

What's on!

WikiCite Workshop: Melbourne

Wikimedia Australia is hosting a regional WikiCite workshop, supported by the WikiCite project, on Friday 14 February 2020 in Melbourne. This workshop is an outreach activity for Wikimedians, educators, librarians, researchers and publishers, and open access advocates to discuss ways to improve the Australian and New Zealand languages, authors, academics and subject areas we know are currently poorly served by Wikidata. [Register now](#) for this free event.[]



Wikimania 2020 Scholarships

Wikimania 2020, the annual international conference of the Wikimedia movement, will be held on 5–9 August 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand. There will be a call for program content very soon - keep an eye out. The [Wikimedia Foundation Scholarships Program](#) is offering a limited number of scholarships to cover the cost of selected individuals' travel, conference registration fee, and accommodation to attend Wikimania using funding provided by the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF). Please note the important dates:

- Scholarship applications open: **10 February 2020**
- Deadline for applying for scholarships: **9 March 2020 23:59:59 UTC**.

Wikimedia Australia will also have a small number of scholarships available.

#Know My Name

Just 18% of biographies on Wikipedia are about women. When it comes to women artists, that number is even lower. In a significant new partnership, Wikimedia Australia is collaborating with the National Gallery of Australia, other galleries and libraries around Australia and Art+Feminism to coordinate a national simultaneous edit-a-thons on the week-end of International Women's Day in March. Supported by a network of female Wikipedia editors, edit-a-thons are expected in all major Australian cities and Alice Springs. Full details to come! [Read more](#) about the broader Know my Name initiative.

Bushfires articles

As the horror bushfire emergency unfolded in November, editors started on the [2019-20 Australian bushfire season](#). A request from Australia's Blue Shield about the challenges of identifying towns and sites affected [for their purposes in contacting and supporting affected GLAM organisations](#). This resulted in the creation of a list article: [List of fires and impacts of the 2019-20 Australian bushfire season](#). Thanks to Nick for responding to this and everyone who is contributing to these articles.

Past events wrap up

#1Lib1Ref

To launch the 2020 #1Lib1Ref campaign Jacinta Sutton [presented](#) at the 15 January online community meeting with an update on the work of State Library of Queensland. With the three week campaign running til 5 Feb, 26 State Library [editors](#) made 348 edits to 183 Wikipedia articles. Thank you to Kerry Raymond for her continued support..



Wiki Loves Monuments 2019 winners

There were [347 photographs](#) of Australian monuments uploaded for the 2019 Wiki Loves Monuments contest. The [top ten](#) photographs include a pumping station, observatory, old telegraph station and a bandstand. The winning photo was [Inside the Heavy Machine Shop at Cockatoo Island](#) by photographer Matthew Machado. Matt shared the story behind his photo.



“The photo was taken during a three day excursion provided by my school through the Photographic and Digital Media course. I was captivated by this location in the heavy machine shop because of how the light shone onto the machine through the metal beams and the deep dark shadows that were cast from them. The photo was a bit by chance because I spent hours in this room taking hundreds of photos, most of which were experiments that didn’t work. But among this batch was this photo and many others that were beautiful in their composure because of the way the light directed the eye to the subject of the image.”

Thank you to Robert for coordinating this round of Wiki Loves Monuments, and to all those involved in contributing photographs or judging.

Biota Meetups in Wellington and Sydney

As a follow-up to the Australasian Endangered Plants meetup held in Wellington on 24 Nov (six participants in person, plus four remote editors) and to take advantage of [Mike Dickison](#)’s visit to Sydney, a meetup was advertised with the aim of getting a wiki project going on the biota of NZ and Australia.

Two Wikimedians, Mike and [Margaret Donald](#) were able to meet at the NSW State Library. We shared some of our knowledge, and would like to see the resources used in Wellington continue to be worked on

Resources used in Wellington were two pdfs (one listing the conservation status of New Zealand endemics, and the other listing Australian threatened species under the [EPBC](#) act), and a [SPARQL](#) query showing Australian Plants with no enwiki article and having SPRAT ids. Note that the SPARQL query shows that 566 (out of 1235) species with SPRAT ids have no enwiki article.

A further useful Australian plant query picks out [200 wikidata taxon names, together with their APNI links for taxa without author qualifiers](#). This allows easy updating in Wikidata of taxa without these qualifiers (some 35445 items).

Get online: Editing Wikipedia in the desert

Alice Springs’ first pub, an opera singer, an artist and a local favourite picnic spot were just some of the pages created at recent edit-a-thons in Alice Springs. Wiki-club NT supported two workshops at the Alice Springs Public Library on 15 October for Get Online Week 2019. Twelve locals learnt to edit Wikipedia for the first time, supported by Wikimedia Australia’s Caddie Brain and the library’s Special Collections Coordinator Alice Woods. Focusing on local people, places and histories, the group created [ten new pages](#) and have since gone on to create 50 new pages related to Central Australia.





Sydney Meetup

On 16 Dec 2019, the State Library of New South Wales (SLNSW) hosted an event with WMAU that focused on the Wikidata platform. Short talks were given by:

- Liam Wyatt (Program Manager for WikiCite)
- Toby Hudson (University of Sydney)
- Geoff Barker (State Library of New South Wales)
- Matt Moore (Wikimedia Australia committee member)

With 19 participants attended including representatives from SLNSW and the National Maritime Museum. Many were new to Wikidata so the workshop discussions focused on raising their awareness and identifying the applications that the platform might have to their operations. The session yielded positive feedback with opportunities to further develop the use of Wikidata capabilities by participants and their institutions. Many thanks to Matt and Geoff for their organisation, and to SLNSW for hosting this meetup.

New Zealand

Committee member Alex Lum visited New Zealand in November to present a lightning talk on Wikidata at FOSS4G Oceania 2019 at the National Library of New Zealand in Wellington. Alex also attended two Wikimedia-related events organised by Siobhan Leachman and Mike Dickison: an Art + Feminism edit-a-thon at The Dowse Art Museum in Lower Hutt, and a Wikidata workshop at the National Digital Forum (NDFNZ).

Member survey results

One of Wikimedia Australia's strategic priorities this year is to learn about the interests of Australian editors, and areas where they would like more support. Prior to running a banner inviting responses from logged in editors in Australia, we asked WMAU members to [test the survey questions](#).

What are members working on?

Thanks to the small group (N=6 from four states) who responded to this request. All respondents edited Wikipedia, some also worked on Commons, Wikidata, Wikisource and Wikivoyage, with interests including:

teahouse, watchlist monitor for subjects of interest, occasional article creation; history, geography, historical biography, heritage sites, uploading photos of Australia, military history, Australian politics, city or state/territory-based topics, art, social science, society, technology, and micro tasks that keep Wikipedia in check.

What events or support are members interested in?

A third of members had attended a Wikimedia-related event in the last 12 months, however all indicated they would like to attend an event, including: social/meetups, online and local training, a community conference and international events, eg Wikimania.

What are the topics, issues or areas related to Wikipedia that members would like assistance with?

- *Better skills with tools like AutoWikiBrowser, Quarry, Petscan, SPARQL to better automate maintenance tasks*
- *Access to references*
- *I would like to help Wikipedia to solve the problems of article shortage, poor documentation and unreliable sources.*
- *Finding articles to write, collaborate more with Australian editors*

Other issues?

Issues raised included *the need to reach out more into our local contributor community to get them to events, local meetups and/or the Australian Wikipedian's Noticeboard. Not knowing where they live makes this very difficult, we need to exploit geobanners more for things like meetups.*

A newcomer would like to participate more work-shops, seminars and meet-up which could improve my skills and serve the organisation better.

Thank you to those who tested the survey. As well as these useful responses, it revealed a couple of questions that were too similar, and can be merged. We will now work on finding the best time to run the broader banner campaign.

In the news

Welcome Wikimedia User Group of Aotearoa New Zealand

On 17 December 2019, our neighbours at [Wikimedia User Group of Aotearoa New Zealand](#) received news that their application for recognition as a User Group has been [granted](#) by the Wikimedia Affiliations Committee. The scope of the group is “to represent the Wikimedia Foundation’s mission in New Zealand: to empower and engage people to collect and develop educational content under a free license, so it can be shared and reused freely for any purpose.



Hope to see you all at an event soon! Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for all the latest news.

All the best,
Your Wikimedia Australia Committee