

Deakin University is honoured to have been chosen to host the 3rd International Forum UNESCO: University and Heritage. Both Melbourne and Deakin are appropriate places for such a worldwide gathering of cultural heritage teachers, researchers and students. While Australia is most often, and quite correctly, envisaged by people in other countries in terms of its natural heritage, its Aboriginal cultural heritage dates from time immemorial and even its European culture has many features that are special at the world level. Inner Melbourne has many whole areas still largely intact from the mid-late nineteenth century; it represents a unique antipodean version of European and North American traditions of city formation.

At Deakin, we are proud of the heritage programs and assets on our campuses. The Institute of Koorie Education works closely with our programs in heritage interpretation and museum studies to maintain the indigenous culture of Australia, while the curatorial section looks after Deakin's extensive collection of modern Australian art.

Deakin is also just now completing the restoration of Stonington, the former Victorian Government House, now the basis of our Toorak Campus, while the Woolstores Campus, the University's hub at Geelong, is an excellent example of the recycling of industrial heritage for use in the twenty-first century. Cultural heritage is one of the University's emerging foci in teaching, research and consulting. Our ambition is to increase the involvement of students of all ages in heritage projects with staff and members of relevant professions - in line with Deakin's primary goal of providing 'life-long professional learning'. On behalf of all at Deakin, we invite you to join in the lively discussion and useful networking that will undoubtedly take place at the 3rd International Forum UNESCO.

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