Wikimedia Australia and our Partner Projects

Belinda Spry, Executive Officer WMAU
WIkimania, Singapore, 19 August 2023

Wikimedia Australia (WMAU)

Wikimedia Australia is the Australian chapter of the international Wikimedia Foundation.

What we do

We support people and organisations to contribute to Wikipedia, Wikidata and other Wikimedia platforms through events, training and partnerships across Australia.

We:

- Train people and organisations in editing Wiki platforms
- Support experienced editors
- Run workshops and events
- Co-design programs and partnerships
- Connect regional editors with the global editing community
- Advocate for open access

WMAU Board and staff, Feb 2023

WMAU Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Three strategic priorities

Engagement

- Grow public understanding of the Wikimedia movement, platforms and guiding principles within Australia
- Deepen international engagement with the ESEAP and Oceania Wikimedia communities, the Wikimedia Foundation and global affiliates and hubs to share knowledge, grow sustainability and ensure regional alignment
- Cultivate a welcoming, safe, inclusive environment throughout all Wikimedia Australia activities through strong leadership and policies (in line with Universal Code of Conduct)

Equity and Inclusion

- **Promote equity and inclusion across the Wikimedia platforms and programs in Australia:**
  - **a. grow self-determined opportunities with First Nations peoples in Australia**
  - **b. expand participation and representation across Australia's regions**
  - **c. improve demographic diversity to ensure a sustainable movement**

- **Grow a skilled, active and engaged community of contributors, trainers and leaders who understand the Wikimedia movement, platforms and guiding principles**

Capacity Building

- Develop a methodology for understanding and measuring community outputs
- Grow governance and leadership capacity and capabilities
- Operate sustainably by diversifying funding to grow capacity and opportunities
- Operate in an environmentally responsible way

https://wikimedia.org.au/wiki/Strategic_Plan_2022-2025

Who wants to work with us?

Expression Of Interest (EOI)

We announced an Expression Of Interest in early February 2023.

Selection criteria:

Projects should address one or more of WMAU three priority areas from our Equity and Inclusion strategic priorities:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (First Nations communities)
- Australian regional and remote communities
- Australian women

Funding for three projects up to AUD$10,000 per project.

https://wikimedia.org.au/wiki/EOI_for_Wikimedia_Australia_Partner_Projects_2023

Partners identified

Successful partners

Four successful organisations:

- Queensland University of Technology - a digitisation project to upload and describe historic photographic material from rural Queensland
- ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image) - engage a Wikimedian in Residence to integrate Wikidata content within the ACMI website
- University of Divinity - a Wikipedian in Residence to add content across Wiki platforms for the Australian Women in Religion project
- Paroo Shire Council - train editors including First Nations people to contribute regional data and local Indigenous knowledge

https://wikimedia.org.au/wiki/Wikimedia_Australia_2023_Partners_Focus_On_Diverse_Content_and_Building_Skills

WIKIMEDIA
AUSTRALIA

Queensland University of Technology, Digital Collections

Digitisation of historic photographs from rural Queensland

Outcomes:

- 436 historical images uploaded
- Documented the digitisation process
- WMAU FAcilitator and Mentor trained staff in Wiki Commons and PattyPan
- Articles published in State Library of Queensland 'Memory e-news'
- Will present at National Digital Forum (NDF23) conference in New Zealand, and online ALIA Digitisation Preservation Group webinar

WIKIMEDIA
AUSTRALIA

Bain-O'Gorman Collection (QUT)

By Jack Bain - https://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/, CC0

Outcomes and achievements

Partner Projects

Overall the projects achieved:

- Increase in awareness of Wiki platforms and the open knowledge movement
- Increase in content covering focus areas
- Developed new ambassadors within key organisations
- Established longer term relationships with key organisations
- Supported us in successfully delivering on our WMAU Strategic Plan
- Increased visibility through published articles and presentations at conferences in GLAM and University sectors
- One project matched funding to extend the Wikimedian in Residence position (ACMI)
- Identified challenges and barriers that we were not aware of previously
- Documentation of processes and systems that will support other similar projects

Thank you!

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WIKIMEDIA
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