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## **CHARLTON GOLDEN GRAINS MUSEUM GAINS MUSEUM ACCREDITATION**

**The Charlton Golden Grains 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 83 Victorian collections Accredited in Victoria.**

The Charlton Golden Grains Museum Committee was formed in 1973 and by 1974 the Committee had a permanent display and space for research and meetings in the former Mechanics Institute building (1882). In this time, and largely due to the generosity of the local community, the Museum has developed a collection over 3000 artifacts and photographs focused on the district's First Peoples and Charlton's early pioneers through to today. Local family history research is also available from the museum's extensive collection of resources.

At the time the Museum enrolled in the Museum Accreditation Program (MAP), the Museum had recently completed renovations after a major flood and were still recovering from the natural disaster. The flood had not only devastated the Museum building and collection but also eighty percent of the town. The Accreditation panel acknowledged that the Museum should be proud of the proven resilience of volunteers, the professionalism of their activities, and high volume of achievements.

The panel was impressed with the volunteers' determination to operate a professional organisation and strong focus on continual improvement, commenting that the Museum undertakes an extremely high workload for the number of volunteers at the organisation. An already strong and successful Museum, through the ongoing commitment of its dedicated volunteers, the Museum has made impressive improvements to the preservation and interpretation of the collection particularly in the collection storage spaces.

The Victorian-based 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 83 Accredited cultural organisations and a further 2 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.

Sherryn Vardy, 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 Charlton Golden Grains Museum. Caring for our shared heritage is an important task and by becoming accredited Charlton Golden Grains Museum has proven to be a leading museum in Victoria."*

A formal presentation of Charlton Golden Grains Museum's Accreditation certificate will be made at the 2021 Victorian Museum Awards, to be held via an online event on 5 October.

**Further information:**

Charlton Golden Grains Museum

<https://charltongoldengrainsmuseum.webs.com/>

The Museum Accreditation Program

[https://amagavic.org.au/museum\\_accreditation\\_program](https://amagavic.org.au/museum_accreditation_program)

**For all media enquiries please contact:**

Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria

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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](http://www.victoriancollections.net.au)

For an interactive map of Victoria's Accredited museums:

[https://amagavic.org.au/museum\\_accreditation\\_program/victorias-accredited-museums](https://amagavic.org.au/museum_accreditation_program/victorias-accredited-museums)

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