



MARGARET BIRTLEY

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Curriculum Vitae

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Overview

Through her work in museums, heritage, advocacy and sporting organisations, universities and professional associations, Margaret Birtley has over 40 years of professional experience in the not-for-profit sector. She established *Margaret Birtley Consulting* in 2010 and became an Associate of *Significance International Pty Ltd* in 2013.

As an educator, Margaret lectured first in early medieval languages, and later in Museum Studies. She has held honorary roles with the University of South Australia and Deakin University, and now offers training services through her consultancy business.

As a researcher and advisor, Margaret directed *A Study into the Key Needs of Collecting Institutions in the Heritage Sector* (2002) and contributed to *Conservation Survey 2006* and the *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries* (2008). She coordinated *Closed by COVID-19? A Practice Guide for managers of heritage collection that are closed at short notice because of an epidemic or pandemic* (2020). She is an expert 'Detailed Assessor' for the Australian Research Council and a member of the National Collection Advisory Panel for Singapore's National Heritage Board.

As a manager and leader, Margaret established a secretariat for the Collections Council of Australia Ltd and served from 2005 to 2010 as CEO and Company Secretary to the Board. While with the Collections Council, she helped inaugurate Blue Shield Australia (an equivalent of the Red Cross for cultural heritage) and organised many projects and events, including a Summit on digital heritage collections. As the General Manager Heritage and Tourism at the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) from 2010 to 2013, she was responsible for the National Sports Museum and Melbourne Cricket Ground Tours as well as the MCC's archives, library and museum. She served as Executive Officer for the Victorian Branch of the Museums Association of Australia (1987-1990) and for the History Council of Victoria (2013-2020).

As a museum practitioner, Margaret was employed as Manager of Visitor Programs at Scienceworks from 1990 to 1994. She has undertaken a number of voluntary roles with museums, boards and committees, including leadership roles with professional associations. She has provided advice to governments through appointment to several state, national and international advisory committees. She helped Museums Australia to shape a new definition of 'museum', and to write its pioneering guidelines on sustainability – a topic of enduring relevance to the operation of all organisations.

Margaret has completed the *Australian Museum Leadership Program*. She holds a Graduate Certificate of Management and a Certificate in Governance for Not-for-Profits. She actively maintains her professional knowledge through membership of relevant professional associations, and by attending seminars and conferences.

On Australia Day 2017, Margaret was honoured with the award of Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) 'for significant service to cultural heritage, particularly to the museums sector, to education, and to historical preservation'.

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Qualifications

2019	Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate (Victoria)
2018	Working With Children Check (issued in Victoria; expires 25 August 2022)
2013	Certificate in Governance for Not-for-Profits Governance Institute of Australia
1998	Graduate Certificate of Management Deakin University
1978	Master of Philosophy University of Oxford
1975	Bachelor of Arts (Hons) University of Melbourne

Professional Memberships

- Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material
- Australian Library and Information Association
- Australian Museums and Galleries Association (formerly: Museums Australia)
- Australian Society of Archivists
- Governance Institute of Australia (formerly: Chartered Secretaries Australia)
- International Council of Museums
- Interpretation Australia Association
- Museums Association (U.K.)
- National Association for the Visual Arts

Professional Development Courses (selected)

- 2016 *Managing Change: Historic House Museum Workshop*
Half-day workshop
National Trusts of Australia & Australia ICOMOS
- 2016 *Masterclass: Loans and Deaccessioning*
Half-day workshop
Ian McDonald for Museums Australia (Victoria)
- 2014 *Masterclass: The Ethics of Acquisition*
Half-day workshop
Shane Simpson and Ian McDonald for Museums Australia (Victoria)
- 2013 *Significance Assessment masterclass*
2-day workshop
Veronica Bullock and Roslyn Russell for Significance International
- 2012 *Connect with Donors*
1-day workshop
Kenneth Park for the Australian Business Arts Foundation
- 2012 *Museum Leadership Program – Alumni Masterclass*
3-day residential program
Museums Australia
- 2012 *Effective Conversations*
half-day workshop
Melbourne Cricket Club
- 2011 *Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Inspire their Team*
half-day seminar
Liz Wiseman for the Australian Institute of Management
- 2011 *Coaching Skills for Managers*
1-day workshop
Jacqui Priestly for Drake Training
- 2011 *Assessing Risks to your Collection*
1-day workshop
Robert Waller for Museum Victoria
- 2004 *HASS on the Hill*
2-day conference including practical sessions on political advocacy
Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
- 2000 *Museum Leadership Program Refresher*
3-day residential course
Museums Australia
- 1999 *Museum Leadership Program*
8-day residential course
Museums Australia
- 1991 *Total Quality Management*
5-day residential course
Museum of Victoria

Selected Professional Development Courses (cont'd)

1979 *16mm Film Projection – Theory and Practice*
part-time 6-month certificate course
RMIT

1976 *Certificate of Proficiency in Modern Icelandic*
University of Iceland

Consultancy Projects

Margaret Birtley Consulting

- 2021 Advice to the Benalla Historical Society on the development of the Benalla Costume and Kelly Museum
- 2019 Advice to the City of Manningham in relation to proposed capital works associated with Schramm’s Cottage Museum Complex
- 2019 Preparation of an Acquisition Policy for Bendigo Art Gallery Ltd and a Collection Management Policy for Bendigo Art Gallery and the City of Greater Bendigo
- 2018-19 Report on a proposed Collections Policy and associated documentation for collection management for the La Perouse Museum (for Significance International) – click [HERE](#) to access the finalised policy
- 2018-19 Significance assessment of the Bendigo Art Gallery collection
- 2018-19 Significance assessment of, and future options for, a major collection relating to Australia Rules football, for the Victorian Government
- 2017 & 18 Presentations on behalf of Significance International, on significance assessment for recipients of Community Heritage Grants at the National Library of Australia ([2017](#); [2018](#))
- 2017 Strategic planning advice for RMIT Gallery
- 2016 Deaccessioning Workshop for Yarra Ranges Council
- 2016 Literature review for the National Trust of South Australia
- 2016 Report on a proposed new Collections Policy for the Australian National University (for Significance International); the ANU published the [Policy](#) and [Procedure](#) in April 2017
- 2016 Contributions to [projects on collection management and oral history](#) for the Telstra Heritage Collection (for Significance International)
- 2015 Report on a grant program for the Department of Culture and the Arts, Western Australia
- 2014 Coordination of significance assessments of the Telstra Heritage Collection, and contributions to a report on the current state of the collection (for Significance International)
- 2014 Contributions to a report on the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies collection, Canberra (for Significance International). [Click [here](#) and [here](#) to read about the outcomes from this project.]
- 2014 Significance assessment, Albert Park–South Melbourne Rowing Club (for Significance International). [Click [here](#) to read about the outcomes from this project.]

Consultancy Projects (cont'd)

Margaret Birtley Consulting (cont'd)

- 2014 Archives assessment and re-housing project, Victorian Young Farmers Inc.
- 2014 Training in museum standards for the Army Museums Network, Department of Defence
- 2013 Grant application prepared on behalf of Glenhuntly Athletic Club, Victoria
- 2013 Assistance with projects for Significance International Pty Ltd, Canberra
- 2010 Preliminary assessment of the significance of collections at Carrick Hill, South Australia

Collections Council of Australia

- 2005 – 2006 Project Manager for the Australian contribution to *Cultural Spend and Infrastructure*, undertaken by AEA Consulting as an international benchmarking study for the UK's Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

Deakin University

- 2004 Director of a four-week study tour and Museum Studies course for seven personnel from the Military Museum of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces
- 2004 Facilitator of peer-review of an exhibition at Jewish Museum of Australia
- 2002 – 2005 Co-ordinator and chief presenter of *An Introduction to Museum Practice*, an annual intensive one-week course for personnel from the Army Museums Network, commissioned by the Army History Unit
- 2003 Facilitator of planning workshop for the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria's Heritage Collections
- 2001 Senior Researcher in the Deakin University team that undertook the Australia-wide *Study into the Key Needs of Collecting Institutions in the Heritage Sector*, commissioned by the Cultural Ministers' Council
- 2000 Presenter of a set of short courses for volunteer personnel at the National Wool Museum, Geelong
- 2000 Bid Manager and Project Adviser for a Feasibility Study of the future management options for the Airservices Australia Historical Collections, commissioned by Airservices Australia
- 1998 – 1999 Contributor to the planning of a web site about the War Heritage of South Western Victoria, commissioned by the Department of Veterans' Affairs from the Centre for Regional Development, Deakin University (Warrnambool campus)
- 1998 Co-ordinator of a two-week ASEAN Art Museum Professionals Workshop and Study Tour, in collaboration with Asialink (University of Melbourne)
- 1995 Facilitator of staff contribution to the Brief for Observatory Gate, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
- 1995 Contributor to a report on the Australian House Museum at the Waurn Ponds campus, commissioned by the Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University
- 1994 Member of a team that produced a Brief for a Conservation Information Kit, commissioned by the Heritage Collections Council

Employment History

2013 (December) – 2020 (December)

Executive Officer (part-time, 1 day per week)

History Council of Victoria Inc., Melbourne, Victoria

<http://historycouncilvic.org.au/>

Company Description

The History Council of Victoria (HCV) was initiated as a Ministerial Advisory Council in 2001 and incorporated as an association in 2003. It is the peak body for history in Victoria, aiming to connect Victorians with history and to inspire engagement with the past, their identity and the world today. It comprises representatives from cultural institutions and heritage bodies, history teachers and curriculum advisors, academic and professional historians, and local indigenous and community history organisations. The Executive Officer is the sole employee of the association.

Responsibilities

- Secretary of the association
- Administration: providing support to the HCV Board and its committees; drafting plans, correspondence and reports; managing the office; maintaining the website; coordinating public programs
- Finances: preparing grant applications and acquittal reports; managing budgets and expenditure in consultation with the Hon. Treasurer and the book-keeper.
- Community Outreach: liaising with historians, the school sector, plus other educational and cultural bodies and individuals as required, to develop and implement programs such as the Annual Lecture, the *Making Public Histories* seminar series and the History Roadshow tours; communicating through the website, E-news bulletin, Twitter and Facebook.

Additional achievements

- Establishment of the [HCV Friends](#) program.
- Publication of the Australian [Value of History statement](#).
- Development of the History Councils of Australia.

2010 – 2013

Melbourne Cricket Club, East Melbourne, Victoria

<http://www.mcc.org.au> and <http://www.nsm.org.au>

Company Description

The Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) is a private club with public responsibilities. As a private club, it coordinates sporting and social activities and benefits for a membership of over 100,000 and manages the club's heritage collections through the MCC Library, MCC Museum and MCC Archives. Its public responsibilities include the management of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Yarra Park and the National Sports Museum (NSM).

At the MCC, Margaret held two roles: General Manager Heritage and Tourism (2010-2012) and Executive Manager Heritage (2012-2013). Details of these roles are on the following pages.

Employment History (cont'd)

Melbourne Cricket Club (cont'd)

Executive Manager Heritage

26 July 2012 – 11 September 2013

Responsibilities

- Leadership of the MCC's Heritage team within the Membership and Heritage department
- Strategic, business and financial planning and reporting in relation to the MCC Library and MCC Archives
- Project management of commissions for statues in the Australia Post Avenue of Legends
- Convening of a working group to plan the MCC's 175th anniversary celebrations
- Development of a Giving Program to benefit the MCC Foundation Ltd

Achievements

- Gained MCC approval for a program of major events and activities to celebrate the club's 175th anniversary, and managed the development of an artistic brief for a significant anniversary gift
- Oversaw the Library's development of plans for improvement of its cataloguing systems and online access services
- Oversaw the Archives' development of a substantial deaccessioning policy and procedure
- Coordinated the commissioning of a statue of Australian footballer John Coleman (unveiled in September 2013)
- Finalised a major report for the MCC on the relationship between its several heritage collections, and proposed a new approach for the division of objects between those collections (Archives, Library and Museum)

General Manager Heritage and Tourism

June 2010 – July 2012

Responsibilities

- Leadership of the MCC's Heritage and Tourism department
- Strategic, business and financial planning and reporting in relation to the NSM, the MCG Tours, the MCC Museum and the MCC Library and MCC Archives
- Project management, including supervision of consultants and contractors
- Acquittal of sponsorship and project grants

Achievements

- Initiated the successful re-branding of the NSM and MCG Tours
- Initiated major improvements to the ticketing, online sales and point-of-sale systems for the NSM and MCG Tours
- Led the work of an interdepartmental Marketing and Communications team in support of the NSM and MCG Tours, with the result that visitation in 2012-13 equalled the high level attained in 2008-09, the first year of the Museum's operation

Employment History (cont'd)

Melbourne Cricket Club (cont'd)

- Directed the work of Haystac Active as the contract publicist for the NSM
- Chaired the regular meetings of a Volunteer Reference Group
- Facilitated the NSM's introduction of Smart Auslan to make the content of audio tours accessible for Deaf and hearing impaired people
- Managed the Great Netball Shootout, a public program with sponsorship from the rail industry
- Oversaw the accreditation of the NSM and the reaccreditation of the MCC Museum and the Australian Gallery of Sport and Olympic Museum, under the Museum Accreditation Program managed by Museums Australia (Victoria)
- Represented the MCC's tourism interests as a delegate on the Victorian government's Super Trade Mission to India, February 2012
- Liaised with Basil Sellers AM to ensure effective delivery of the National Sports Museum Creative Arts Fellowship that he sponsors
- Gained MCC approval for policies to make the MCC Archives accessible to researchers and stakeholders, and oversaw the promotion and implementation of these policies
- Instituted the MCC Heritage Research Fellowship which offers established scholars the opportunity to work closely with the heritage collections housed at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and appointed the first two Fellows during 2012

2005 – 2010 (April)

Chief Executive Officer

Collections Council of Australia Ltd, Adelaide, South Australia

<http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/56747/20120504-0833/www.collectionscouncil.com.au/index.html>

Company Description

The Collections Council of Australia (CCA) was established in 2004 by the then Cultural Ministers Council, an intergovernmental forum for ministers responsible for culture and the arts in Australia and New Zealand. The CCA aimed to advance the stability and sustainability of the Australian collections sector, particularly in relation to the gallery, library, archive and museum (GLAM) domains. The small secretariat in Adelaide fulfilled a nation-wide mandate. Following a decision by the Cultural Ministers Council in 2009 to cease its funding of the CCA, the Board resolved to wind up the company. That process was completed in 2010.

Responsibilities

- Representation of the Board's vision, purpose and strategic directions
- Leadership of the CCA's strategic, business and financial planning and reporting
- Management of Board business, as Company Secretary
- Management of the organisation, including financial operations, human resources and administrative systems
- Management of projects, including supervision of consultants
- Acquittal of operational grants (\$2,167,106 million) and project grants (\$291,000)

Employment History (cont'd)

Collections Council of Australia (cont'd)

Achievements

- Co-ordinated submissions to governments on a wide range of matters affecting the Australian collections sector
- Contributed to reports on conservation employment, collections mapping, convergence, data about the Australian collections sector, digital heritage collections, regional hubs, and sustainability reporting indicators for collecting organisations
- Directed the work of MediaWise as the contract publicist for the CCA
- Convened a Summit on Digital Collections (national conference, 2006)
- Facilitated the Taskforce that developed the inaugural *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries*
- Contributed to the foundation and first 5 years of Blue Shield Australia, an equivalent of the Red Cross for cultural heritage

1994 – 2005

Senior Lecturer in Museum Studies

Deakin University, Rusden and Burwood campuses, Victoria

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/find-a-course/cultural-heritage-and-museum-studies>

Company Description

Deakin University is the home of Victoria's first postgraduate program in Museum Studies. The Graduate Diploma of Museum Studies was initially located in the Faculty of Science and Technology. In 2000, the program relocated to the Faculty of Arts where it partnered new courses in Cultural Heritage.

Responsibilities

- Direction of post graduate courses in Museum Studies and also, from 2003, in Cultural Heritage
- Executive Officer to the Roslyn Lawry Award Committee for Excellence in Museum Studies
- Direction of the Centre for Science & Technology on the Burwood campus (1997)
- Co-ordination of the Rusden Campus operations of the School of Ecology and Environment (1996)

Achievements

- Participated as a Chief Investigator with an Australian Research Council Linkage grant (with industry partner Heritage Victoria) from 2003, for a PhD student whose thesis, now successfully completed, was entitled *Making Room for the Past: Determining Significance in Archaeological Collections from Historic Sites*
- Directed the *Introduction to Museum Practice* residential short course for the Army Museums Network, as commissioned annually since 2002 by the Army History Unit
- Led the *Study into the Key Needs of Collecting Institutions in the Heritage Sector*, commissioned in 2001 by the Cultural Ministers' Council
- Represented Deakin at a Field School Curriculum Development Workshop organised in Macao by the Asian Academy for Heritage Management (2004)

Employment History (cont'd)

Deakin University (cont'd)

- Inaugurated Deakin's distance education program in Museum Studies (ongoing since 1996)
- Prepared and delivered high-quality teaching materials and learning experiences for the entire range of curriculum areas in the Museum Studies program (including Collections, Ethics, Exhibitions, Marketing, Operations and Management, Public Programs, Research, and Strategic Planning)
- Co-ordinated practical placements and internships in Australian and overseas museums for over 250 students
- Gained reaccreditation for the postgraduate courses in Museum Studies in 2004, 2000 and 1995

1990 – 1994

Scienceworks, Museum Victoria

Manager Visitor Programs

<https://museums victoria.com.au/scienceworks/>

Company Description

Scienceworks is the science and technology campus of Museum Victoria. Located in the Melbourne suburb of Spotswood, the campus includes a purpose-built museum building (1991), an arena for outdoor demonstrations and activities, and the historic Spotswood Pumping Station (1898). The museum presents science and technology through interactive as well as traditional displays.

Responsibilities

- Preparation for the opening of Scienceworks in March 1992
- Liaison with specialists in scientific, technical and cultural fields and also with relevant community groups, to involve them effectively in Scienceworks' public programs
- Management of the Visitor Programs team (science communicators; the volunteers co-ordinator)
- Planning and implementation of public programs (indoor and outdoor) for general visitors, 363 days per year, and for families on weekends and school holidays
- Planning and implementation of the Scienceworks volunteer program, including tour guides for the historic Pumping Station
- Contributions as a member of exhibition planning teams and the OHS committee

Achievements

- Ensured over 450,000 visitors to Scienceworks in the first year of operations (including 300,000 general and family visitors)
- Ensured over 80 people attended the first quarterly info-session about the volunteer program
- Facilitated the 1992 symposium, *Heritage artefacts : hands on hands off? Activating heritage artefacts, the conservation and safety issues*

Employment History (cont'd)

1987 – 1990

Executive Officer

Museums Association of Australia (Victorian Branch)

Company Description

The Museums Association of Australia (MAA) was a professional membership organisation for people working in and for museums of art, history and science. In 1994 the MAA merged with other professional associations in the museum sector to create Museums Australia.

Responsibilities

- Representation of the Branch Committee's goals and plans
- Strategic and financial planning and reporting
- Operational management, including co-ordination of member events
- Project management, including publishing and conference co-ordination

Achievements

- Published *The Official Museums Directory for Victoria*, 2nd edition (1990)
- Convened Museums Towards Tomorrow: Serving the Future Public (national conference of Museums Association of Australia, 1989)
- Convened New Responsibilities: Documenting Multicultural Australia (a conference for museums, libraries, archives and historical collections towards a National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia, 1988)
- Edited *Museum News*, a monthly newsletter for members and other stakeholders
- Convened the Westpac Victorian Museum of the Year Awards (1987)

1983 – 1986

Tutor, English Language and Literature

Department of English, The University of Melbourne

1979 – 1982

Tutor, English Language and Literature

English Department, Monash University

Community Service

Current voluntary roles:

2021 President, Australian Viking Ships Museum Inc.

2020 - Finance Officer, History Council of Victoria Inc.

2020 - Member, National Collection Advisory Panel of the National Heritage Board, Singapore

Community Service (cont'd)

Current voluntary roles (cont'd)

- 2020 - Member, Museums and Heritage Special Advisory Group of the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network
- 2019 - Member, Asset Review Working Group, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
- 2017 - Director, The English-Speaking Union (Victoria Branch) Ltd
- 2017 - Member, Collections and Programs Committee, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
- 2012 - Assistant to the Museum Curator, Heidelberg Historical Society and Museum, in a number of projects including significance assessment, collection management and exhibition development; co-curator of the exhibition *Heidelberg's Busy Bee Signature Quilt 1895-96* (opened May 2019 and commended in the 2019 Victorian Community History Awards; concluded May 2021)
- 2005 - Detailed Assessor (expert of international standing), appointed by the Australian Research Council

Current affiliations:

Margaret supports several cultural organisations through membership subscriptions and donations, including:

- Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)
- Australian Football Heritage Group
- Australian Society for Sports History
- Australian Tapestry Workshop
- Australian Viking Ships Museum
- Ephemera Society of Australia
- C J La Trobe Society
- Grainger Museum
- Heidelberg Historical Society and Museum
- Humanities 21
- Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network
- National Museum of Australia
- National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
- Queenscliffe Maritime Museum
- Royal Botanic Gardens (Melbourne)
- Royal Historical Society of Victoria
- State Library Victoria
- The English-Speaking Union (Victoria Branch)
- Williamstown Historical Society

Past service (selected):

- 2017 - 2018 Mentor, PhD Industry Mentor program, La Trobe University
- 2017 - 2018 Associate supervisor for a PhD candidate at the Australian National University
- 2015 - 2018 Member, 1919 King's Cup Centenary Committee, Rowing Australia
- 2014 - 2019 Member, Collections Committee, Royal Historical Society of Victoria
- 2012 - 2015 Chair of the Academic Advisory Board for Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies, appointed by Deakin University
- 2012 Member of a Museums Australia (Victoria) Panel providing peer-review assessment of an applicant to the Museum Accreditation Program.
- 2005 - 2012 Honorary Fellow, Deakin University. Attended meetings of the Advisory Committee of the Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific. In December 2009, she served as a volunteer lecturer in a week-long Special Course in Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines, delivering lectures on current issues in museology, and facilitating discussion sessions with a cohort of 24 postgraduate Filipino students.
- 2010 Member, Adelaide Consultative Forum of the National Archives of Australia
- 2007 - 2010 Member, Cultural Sector Advisory Committee, Innovation and Business Skills Australia
- 2007 - 2009 Member, Ethics Centre of South Australia
- 2006 - 2010 Member, Arts & Cultural Management Program Advisory Committee, University of South Australia
- 2006 - 2009 Member, Creative Volunteering – No Limits – Course Advisory Panel, Regional Arts Australia
- 2005 - 2006 Member, Collections Advisory Committee, National Trust of South Australia
- 2004 - 2005 Member, Museum Advisory Committee, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
- 2004 - 2005 Member, Education Advisory Group, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne
- 2003 Member, selection panel for the Museum Leadership Program 2003
- 2002 - 2005 Representative of Museums Australia on the Advisory Committee for the Return of Indigenous Cultural Property program, an initiative of the Cultural Ministers Council
- 2002 - 2003 Member, National Collections Advisory Forum (Cultural Ministers Council / DCITA)
- 2001 - 2005 Member, Heritage Collections Advisory Committee, Heritage Victoria
- 2000 - 2002 Member of a committee established to advise Deakin University on the deaccessioning of its Australian House Museum
- 1999 - 2005 Member, Editorial Board, *Open Museum Journal* (Australia's first refereed electronic journal for the museum sector)
- 1999 - 2005 Member, national Council of Museums Australia, including service as Vice-President (2001-2005) and on the Policy Standing Committee (2001-2004)
- 1997 - 2004 Board member, ICOM-ICTOP, including service as Secretary (2001-2004)
- 1996 - 2005 Board member, Ford Heritage Centre Trust (a company limited by guarantee), with responsibility for the Ford Discovery Centre (a museum of automotive technology that operated in Geelong from 1999 to 2012)
- 1995 - 2005 Chair, Editorial Standing Committee, Museums Australia (re: *Museums Australia Magazine*, formerly *Museum National*)
- 1995 - 1996 Member, Museums Advisory Board, Arts Victoria
- 1995 - 1996 Member, Academic Board, Deakin University

Community Service (cont'd)

Past service (selected) (cont'd)

- 1994 - 2000 Board member, Australian National Committee, ICOM (and Member, ICOM'98 Working Group Executive, 1995-1998)
- 1994 - 1995 Founder and inaugural Convenor, Museum Studies Special Interest Group of Museums Australia (and Convenor for a second term, 1998-2001)
- 1993 - 1997 Committee member, Museums Australia (Victoria) (including as Hon. Secretary, 1994-1995, and as Hon. Treasurer, 1995-1997)
- 1992 - 2002 Founding member and office-bearer, Friends of the Grainger Museum
- 1991 - 1996 Member, Grainger Museum Advisory Committee, University of Melbourne
- 1990 - 1992 Member, Museums Grants Assessment Panel, Arts Victoria (and Chair, 1995-1996)
- 1979 - 1981 Member of the Army Reserve (Monash University Regiment), attaining the rank of Corporal and completing the Officer Training Course.

Awards

- 2020 AICCM Outstanding Conservation Volunteer, [Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material](#)
- 2017 Finalist for the [Bathurst Macquarie Heritage Medal](#)
- 2017 Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) 'for significant service to cultural heritage, particularly to the museums sector, to education, and to historical preservation'
- 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award from Museums Australia (Victoria) as part of the [Museum Industry Recognition Awards](#)
- 2002 Honorary Life membership, Friends of the Grainger Museum
- 1989 Museum Professional of the Year (Victoria College), 'for an extraordinary contribution to the Museum Community'
- 1985 University of Melbourne Postgraduate Scholarship (for PhD studies, discontinued 1987)
- 1977 Turville-Petre Prize (Viking Society, London)
- 1976 Commonwealth Postgraduate Research Award (for MA studies, discontinued 1976)
- 1975 Anna Lodewyckx Scholarship (for eight months' travel in Iceland, 1976 and 1977)
- 1975 Dwright's Prize (University of Melbourne)
- 1973 Edward Stevens Exhibition (University of Melbourne)
- 1972 Commonwealth University Scholarship
- 1968 Commonwealth Secondary Scholarship

Conferences

Australian Museums and Galleries Association

(Museums Australia 1994-2018 and Museums Association of Australia prior to 1994)

- 2021 Canberra (attended online)
- 2018 Melbourne
- 2014 Launceston (speaker)
- 2011 Perth (speaker)
- 2010 Melbourne (plenary speaker)
- 2007 Canberra (speaker)
- 2006 Brisbane
- 2005 Sydney
- 2004 Melbourne
- 2003 Perth (speaker)
- 2002 Adelaide
- 2001 Canberra (speaker)
- 1999 Albury (speaker)
- 1995 Brisbane (speaker)
- 1994 Fremantle (speaker)
- 1989 Melbourne (convenor)

Australian Society of Archivists

- 2008 Perth (speaker)
- 2006 Port Macquarie (keynote speaker)
- 2005 Wellington, NZ (speaker)

Blue Shield

- 2018 Blue Shield Australia, Canberra
- 2010 Blue Shield Australia, Canberra
- 2008 International Council of the Blue Shield, The Hague

Council of Australian Museum Associations

- 1993 Hobart
- 1992 Melbourne (speaker)
- 1988 Sydney
- 1987 Brisbane

International Council of Museums (ICOM) triennial meeting

- 2004 Seoul
- 1998 Melbourne

Conferences (cont'd)

ICOM – International Committee for the Training of Personnel

- 2004 Seoul (speaker)
- 2002 Delhi (speaker)
- 2000 Victoria BC, Canada (speaker)
- 1999 London (speaker)
- 1998 Melbourne (convenor)
- 1997 Berlin (speaker)
- 1996 Lubbock, Texas USA (speaker)

Other (selected, since 2005)

- 2021 Victorian Museums and Galleries Forum, Melbourne (online)
- 2019 Victorian Museums and Galleries Forum, Melbourne
- 2017 MuseumNext, Melbourne
- 2016 Museums Australia (Vic) state conference, Cowes, Phillip Island
- 2016 The People's Ground: National Trusts of Australia & Australia ICOMOS conference, Melbourne
- 2016 Working History: Professional Historians Australia conference, Melbourne
- 2016 Digital GLAM Symposium, The University of Melbourne
- 2015 Victorian Museums and Galleries Forum, Melbourne
- 2014 iPres 2014: 11th International Conference on Digital Preservation, Melbourne
- 2014 Building Strong Culture through Conservation: ICOM-CC 17th Triennial Conference, Melbourne
- 2014 Museums Australia (Vic) state conference, Warrnambool
- 2012 Worlds of Football II conference: Victoria University (invited MC for the opening session)
- 2012 Collect, Conserve, Connect: Museums Australia (Vic) state conference, Ballarat (invited chair)
- 2009 Culture Policy and Museum Management: International symposium, National Taiwan University of the Arts, Taipei, Taiwan (invited speaker)
- 2009 Striving 4 Balance, Records Management Association of Australasia, Adelaide (keynote speaker)
- 2008 Founding conference, Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield, The Hague, Netherlands
- 2008 eResearch Australasia 2008, Melbourne (speaker)
- 2008 Dreaming 08, Australian Library and Information Association, Alice Springs (speaker)
- 2008 Your Place or Mine? Critical Engagement Forum organised by Museums Australia (Western Australia), Perth (keynote speaker)
- 2008 Futures Forum, Museums Australia, Canberra (workshop co-chair)
- 2007 Simply the Best 2: Reflections of women through records, Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Library, University of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2007 Fifty Years On...How far have we come? Archives and Records Association of New Zealand, Auckland (plenary speaker)
- 2007 Annual conference of the Performing Arts SIG of Museums Australia, Adelaide (keynote speaker)
- 2007 Digital Cultural Content Forum, Montreal, Canada
- 2006 Digital Future: Deliverance from Dysfunction, State Records SA, Adelaide (plenary speaker)
- 2006 Risky Business: Managing Responsibilities and Solutions, Australian Registrars Committee, Hobart (keynote speaker)

Conferences (cont'd)

Other (selected, since 2005) (cont'd)

- 2006 Digital Futures – Industry Briefing, National Archives of Australia, Canberra (keynote speaker)
- 2006 Summit on Digital Collections, Collections Council of Australia, Adelaide (convenor)
- 2006 Visions of Australia Forum, DCITA, Canberra (speaker)
- 2005 National general assembly (including a Regional Cooperation and Development Forum), Australian Local Government Association, Canberra
- 2005 New Directions in Special Librarianship, Special Libraries group of the Australian Library and Information Association, Melbourne
- 2005 *Collections Matter – Creating Inspirational Cultural Spaces*, South East Queensland Small Museum Conference, Caboolture, Queensland (keynote speaker)

Publications (selected)

Contribution to practice guides

Closed by COVID-19? A Practice Guide for managers of heritage collections that are closed at short notice because of an epidemic or pandemic ([2020](#)).

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Social Media

Margaret has a professional profile on **Linked In** (<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/margaret-birtley/31/390/18b>) and **tweets** from <https://twitter.com/margaretbirtley>. She stays in contact with family and friends via **Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/mbirtley1>).

Recreational Interests

Cycling is Margaret's preferred form of local transport. She attends a local gym regularly. Being a member of the Hawthorn Football Club, she watches Australian football matches whenever possible. At home, she enjoys reading and cooking. With family and friends, she likes to explore restaurants, attend theatrical and musical performances, and see films.