

**The 2018 Victorian Museum Awards were presented on Wednesday 29 August at Melbourne Museum by Museums Australia (Victoria) – [www.mavic.asn.au](http://www.mavic.asn.au) – the peak body for 1,000+ museums and collecting organisations. The night was hosted by Jacinta Parsons, ABC Radio and featured a special address by Frank McGuire MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Medical Research and Member for Broadmeadows.**

The Awards, now in their 25<sup>th</sup> 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 2018 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: Tanja Johnston, Australian National Veterans Arts Museum, in the Volunteer category, and Linda Peacock, The Robert O’Hara Burke Museum, and Christine Grayden, Phillip Island Nature Parks, in the Paid Staff category.

Tanja Johnston received this Award for her commitment and leadership at the Australian National Veterans Arts Museum. Tanja Johnston is the founder of the Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM) that was established in 2013 as a cultural institution dedicated to improving the quality of life and wellbeing of defense force veterans and their families. Tanja Johnston has been delivering an art therapy program as a volunteer at the ANVAM for the past thirteen years and has supported over 1000 veterans. Tanja Johnston is noted for her vision and passion in the field of veteran’s art and wellbeing.

Linda Peacock received this Award for her passion for expanding the reach, scope, collaborative and advocative potential of the Robert O’Hara Burke Museum, and to utilise its collections and its spaces to motivate, challenge, highlight and expand inclusivity within and beyond the Beechworth community, while enhancing its relevance and maintaining the museum’s unique integrity. She is continually questioning the changing role of museums and is committed to minimising the impact of her work on the environment.

Christine Grayden received this Lifetime Achievement Award for her work for over 30 years as a tireless supporter of heritage organisations including Phillip Island Nature Parks, Phillip Island Conservation Society, Phillip Island and District Historical Society (PIHS) and Friends of Churchill Island Society (FOCIS). In her recent role as the first museum curator for the historically significant Churchill Island, Christine has been responsible for the management of the collection including development of policies and procedures, cataloguing, donations, conservation, research, stocktake, community engagement, interpretation and display. Christine has been instrumental in the successful Museum Accreditation of Churchill Island Heritage.

**Category 2:** The Archival Survival Award for Volunteer-Run Museums was won by the Stanley Athenaeum for their *Hearts of Gold – Minds of Mettle* exhibition. The exhibition told the stories of 60 extraordinary nineteenth century Stanley women. Following a creative writing workshop the Friends were inspired to research the history of women in Stanley. Curator, Ali Rowe, joined the team and condensed the research material for interpretive panels with accompanying object displays. The project uncovered previously unrecognised elements of history in the Stanley area, attracted new audiences, engaged the wider community, fostered partnerships with organisations and businesses in the area.

**Category 3:** The Duldig Studio was recognised when it received the Archival Survival Award for Small Museums for their Reaching Out to Our Communities – expanding public programs at Duldig Studio. Through these programs new alliances were made with art educators, local schools, community centres, aged care facilities, art and design practitioners, and the local community. Duldig Studio is an Artists' house museum, Gallery and Sculpture Garden in East Malvern, with four part-time staff supported by a small group of dedicated volunteers. The motto of the Studio is, 'inspiring creative journeys' in the spirit of the artists and teachers, Karl Duldig (1902-1986) and Slawa Duldig née Horowitz (c1902-1975) who formerly lived in the Duldig Studio. The Duldig family home was opened as a museum in 1996.

**Category 4:** The Museums Australia (Victoria) Award for Medium Museums category, was won by Multicultural Museums Victoria for their excellent, 'Grandmothers' Project. The *Grandmothers* exhibition project was developed as the inaugural project for the newly formed Multicultural Museums Victoria (MMV). MMV is a unique cross-cultural alliance between the Chinese Museum, Co.As.It Italian Historical Society & Museo Italiano, Hellenic Museum, Islamic Museum of Australia and the Jewish Museum of Australia. The alliance has increased the five museum's visibility and audiences and has demonstrated the capacity of the different ethno-specific museums to work together creatively to achieve shared goals. The MMV partnership demonstrates the role that contemporary museums play in progressing important dialogue around recognition and respect for cultural diversity.

**Category 5:** ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image) won the Museums Australia (Victoria) Award for Large Museums for their *Wonderland* exhibition. Over two years, ACMI collated a remarkable selection of behind-the-scenes material sourced from collections around the world to create this theatrical exhibition. The *Wonderland* team at ACMI worked with a group of Australian collaborators, transforming the usual process of exhibition development from an internal research-base to a platform that was open, collaborative and multidisciplinary. As a Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition, audiences were carefully considered. ACMI partnered with autism awareness group AMAZE and offered descriptive tours for visually impaired visitors. Late Nights were programmed to engage with the LGBTQIA+ and culturally diverse communities.

#### MUSEUMS RECEIVING ACCREDITATION IN 2018 (4 Accreditations)

Frank McGuire MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Medical Research and Member for Broadmeadows, also presented certificates to four museums that had completed the gold-standard Museum Accreditation Program this year: **Friends of Westgarthtown Ziebell's Farmhouse, National Wool Museum, Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria Heritage Collection** and the **Warrnambool Art Gallery**. 93 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 75 organisations Accredited and a further 19 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 Julie Cotter, Senior Program Manager, Victorian Cultural Collections, Creative Victoria, presented The Victorian Collections Awards for Excellence in Museum Cataloguing to Tatura Irrigation and Wartime Camps Museum, Uniting Church Archives – Synod of Victoria and Melbourne Legacy. 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](http://www.victoriancollections.net.au)). Developed in partnership by Museums Australia (Victoria) and Museum Victoria, and with over 125,000 objects publicly accessible online from 528 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](http://www.mavic.asn.au) and [www.victoriancollections.net.au](http://www.victoriancollections.net.au)

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