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TATURA IRRIGATION AND WARTIME CAMPS MUSEUM GAINS MUSEUM ACCREDITATION

The Tatura Irrigation and Wartime Camps Museum has gained Accreditation by 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 Museum has worked hard to meet set criteria from the *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries* and joins the 82 Victorian collections Accredited in Victoria.

Tatura Irrigation and Wartime Camps Museum has been open to the public since 1988. In this time, the Museum has developed a collection focused on the history of seven local WWII internment and prisoner of war camps, the history of irrigation in the western Goulburn Valley, and the history of Tatura township and district.

Through the ongoing commitment of its dedicated volunteers, the Museum has made significant improvements to the preservation and interpretation of the collection, culminating in the 2019 launch of redeveloped exhibition spaces and collection storage facilities. The Museum has created long-lasting relationships with former internees and their descendants, and through the use of the Victorian Collections collection management system, has created broad public access to its highly significant collection.

The Accreditation panel was impressed with the volunteers' determination to operate a professional organisation and strong focus on continual improvement, commenting that the Museum's success in attaining a listing on the Victorian Heritage Register for the Tatura World War II Internment and POW Camps Collection was a substantial achievement which has led to increased opportunities for the care and interpretation of this outstanding cultural resource.

The Victorian-based Museum Accreditation Program (MAP) is now in its 28th year and is run by Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria, the professional association for the museum and gallery sector. There are currently 82 Accredited cultural organisations and a further 3 working towards this goal. To become Accredited, museums spend 2-3 years developing procedures and policies, and practice to meet recognised museum standards. Training, advice, and other resources are made available to assist museums in meeting these standards.

Amelia Marra, Co-Manager, Museum Accreditation Program, Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria, says, *"We are delighted to recognise the hard work and commitment shown by the team at Tatura Irrigation and Wartime Camps Museum. Caring for our shared heritage is an important task and by becoming accredited Tatura Irrigation and Wartime Camps Museum has proven to be a leading museum in Victoria."*

A formal presentation of Tatura Irrigation and Wartime Camps Museum's Accreditation certificate, will be made at the 2021 Victorian Museum Awards, to be held on 5 October at State Library Victoria.

Further information:

Tatura Irrigation and Wartime Camps Museum
<https://www.taturamuseum.com/>

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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