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**THE DAYLESFORD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY GAINS MUSEUM
ACCREDITATION**

The Daylesford & District Historical Society 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 Daylesford & District Historical Society has met set criteria from the *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries* and joins the 81 Victorian museums, galleries and collecting organisations Accredited in Victoria.

As a 100% volunteer run museum, the Daylesford & District Historical Society has evolved since its establishment in 1964, into an inclusive and welcoming museum which proudly represents its diverse community through its exciting permanent and temporary exhibition program. The museum brings together heritage and contemporary life through its permanent and temporary pop up exhibitions which respond to local events such as the ChillOut Festival and National Reconciliation Week. Adopting a co-curation model and working in conjunction with local Dja Dja Wurrung people for example, the museum has developed a fresh approach to exploring under-represented stories based on objects within its collection.

The museum has also shown a deep commitment to ongoing improvement and in recent years has actively sought grants to complete an overhaul of all aspects of operations including major improvements to collection storage and preservation, engaging further with the local community and lifting the profile of the museum regionally. Participation in the Green Museum Project in 2017 has also seen the organisation lighten its environmental footprint.

The Accreditation panel was impressed with the volunteers' determination to operate a professional organisation and strong focus on continual improvement, the well-developed skills in collection care and preservation, and engagement with the local community, commenting that the new displays of Dja Dja Wurrung cultural heritage "has real depth and was multi-layered in presenting both a deep reflection of complex issues, and celebration of Aboriginal peoples and culture."

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 81 Accredited cultural organisations and a further 4 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 and commitment shown by the team of volunteers at the Daylesford & District Historical Society. Caring for our shared heritage is an important task, and by becoming Accredited the Daylesford & District Historical Society has proven to be a leading community museum in Victoria."*

A formal presentation of the Daylesford & District Historical Society's certificate, will be made at the 2020 Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards.

Further information:

Daylesford & District Historical Society
<https://www.daylesfordhistory.com.au>

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

For all media enquiries please contact:

Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria
Telephone: 03 8341 7344 or email: info@amagavic.org.au

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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