Thousands of years of heritage at your fingertips

Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums and Wikimedia:
Finding the Common Ground
glam.wikimedia.org.au

6-7 August 2009, Australian War Memorial, Canberra

Imagine exploring the collections of thousands of museums, galleries, archives and libraries with the click of a button. Imagine having unrestricted access to historical documents and artefacts never before seen by the public. Imagine a world in which the sum of all human knowledge was available for free, in your own language.

Sounds ideal, right? Wikimedia Australia, the non-profit national chapter of the global Wikimedia Movement (the volunteers who create Wikipedia), are hosting an event being held in Canberra - **GLAM-WIKI: Finding the Common Ground.** Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums (GLAM) and the Australian Wikimedia community will work together to explore the challenges and opportunities in better promoting our cultural heritage.

Across the globe, Wikimedia projects are the largest, most consulted and most accessible information sources available. Wikimedia's goal is to create a freely available and freely re-usable source of knowledge. This knowledge however, can only be truly useful if it is developed from reliable primary and secondary sources. The extensive expertise and collections held within galleries, librarires, museums and archives **are** those sources.

At **GLAM-WIKI**, for the first time anywhere in the world, these two communities will come together. One hundred and seventy representatives from Australia and New Zealand cultural sector sector will be in attendance.

"Wikipedia is to knowledge and learning what the Red Cross is to health and humanitarian relief - Global, Neutral, Free", says Wikimedia Australia Vice President, Liam Wyatt. "This event is a world first where two communities who are passionate about providing greater access to our shared cultural heritage will come together to discuss how we can collaborate to achieve this aim".

"Open access to public data is extremely important for community and cultural engagement", offered Senator Kate Lundy, Senator for the ACT. "Wikimedia Australia have done a great job in starting an important discussion with Australian public and cultural institutions around improving access to knowledge. I look forward to contributing to the event, and raising awareness of this issue with my colleagues in government."

Keynote speakers include Senator Kate Lundy who will be discussing the "Government 2.0 taskforce" and Jennifer Riggs, Chief Program Officer for the Wikimedia Foundation.

Wikipedia fast facts:
>> World's leading information source
>> Largest encyclopedia ever created
>> All volunteer made, all free access
>> Zero ads, supported by donations

>> 4th most visited web property worldwide
>> 11 million+ articles on all imaginable subjects
>> 125 billion+ hits/year
>> 250+ languages

For full details visit glam.wikimedia.org.au One hundred and seventy representatives from organisations in the Australian and New Zealand cultural sector are attending, including:

AARNet
Australian Centre for the Moving Image
ACT Library and Information Service
ACT Museums and Galleries
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Arts Victoria
Atlas of Living Australia
Australian Council of National Trusts
Australian Greens
Australian Labor Party
Australian Liberal Party
Australian Library and Information Association
Australian Museum
Australian National Botanic Gardens
Australian National Herbarium
Australian National University
Australian Parliamentary Library
Australian Policy Online
Australian Research Council
Australian War Memorial
Canberra Museum and Gallery
Centre for Media and Communications Law
City of Sydney
Collections Australia Network
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research
        Organisation (CSIRO)
Curriculum Corporation
CustomWare
Cyberspace Law and Policy Centre
Department of Broadband, Communications and
        the Digital Economy (DBCDE)
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage
        and the Arts (DEWHA)
Dictionary of Sydney
DigitalNZ, National Library of New Zealand

Education.au
History Trust of South Australia
Horsons Bay Libraries
International Conservation Services
Macquarie University
Ministierial Council for Education, Early
        Childhood Development and Youth Affairs
Museum of Australian Democracy
Museum Victoria
Museums & Galleries NSW
Museums Aotearoa
Museums Australia
Museums Australia (Victoria)
National Archives of Australia
National Film & Sound Archive
National Gallery of Australia
National Gallery of Victoria
National Library New Zealand
National Library of Australia
National Museum of Australia
National Trust NSW
NSW Department of Education and Training
Powerhouse Museum
Queensland Museum
Queensland University of Technology
Sovereign Hill Museum
State Library of New South Wales
State Library of Queensland
Swinburne University
Toowoomba Regional Council
University of Canberra
Western Australian Museum

...and Wikimedians from ACT, NSW, QLD, Tas.,
SA, WA, Germany and the USA.

GLAM-WIKI is supported by the [Australian War Memorial](), [CustomWare](), [ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation](), [Wikimedia Foundation]().

Media enquiries
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Available for interview:
- Jennifer Riggs, Chief Program Officer - Wikimedia Foundation, San Francisco
- Brianna Laugher, President - Wikimedia Australia, Melbourne
- Liam Wyatt, Vice President - Wikimedia Australia, Sydney
- Mathias Schindler, Project Manager - Wikimedia Deutschland

Forthcoming Wikimedia Australia meet-ups (several media contacts will be available):
- **Sydney**: Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th. Especially at the "Sydney Wikipedians meetup" on Tuesday from 6pm: Belgian Beer Cafe, 135 Harrington Street, The Rocks ([map]())
- **Canberra**: Wednesday 5th – Friday 7th. Especially at "Canberran Wikipedians meetup" on Wednesday from 6pm: King O'Malley's pub, 131 City Walk ([map]()) and during the conference itself at the Australian War Memorial, Thursday & Friday
- **Melbourne**: Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th. "Melbourne Wikipedians meetup" TBA. please contact.

Wikimedia Australia, Inc.® is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, and is recognised by the Wikimedia Foundation as a [official chapter]() and as such will offer members an official voice in the global Wikimedia community, whose aim is to create nothing less than *the sum of all human knowledge, freely available in your own language*. **See our [Statement of Purpose]() & [Rules]()**.

High Resolution Wikimedia Australia logo can be found here:
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wikimedia_australia.svg]()

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