute

Expressions of Interest Due: Wednesday 27 July 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 second stage of conservation treatment, specifically work with a collection of approximately 220 nineteenth-century dried botanical specimens comprising Baron Ferdinand von Mueller's *Education Collections of Australia Plants under the auspices of the Australian Government*. 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 custom mounts for long-term housing

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

**When:** 8 weeks from late-July to end of September 2022

**Time commitment:** 1-2 days per week on Thursday and/or Fridays.

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

### Further information:

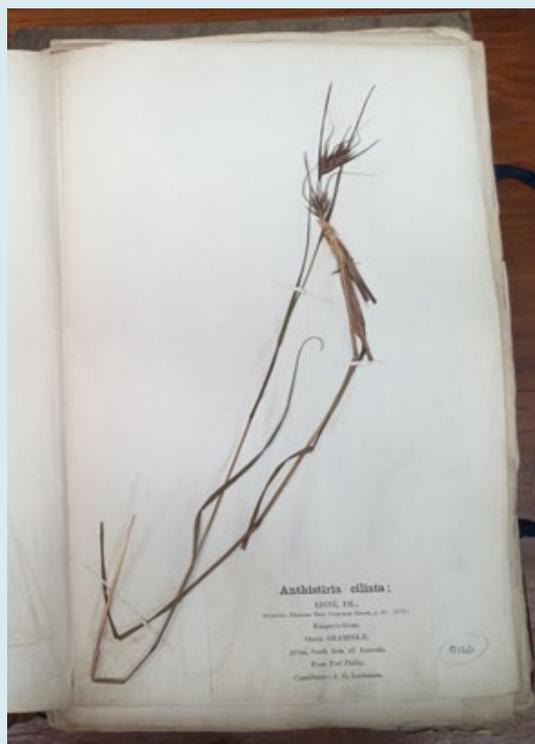
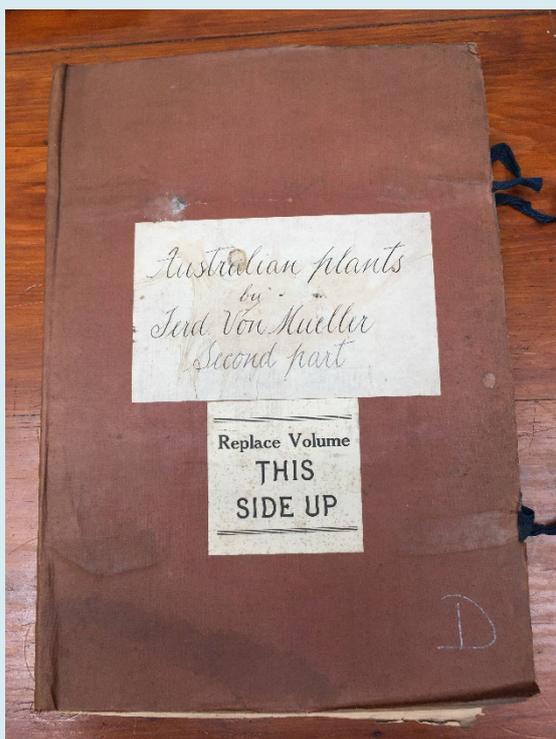
Penny Tripp  
General Manager  
Grimwade Conservation  
Services

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

## Baron Ferdinand von Mueller's Education Collections of Australia Plants under the auspices of the Australian Government

Baron von Mueller's collection of dried and mounted native plant specimens has been identified as the key at-risk item in the Institute's Heritage Collection. These specimens had been collated and presented to selected Institutions in Victoria, during the period when Von Mueller was the director of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens and the Herbarium from 1873 (vol.1), 1875 (vol.2), and 1876 (vol.3). The BMI was on von Mueller's mailing list for some of the first copies and holds all three volumes currently. They are currently not let out to the public due to handling concerns.

Von Mueller was a leading Australian botanist and was government botanist for the colony of Victoria (appointed by Charles la Trobe in 1853). He went on to become the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and founder of the National Herbarium of Victoria. This collection has strong links to the National Herbarium of Victoria, as Von Mueller himself took printed inscriptions from several of the mounted specimens from the Herbarium and adhered to the specimens at the Institute. That the Ballarat Mechanics Institute holds these items in their collection demonstrates the importance of the Institute as a key collecting and research institution throughout the nineteenth century.



Conservation will be minimally interventive in keeping with best practice for the care of botanical specimens. Students who assist with this project will learn about appropriate approaches for the conservation of fragile scientific collections and assist with the construction of archival supports. They may also assist with paper repairs, dry cleaning, and securing of loose or vulnerable specimens.

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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 27 July 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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