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THE MALDON MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES GAINS MUSEUM ACCREDITATION

The Maldon Museum and Archives Association has gained Accreditation by the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria. A professional panel of museum experts has made a final assessment and compiled a positive report on the museum's operations. The Maldon Museum and Archives Association has met set criteria from the *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries* and joins the 80 Victorian museums, galleries and collecting organisations Accredited in Victoria.

Housed in the original 1859 Market Hall building in the historic town of Maldon, the Maldon Museum and Archives Association provides a variety of rich experiences for researchers and visitors to the area. Managed by volunteers, the association has created delightful thematic exhibitions which tell the story of Maldon's rich and varied history based on highlights from the collection including the recently heritage listed Banner of the Amalgamated Miner's Association of Australasia – Maldon No. 14 Branch, one of only two AMAA banners known to have survived. The visitor experience is enhanced by multimedia presentations and QR codes which provide depth to the information and stories presented. The museum also includes a research centre and online search facilities to encourage the general public to engage with local history.

Another highlight of the visitor experience is the ability of visitors to explore Maldon's stunning historic 19th and early 20th century buildings and streetscapes through the walking tour app *Maldon Rediscovered* produced by the Association. Each of the three tours enables visitors to explore the charming buildings, places and streetscapes of Australia's first 'Notable Town'.

The Accreditation panel was impressed with the organisation's interpretation and care of the collection, including in depth knowledge and practice in environmental monitoring alongside its full suite of comprehensive and informed policies to manage the organisation.

The Victorian-based Museum Accreditation Program (MAP) is now in its 27th year and is run by Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria, the professional association for the museum and gallery sector. There are currently 80 Accredited cultural organisations and a further 5 working towards this goal. To become Accredited the museum spent 3-4 years developing procedures and policies, and practice to meet recognised museum standards.

Caroline Wall Co-Manager, Museum Accreditation Program, Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria, says, *"We are delighted to recognise the many years of hard work undertaken by the team of volunteers at the Maldon Museum & Archives Association to reach this level of museum practice. Caring for our shared heritage and preserving collective memory is vital for our society, and by becoming accredited the Maldon Museum and Archives Association has made a significant commitment to ongoing improvement for the benefit of the local community."*

A formal presentation of the Maldon Museum and Archives Association Accreditation

certificate, signed by the Hon Martin Foley MP, Minister for Creative Industries, will be made at the 2020 Victorian Museum Awards.

Further information:

The Maldon Museum and Archives Association
<http://maldonmuseum.com.au/>

The Museum Accreditation Program
https://amagavic.org.au/museum_accreditation_program

For all media enquiries please contact:

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Notes for editors:

Australian Museums and Galleries Association 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: <https://amagavic.org.au/> and www.victoriancollections.net.au

For an interactive map of Victoria's Accredited museums:
https://amagavic.org.au/museum_accreditation_program/victorias-accredited-museums

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