



CASE STUDIES

Exclusive Behind the Scenes Stories from Collections WA



BUNBURY CATHEDRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

An Interview with Ros Malone

Why did Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School decide to be part of the pilot project for Collections WA?

I was contacted by my former lecturer Dr Pauline Joseph from Curtin University, who was at that time the Archives representative within the Collections Sector Working Group. Dr Joseph knew from my time as a student at Curtin that I had an interest in digital archives and relational data, and asked me to take part in the pilot project for the Collections WA platform. I was very happy to be involved in piloting such a great web platform for an archival collection, and applied to my organisation to take part.

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What has been some of the unexpected benefits of joining Collections WA?

One surprising or unexpected benefit of joining Collections WA has been the provision of an online presence for my organisation. Using this platform I can share content that would not normally be available to the wider community, and connect the School's history to the wider history of the Region and the State.

Can you tell us a about your recent experience presenting at the recent Australian Society of Archivists National Conference, National Schools' Special Interest Group?

School Archivist, Morwenna Dixon, Convenor of the National Schools' SIG for the Australian Society of Archivists, asked me to present a short online talk this year at the ASA Virtual Conference, about my experiences with Collections WA, to School Archivists from across the country. I gave a 'lightning talk' to the large group online, followed by break-out room discussions. I presented to the group about how I became involved, how the platform works, the benefits of the platform, and its full functionality. There was great interest and a number of School Archivists from Interstate expressed that they would like to find and use a similar web platform in their own State or Territory.



Original Sketch, Chapel Window, by Deborah Francis 2001, Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School
See Collections WA record [here](#)

What kinds of feedback have you had about this project?

There has been positive feedback from Local History and School Archives alike. A member of one local history group advised that my part in the project was used by them to encourage people to create a web presence for their archive – or join Collections WA. School Archivists at my recent presentation showed great interest in using a tool like Collections WA to extend their community reach and connections. They all found the site visually appealing.

Cover Image: Plan, Buildings Moved from Clarke Street, Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School
See Collections WA record [here](#)

Cover Image: Ros Malone, Archivist, Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School

Carbet Castle Bell, 1875
Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School
See Collections WA record [here](#)

Why are you such a fan of Collections WA?
Did it change the way you see the future of
your collection?

The central appeal of Collections WA is that it's a purpose built platform for collections of all kinds. Its capability for complex collection metadata and linking is a further enhancement of this appeal, making content both searchable and discoverable online. This changed the way I see the future of the School's collection because there is so much that can potentially be shared digitally both within and outside of the School Community, making better use of and giving wider exposure to the historical aspects of the collection.



Railway Pie Basket, 1947 - 1967,
Rail Heritage WA
See Collections WA record [here](#)

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How do you use Collections WA with your students at BCGS? And with Curtin University practicum students?

Collections WA has been used with students at the School by encouraging them via Social Media and School Publications to go to and explore the site. Collections WA also has the potential to form part of our Archives in the Curriculum sessions.

While recently hosting a Curtin University prac student, I was able to use Collections WA as a teaching tool, by asking my student to create digital collection objects within our presence on the site. This required the student to carefully choose an item suitable for display to the public, understand the history of that item and translate it accurately into the item metadata, digitise the item if not already digitised, and connect the item within the collection hierarchy to its related objects.

What is your favourite item on Collections WA?

My favourite object on Collections WA is the Railway Pie Basket from Rail Heritage WA. I like the history of trains in Australia, there was an entire culture around steam trains in particular! Little things that connect to the meaning of words we still use today, and items like the pie basket, I find particularly interesting. It's about how history layers within itself as much as anything else.