

# 2021 MARGARET JENNINGS AWARD PROFILE

## CHELSEA PARKER- CURTIN UNIVERSITY

### Tell us how you first got involved in the archival profession?



As part of the Master of Information Management at Curtin University I was fortunate to complete a practicum at the State Records Office of Western Australia. It was an amazing learning experience that brought to life the concepts and theories I had encountered in the records and archives units of my course. I felt a buzz every time I walked into the building and by the end of the three week practicum I knew my future would be in records and archives.

Since completing my course, I have been fortunate to begin a role in local government with the City of Mandurah..

### If you could change one thing about archival practice, what would it be?

Probably to raise the profile of the profession, and in turn for society to develop a deeper understanding of the importance of records as a means for building trust and transparency in our institutions, but also as agents of change, vital to how our identity and memory is shaped.

Before I was involved in the profession I never had this understanding. I think that if people understood more about the role of records and archives there would be more value placed on recordkeeping and records management, and more funding for our archives.

### Tell me about someone who has influenced your decision to study and/or work in the archival profession?

Dr Leisa Gibbons was a huge influence. I was very fortunate to have her as a unit coordinator for several records and archives units during my course. She has a real passion for the profession and also happens to be an outstanding teacher. The more Dr Leisa talked about records and archives, the more I wanted to know!

### What do you think will change within the sector over the next five years?

I think technology is going to be a huge driver of change in the profession over the next five years. I hope to see more research into digital preservation and an increased understanding of how we can best manage born digital records as archives.

The actions that are being taken now to manage the proliferation of electronic information is shaping the archives of the future. I hope to see technology harnessed to ensure our the longevity, inclusivity, and accessibility of our archives.

### What would you like to be doing in five years time?

My main goal as I begin my journey in the profession is to never stop learning. I hope that in five years time I will have made the most of every opportunity to learn something new whether it be from practice, professional development, reading, or engaging with like minded professionals.

From my perspective, finishing my Master's degree is just the beginning of my journey. In the future I would also like to undertake research in the records/archives space, and I hope in the next five years I might begin to understand the areas of the profession where research is required to improve practice.