

2026-27 HIVE Summer Internship Project

Geolocating Historical Panoramas of the Goldfields (stage 2)

Primary Academic Supervisor

Dr. André Brett

Project Background

The overall Historical Panoramas project has now been running for more than 10 years. The Historical Panoramas website (www.HistoricalPanoramas.com.au) hosts content from Perth, Fremantle and Albany – with some panoramas dating back nearly 200 years. The project engages visitors with the history of these areas through amazing wide-angle historical panoramic views, and compares them with modern day equivalent views, allowing visitors to travel backwards and forwards in time. The next site we wish to progress is the Goldfields, including Kalgoorlie-Boulder and some sites further afield.

During the 1890s, the Goldfields became pivotal to Western Australia's economy, society, and history. It formed a significant new population centre within the state and has retained a key economic role ever since. The allure of gold underpins strong public interest in the industrial and social histories of the Goldfields. The potential for using panoramas to bring to life the history of the Goldfields is significant. These panoramas reveal the changing urban and industrial fabric of the region. So far, more than 50 historical panoramas have been identified, and more may likely exist. A large number of panoramas feature old mine workings, head-frames, railway-lines, buildings, houses and shacks, from over 100 years ago, that are now the site of the Kalgoorlie Super Pit.

This project will focus on accurately identifying the camera location of the Goldfields historical panoramas, particularly the ones in the location of what is now the Super Pit, so that we can re-shoot modern day views of these locations. The Western Australian Museum & State Library of Western Australia will both be involved in the project. The WA Museum are interested in mounting an exhibition based on this content at some point in the future – similar to exhibitions we have already mounted for Fremantle &

Albany. SLWA holds many of the historical panoramic images in their extensive collection.

Project Description, Expected Outputs, Possible Stretch Goals

This project will focus on accurately identifying the camera location of the Goldfields historical panoramas, particularly the ones in the location of what is now the Super Pit, and progress other aspects of the project.

The specific tasks are as follows:

- 1) Review the historical panoramic images and use archival information to identify landmarks in the images.
- 2) work through the panoramas and use landmarks and historical maps (plus Landgate Map Viewer Plus and Google Maps) to determine the camera locations using geo-location techniques developed in prior historical panoramas projects.
- 3) Source high-resolution scans of chosen panoramas.
- 4) Survey other collections to see if there are any additional panoramas to add to the inventory.
- 5) Use Google Maps or Google Earth plus Photoshop to capture a virtual modern-day panorama of each panorama location.
- 6) Create a refined map of the panorama locations, and an index of the panoramas including the latitude and longitude, as well as the visual extent of each panorama.

Stretch goals of the project could include:

- a) the creation a draft of a virtual tour website of the Goldfields panoramas in a similar manner to the Albany Historical Panoramas website using Pano2VR.
- b) creating a possible layout for an exhibition at the Museum of the Great Southern.
- c) develop a list of GPS locations and directions that could be provided to a drone operator, find a suitable drone operator in Kalgoorlie, and potentially open a discussion with the Super Pit operator to find out what permissions would be needed to film with a drone at the Super Pit.

The project will suit a student with interests in photography, history, image editing, and/or archiving.

Links to background reading and any relevant recent work in the field

1. Historical Panoramas Perth, Fremantle and Albany website:
<http://www.historicalpanoramas.com.au/>
2. State Library of WA, "The Golden Mile, Boulder", an example of a Goldfields panorama: https://purl.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa_b1948950_2
3. Barnard, Edwin (2012). "Capturing Time: Historical Panoramas of Old Australia"
4. Hasluck, Alexandra, and Mollie Lukis (1977). "Victorian and Edwardian Perth from Old Photographs"
5. Morcombe, Michael (1979). "Perth: 150 Years"
6. Mary Blight, Andre Brett, Andrew Woods, Tanya Edwards (2024) "Geolocating Historical Panoramas of the Goldfields" HIVE Internship report. Document available on request.
7. Mary Blight, et al (2024) "Historical Panoramas Project; Goldfields; Panoramas inventory". Document available on request.
8. Alexander Hazell, Andre Brett, Andrew Woods, and Leigh O'Brien (2026) "Geolocating Historical Panoramas of Geraldton and Northern Western Australia"

What type of visualisation will the student develop or produce?

Geolocated interactive panoramas for display online, on the HIVE Cylinder, and in other appropriate settings as identified.

How will the visualisation contribute to your research outcomes?

This project will expand the scope of the HIVE's online materials and its engagement with the broader Western Australian community. It will sustain and deepen engagement both within Curtin - between the HIVE and the History discipline within MCASI - and between Curtin and the State Library and WA Museum. It will provide a valuable new source of visual material for use in undergraduate student research projects within HIST3002 Local History Project.

If the project is successful, where would you consider publishing the results?

HistoricalPanoramas.com.au and a potential exhibition via the WA Museum.

Draft Project Timeline:

Week 1

Nov 16 - Full day HIVE induction

Nov 17 - Area and Project Induction with Primary supervisor

Develop project plan with HIVE and academic team

Literature and relevant project review

Project Familiarisation

Week 2

- Review the current inventory of Goldfields Panoramas
- Choose a candidate panorama to geolocate and begin identifying landmarks in this image. Historical records (including old maps) may need to be used to identify landmarks in the chosen panorama and determine the location of these landmarks.

Week 3

- Familiarise with the geolocation process used to estimate the original camera locations on other projects
- Commence geolocation process on first chosen panorama
- Update the existing Goldfields Panoramas inventory (spreadsheet) with location and field-of-view information.
- Continue identifying landmarks and geolocating historical panoramas.
- Explore other potential sources of panoramic images and, if located, submit any necessary requests for high-res images and/or create scans.

Week 4

- Continue identifying landmarks and geolocating historical panoramas.

Week 5

- Explore the use Google Maps/Google Earth to capture a virtual modern-day panorama of a chosen historical panorama location.
- Use Photoshop to stitch multiple screen-captures to create a present-day panorama.
- Also use Photoshop to experiment with matching zoom and scale of historical and present-day panoramas by matching common features.

Week 6

- Continue to geolocate and stitch together panoramas. Explore entering panoramas into Pano2VR.
- As a forward planning exercise, explore the possibility of a future site-visit to Kalgoorlie to capture modern-day panoramas photographically in the Goldfields. Consider travelling times, and whether permissions would be required to access new panorama locations. There isn't sufficient time in this project so this won't actually occur in this project but it is good to do forward planning for a future task beyond this internship project.

Week 7

- Continue searching, geolocating, stitching, and building the virtual tour.
- Experiment with displaying panoramas on the HIVE Cylinder display.
- Experiment with exhibition layout floorplan options at the Museum of the Goldfields.

Week 8

- Begin finalising project and start preparing report.

Week 9

Focus on report writing and presentation (including demo) preparation

Week 10

*Focus on report writing and presentation (including demo) preparation
5th Feb Final Showcase Day and final report due*

Student Experience and Supervision:

How often will you meet with the student over the 10-week period?

Weekly, and optional extra meetups as required.

Your work desk location and the location of student desk

HIVE staff office 200A:213

Student Attributes:

Please indicate any preference for student's academic discipline or field of study

History

What competencies are required to start this project

Beginner - 2D art/editing

Do you have any other student attributes you think are important to the project?

Good history research skills, familiarity with basic level of excel would be useful.