

2021 MARGARET JENNINGS AWARD PROFILE

CRISPIAN WINSOR – CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

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



In 2015, I wasn't sure what I exactly wanted to do for a career when a friend of mine suggested volunteering at an institution that I thought would be interesting. As I have a love for music as well as other audio-visual areas, my first thought was the National Film and Sound Archive. During my time as a volunteer, I discovered that working as an archivist was what I wanted to do.

The staff encouraged me to enrol at Charles Sturt University in the Bachelor of Information Studies course, specialising in Records and Archives Management which I began in 2016 and completed in 2021. During that time, I ended up getting a job as a curatorial officer at the NFSA and have not looked back!

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

I was lucky enough to study under a wonderful lecturer at CSU, Dr. Jessie Lymn (who is the current General Editor of Archives and Manuscripts). She encouraged me to apply for the CSU scholarship to work at their Regional Archives for which I was successful. She also encouraged me to apply for the Conference and Professional Membership Grant which allowed me to attend the 2018 ASA conference in Perth. Both of these experiences were crucial for me to learn more about being an archivist and to be part of the community. She gave me so much belief in my studies that I still feel her influence in my career today.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about studying in the area?

One word, volunteer! I really can't stress that enough. Although completing the course is extremely important, I feel that the main reason I have ended up working at the NFSA is because I volunteered there. As a result, the staff and I got to know each other, and the rapport I developed with them was crucial in eventually being offered a job. You must study as well of course, but volunteering is essential.

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

There is no doubt that digitisation has been a huge part of archiving in recent years, and this will continue, at the very least until 2025. There is a major concern that magnetic tape will deteriorate to such an extent that it could be lost forever if it is not digitised before this date. As a result, a massive digitisation campaign is going to be the centrepiece of archiving over the next few years.