

Collection Policy

Wesley Hobart Museum

1. Preamble

We affirm:

That the loving Lord is not to be found embalmed in the creeds, rituals and memorials or museums of the church; but in

- the faith that is a living reality of Christian life
- the hope which kindles faithful action
- the love which creates and enriches every relationship we share.

It is within this context that we affirm this Mission Statement of the Wesley Uniting Church Museum and Collection:-

2. Mission Statement

Through its museum, the Congregation of the Wesley Uniting Church is committed to conserving and interpreting elements of Methodist heritage received into the Uniting Church in Australia in Tasmania. We will celebrate its impact on the community, its roots in the United Kingdom and its unique relationship with the Pacific.

The Wesley Uniting Church Museum and Collection will actively collect, conserve, research, and interpret objects, stories and intangible cultural heritage relating to the history of the people called Methodists in Tasmania, relating to its Key Interpretative Themes -in particular relating to the church in Melville Street and the former church in Davey Street, Hobart, their buildings and congregations. The museum will also maintain the existing collection of memorabilia relating John and Charles Wesley and the foundations on which these churches were built, the Museum and collection will interpret the history of the church through its outreach programmes including, the first public library, Sunday School movement, the Mechanics Hall, Unionism, Lifeline and through relationships with other community institutions e.g. the Female Factory.

The story is worth telling and we will actively seek ways to encourage people to hear it.

The history of the people called Methodists in Tasmania and the heritage that we have received into the Uniting Church is of importance in Tasmania, nationally and in the Pacific.

Key Interpretative Themes 2012 to 2014

As stated in our 2012-2014 Interpretation Plan and Policy, our key interpretative Themes are

- History of “the people called ‘Methodists’”
- Mission outposts: Hobart and the Pacific

- The church's role in colonization, settlement & reconciliation
- The Melville Street heritage site and its 190 years of worship, witness & service
- Sunday Schools & Mechanics Institutes
- Australia's first public library
- Music and choirs—before and after the great organ
- Families and church connections
- Trustees & trade unionists
- George Loveless: the Hobart connexion
- Love feasts, tea meetings, class meetings, tea sets and crockery
- Colonial era furnishings
- Church buildings and architecture
- Social mission and the Church at work
- The journey into Union (which we do not see as having ended in 1977!)

3. Acquisition

The following will be collected by donation, purchase, bequest, loan and research:

- 3.1. Objects (including photographs, albums, books, costume etc.) relating to our Key Interpretative Themes;
- 3.2. Objects peripheral to the above, which may be required from time to time for comparative displays, their acquisition being reliant on their condition and the availability of adequate storage space.
- 3.3. Oral histories relevant to our Key Interpretative Themes;
- 3.4. Intangible cultural heritage elements relevant to our Key Interpretative Themes will be identified, documented and added to the Collection.

4. Maintenance & Storage

- 4.1. The condition of each object will be assessed before it is accepted into the collection.
- 4.2. Storage and display restrictions will be carefully considered before an object is accepted.
- 4.3. Volunteers will be trained in the correct and safe operation and handling of objects in the collection, as applicable.
- 4.4. Monitoring, maintaining and upgrading display and storage facilities will be a priority.
- 4.5. Volunteers will be trained in oral history practice and in the documentation and assessment of intangible cultural heritage elements.

5. Documentation

Donations and bequests:

- 5.1. A Wesley Uniting Church Thank You – Donor Letter/donation form /receipt form (however this is decided) will be completed for each new donation.
- 5.2. Each new acquisition will be discussed at the following Museum Committee Meeting (name of Committee?), and its formal acceptance into the collection minuted.
- 5.3. All objects (including oral histories and intangible cultural heritage documents) will be entered onto the Wesley Uniting Church Museum database.

- 5.4. All objects (including oral histories and intangible cultural heritage documents) will be appropriately numbered and/or tagged.
- 5.5. Object provenance details will be recorded.
- 5.6. The storage or display location of all objects (including oral histories and intangible cultural heritage documents) will be recorded, along with any subsequent object movements.

Loans

Inward Loan

- 5.7. The Wesley Uniting Church Museum will not act as a repository for private loan collections. (i.e. there is no such thing as a Permanent Loan.)
- 5.8. Occasional Inward Loans may be considered for temporary exhibition, as approved by the Museum Committee.
- 5.9. All loan agreements will be recorded formally, using an Inward Loan Form.
- 5.10. All loans must have an agreed end date – for return or renewal.

Outward Loan

- 5.11. Any request for outward loan must be considered by the Museum Committee.
- 5.12. All loan agreements will be recorded formally using an Outward Loan Form.
- 5.13. All loans must have an agreed end date for return or renewal.

Deaccession

- 5.14. Formal deaccession can only occur where the object, oral history or intangible cultural heritage document is owned by the Wesley Uniting Church Museum (all other objects must be covered by the loans policy).
- 5.15. All deaccessions must be formally approved by the Museum Committee, with a designated cooling off period before any final decision is made.
- 5.16. To be considered for deaccession the object, oral history or intangible cultural heritage document must be no longer relevant to the collection and outside the scope of this collection policy.
- 5.17. Deaccession will also be considered when the object is damaged beyond repair, or has been stolen.
- 5.18. Deaccession will also be considered if there is a reasonable request for return from the donor's family (especially in those cases where the status of the original acquisition is unclear).
- 5.19. Methods of deaccession to be considered by the museum committee will be (in order of preference): return to donors or donors' heirs; transfer to another collecting institution; public sale; disposal by destruction or recycling.

6. Security

Heritage obtains vitality when it is accessible, celebrated and shared. It is therefore the intent of the Wesley Uniting Church Museum that, subject to adequate security as may be determined by the Museum Committee, the collection should be accessible to the public and, where appropriate, available for liturgical use

7. Privacy, Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

The Wesley Uniting Church Museum will take appropriate measures to observe privacy rights, comply with confidentiality requirements and respect intellectual property of others.

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