

EMBARGOED UNTIL 7.30 pm AEST, Wednesday 26 July 2017

The 2017 Victorian Museum Awards were presented on Wednesday 26 July at ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image) by Museums Australia (Victoria) – www.mavic.asn.au – the peak body for 1,000+ museums and collecting organisations. The night was hosted by performer, writer, producer, and director, Lawrence Leung and featured a special address by Martin Foley MP, Minister for Creative Industries.

The Awards, now in their 24th year, are held annually to highlight outstanding achievements in the Victorian museum, gallery, and collecting sector. This special event raises awareness of museums as effective vehicles for engagement with ideas and communities, rewards and encourages best practice by individuals and organisations, and recognises the value of museums within the community.

THE 2017 VICTORIAN MUSEUM AWARDS (5 categories & 7 recipients)

Category 1: Three individuals were recognised when they won a Museums Australia (Victoria) Award for Excellence. They are Gary Lawrence, Daylesford and District Historical Society, in the Volunteer category, and Elizabeth Anya-Petrivna, National Trust (Victoria), and Dr Linda Young, Deakin University, in the Paid Staff category.

Gary Lawrence has been working voluntarily with the Daylesford and District Historical Society and Museum for over five years and across many domains of museum practice. Gary has prioritised and planned improvements to the building and display hierarchy, has made successful grant applications to obtain needed conservation materials, progressed the cataloguing of the collection, established community links including with LGBTIQ advocates and the Dja Dja Wurrung Clan Corporation, and introduced pop-up art exhibitions to tell local stories.

For the past 17 years Elizabeth Anya-Petrivna has been an enthusiastic driving force behind one of Australia's most significant social history collections; the costume collection of 4,000 items at the National Trust (Victoria). Elizabeth has curated and produced many popular exhibitions that have reinvigorated heritage tourism around the state and her rigorous research has added to the Trust's knowledge of the collection and benefited her inventive public programs.

Dr Linda Young has worked and educated in the museum sector for over 40 years, making a substantial contribution as a lecturer, researcher, conference presenter, and practitioner. Dr Young has published widely on museum issues including over 20 articles in internationally refereed journals, with a focus on house museums as a species of museum. Linda is currently Senior Lecturer in Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies.

Category 2: The Archival Survival Award for Volunteer-Run Museums was won by the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History for their suite of online projects telling the history of anaesthesia. The Geoffrey Kaye Museum is the public face of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) and needs to provide access to its collections and research for regional, interstate and New Zealand ANZCA members as well as international researchers. The Museum's online exhibitions, blog, social media, and catalogued collection receives a visitation that exceeds physical Museum visits.

Category 3: The Burrinja Cultural Centre was recognised when it received the Archival Survival Award for Small Museums for its production of the Black Mist Burnt Country national touring exhibition. *Black Mist Burnt Country* retells the story of the British atomic tests in Australia in the

1950s. A third of the artworks in the exhibition are by urban and remote Aboriginal artists and commissioned works created opportunities for the Yalata Aboriginal community. The exhibition will tour across four states until 2019.

Category 4: The Museums Australia (Victoria) Award for Medium Museums category, was won by Bendigo Tramways for their excellent crowdfunding campaign to restore Tram No. 7. Over 200 supporters donated over \$30,000 to this well-run, three month, restoration campaign that reached younger audiences and galvanised an appreciation for the history and significance of trams in Bendigo. Support from local suppliers and businesses created products including some unique collectors six packs of tram beer. The refurbishment of Tram No 7 is underway and is expected to be completed for a launch in November.

Category 5: Museums Victoria won the Museums Australia (Victoria) Award for Large Museums for the Pauline Gandel Children's Gallery at Melbourne Museum. This ambitious redevelopment reimagines what a museum can offer its youngest audience: babies to five year olds. The new gallery draws on collections and expertise to support play-led learning for visitors including parents/carers and special needs participants. Extensive consultation with 500 children and 100 adults has contributed to the creation of a welcoming and inspiring experience.

MUSEUM RECEIVING ACCREDITATION IN 2017 (2 Accreditations)

Martin Foley MP, Minister for Creative Industries, presented a certificate to the Shrine of Remembrance and the Grainger Museum for successfully completing the Museum Accreditation Program (MAP) this year. 100 of Victoria's museums are now in this gold-standard program that promotes best practice across all areas of museum management in line with the *National Standards for Museums and Galleries*. There are currently 73 organisations Accredited and a further 27 working towards this goal. Visit the MAP geolocation map to discover Accredited museums and galleries across Victoria.

THE VICTORIAN COLLECTIONS AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MUSEUM CATALOGUING (3 Awards)

Dr Robin Hirst, Director, Collections Research & Exhibitions at Museums Victoria, presented The Victorian Collections Awards for Excellence in Museum Cataloguing to the Warrnambool and District Historical Society, Mission to Seafarers Victoria, and the Wangaratta RSL Sub-Branch. These Awards acknowledge the hard work undertaken by these organisations in cataloguing their collections online using Victorian Collections. Since 2009, Victorian Collections has provided a free, easy to use, online cataloguing system for a diverse range of collecting organisations (www.victoriancollections.net.au). Developed in partnership by Museums Australia (Victoria) and Museum Victoria, and with over 85,000 objects publicly accessible online from 450 organisations, Victorian Collections makes state-wide cultural treasures accessible and discoverable to the online community.

Further information:

<http://www.mavic.asn.au/awards>

Photographs of the Awards Ceremony, Award-winning projects, Accredited museums, and selected objects from Victorian Collections are available upon request.

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Notes for editors:

Museums Australia (Victoria) was established as the peak body for museums in Victoria in 1994. Our 1,000+ museums include galleries, science centres, Indigenous keeping places, historical societies, historic houses, botanic gardens, zoos, aquaria, cultural centres, and archaeological monuments.

Two-thirds of these are volunteer-run. Community museums care for an estimated 8 million objects in Victoria. We support and advocate for the development of quality museums, collections care, knowledge and specialised skills, and support the creative industries with key initiatives including the Museum Accreditation Program and Victorian Collections, the online portal to our State's cultural treasures: www.mavic.asn.au and www.victoriancollections.net.au

VICTORIAN MUSEUM AWARDS SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

