

The 2022 Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards presentation was held on Tuesday 4 October at State Library Victoria by AMaGA Victoria – <https://amagavic.org.au> – the peak body for 1000+ museums, galleries, and community collecting organisations. The night was hosted by Bernard Caleo, including a special online address by Steve Dimopoulos MP, Minister for Creative Industries.

The Awards, now in their 29th year, are conducted annually to highlight outstanding achievements in the Victorian museum, gallery, and collecting sector. This special event raises awareness of museums and galleries as effective vehicles for engaging ideas and communities, rewards and encourages best practice by individuals and organisations, and recognises the value of museums and galleries within the community.

THE 2022 VICTORIAN MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES AWARDS (8 categories & 8 recipients)

Category 1: The AMaGA Victoria Award for Excellence (volunteer)

Winner: Mick Bourke, Volunteer, Trafalgar Holden Museum

Mick Bourke has been a major driver in the development and improvement of the Trafalgar Holden Museum (THM). Through his determination, skills and knowledge he has helped to bring the museum to a higher level of community and industry standing. Mick has been a community leader and has contributed to many local community enterprises including The Trafalgar News, Trafalgar Bendigo Community Bank and Trafalgar Community Development Association. For his efforts and giving to the community, Mick was honoured with an OAM in 2014.

The judges recognised Mick's leadership skills and commitment to volunteering at Trafalgar Holden Museum. His influence and advice have helped the museum to improve its governance through the development of policies and procedures over a wide range of activities and functions.

Highly Commended: Helen Hill, Volunteer Guide, ACMI

The judges gave Helen a special commendation for her exceptional contribution to ACMI in her role as a Visitor Experience Volunteer at ACMI.

Category 2: The AMaGA Victoria Award for Excellence (paid staff)

Winner: Jayne Josem, CEO, Melbourne Holocaust Museum

Through a global pandemic, whilst redeveloping the physical building, Jayne Josem remained steadfastly committed, not only to the mission of the Melbourne Holocaust Museum, but to the team she leads – the cherished Holocaust survivors, volunteers, and the wider community. A truly courageous and compassionate leader, Jayne went the extra mile to check in on her team, creating opportunities for connection in a landscape of lockdowns and remote working, ensuring the well-being of everyone, and providing stimulating opportunities to ensure meaningful contribution in an uncertain world.

The judges praised Jayne's strategic and focussed team support through lockdowns and the development of the intergenerational 'Survivor Connect' program. Jayne is an industry leader with a clear focus and vision for the organisation.

Highly Commended: Ashleigh Giffney, Collections Manager, Beechworth Burke Museum

The judges noted Ashley as an appreciated and experienced local professional and her skills in digitising of local collection, in collaboration with the Wooragee Landcare Group and community.

Category 3: AMaGA Victoria Lifetime Achievement Award

Winner: Warren Doubleday was honoured with a AMaGA Victoria Lifetime Achievement for his Volunteer work with the **Ballarat Tramway Museum, Inc.**

As a passionate and dedicated leader in the museum sector, Warren Doubleday has committed his life to the promotion and implementation of industry best practices through his professional career as a Civil Engineer, and in the Tourist & Heritage rail sector through his involvement in the Ballarat Tramway Museum (BTM). Actively involved with the BTM for over 50 years, Warren has spent the last four decades focusing on the preservation of Ballarat's and Victoria's unique tram and tramway history. Warren has been at the forefront of much change and progress. He is commended for his commitment to best practice standards and championing of the Museum Accreditation Program. He has clearly brought his professional skills and personal passion together to make an invaluable contribution to the sector. Judges were very impressed with Warren's 40 years of volunteerism! A huge achievement in overseeing, advocating and contributing to the redevelopment of the Ballarat Tramway Museum.

Category 4: Martin Hallett Award for individual contribution to community heritage

Winner: Kerry Landman, Head Volunteer, Research and Collections, Robin Boyd Foundation was recognised for her contribution to community heritage with the Martin Hallett Award.

In 2014, Kerry was a founding member of the Robin Boyd Foundation's volunteer Research and Collections team, leading a project to catalogue, digitise and preserve the foundation's holdings, known today as the Walsh Street Archive. The archive is a nationally significant collection of over 4000 objects from Boyd's family home, known as Walsh Street or Boyd House II, including artworks, furniture, books, manuscripts, documents and audio-visual material. The archive is a rich record of the professional and personal life of Boyd, arguably the most influential Australian architect of the 20th-century.

The judges commended Kerry on her Victoria Collections cataloguing practices. Over 7 years, Kerry has led the volunteer team to create the digital Walsh Street Archive that has been preserved and made available to all. Her leadership has been in planning, technical implementation, managing and coordinating a team of over forty volunteers. She has demonstrated the value of Victorian Collections to small cultural institutions as a tool for expanding public access and exposure to their holdings. Thanks to Kerry, the foundation's digital archive will enable new academic and public research for years to come.

Category 5: The Archival Survival Award for Volunteer-run Organisations

Winner: The Archival Survival Award for volunteer-run organisations was won by **Yarra Ranges Heritage Network** for ***Power and the People: 150 Years of Local Government*** exhibition.

Power and the People: 150 Years of Local Government is an exhibition by the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network, which was formed in 1995 to bring history groups together to promote and lobby for the Shire's heritage. This project was the network's first exhibition. With contributions from 18 historical societies and community organisations, the exhibition celebrates the 150th anniversary of the setting up of local government in the Yarra Ranges. Each organisation has chosen one example in their

community to show how the partnership between the people and local government has created facilities their community still enjoys today.

The judges acknowledged a positive perspective of what communities and local government can achieve together. "A great, humble project that demonstrated innovation and creativity showcased access and equity including diverse voices."

Category 6: The Archival Survival Award for Small Organisations

Winner: Golden Dragon Museum for their **Loong Conservation Project.**

Loong is the oldest extant Imperial Processional Dragon in the world. Listed on the Victorian Heritage Register and made in the late nineteenth century, he paraded in Bendigo and across South-East Australia until 1970 and was a feature of the 1901 Federation celebrations in Melbourne. Loong last paraded in 2019 to welcome the successor, Dai Gum Loong. The heritage and full collection of dragons and their regalia is unique in the world to Bendigo and the Golden Dragon Museum. The Loong Conservation Project lasted 12-months and saw Loong conserved to the highest possible standards by conservators from Grimwade Conservation Services (GCS), BCA and other volunteers and University of Melbourne students. The project was supported by the Victorian Government through the Living Heritage Grants Program, Heritage Victoria and the University of Melbourne's Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies. The conservation project team (conservators and volunteers) delivered 2375 hours of treatment work to a rare and culturally significant processional dragon on permanent display at the Golden Dragon Museum.

The judges praised Golden Dragon Museum for a "great project making the process of cultural materials conservation visible to the public, particularly when it can be a very time consuming and delicate operation. Wonderfully engaging".

Highly commended: Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History (Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists for their *Djeembana Whakaora: First Nations medicine, health and healing* exhibition.

The judges commended the museum for a project leading the way in providing a platform for First Nations knowledge to be shared and brought into contemporary vision.

Highly commended: Beechworth Burke Museum for their *People of Beechworth* exhibition.

The judges commended the museum for an exhibition that engages its immediate community and builds the continued collection of human stories for its collection.

Category 7: The AMaGA Victoria Award for Medium Organisations

Winner: The Shrine of Remembrance for their *'Lust, Love, Loss: Australian stories of wartime relationships'* special exhibition.

'Lust, Love, Loss: Australian stories of wartime relationships' special exhibition aims to explore the complex issues surrounding matters of love and sex. The complex issues surrounding these matters profoundly affects people, everywhere and every day. Wartime is no exception. The disruptive nature of war and the extraordinary situations it brings about, invariably magnifies human experience in these spheres.

Works of art by celebrated Australian artists unpack these complex ideas while historical exhibits pertaining to the experiences of Australian men and women delve deeper into the stories of

individuals and couples. The exhibition encapsulates all the complex, thought-provoking and often confronting themes in a sensitive and non-sensationalist manner.

The judges commended the Shrine of Remembrance for developing an exhibition addressing such universal themes of love and sex in wartime, “bringing a different audience to the Shrine and encouraging future visitation for the series of exhibitions that will follow on from this initial beautifully respectful exhibition”.

Highly Commended: Jewish Museum of Australia for their **MIRKA** exhibition.

The judges acknowledged a great exhibition to bring a new audience into the Jewish Museum Australia and share the story of a significant person in the Jewish and art communities as well as a local icon.

Category 8: The AMaGA Victoria Award for Large Organisations

Winner: Museums Victoria - Safe Management of Hazardous Substances at Museums Victoria

Museums Victoria has developed a comprehensive, compliant State Collection Management framework for ensuring the safety of staff and others as they work with hazardous substances in collections. Museums Victoria (MV) develops and cares for the State collections (the collections) under the Museums Act 1983 (Vic.). Formed over more than 160 years, Museums Victoria’s State collections consist of some 17 million items. The collections include one of the most internationally-significant collections of First Peoples’ cultural material from south-eastern and wider Australia and the Pacific, extensive scientific holdings with strengths in material from south-eastern Australia and surrounding waters, and a unique collection representing Victoria’s key historical, social and technological moments and stories. Pockets of these wide-ranging collections contain hazardous substances. MV has developed a framework that achieves an outstanding balance between thoroughness and rigour, compliance, and creative application, to do all it reasonably can to keep people safe when they work with or otherwise encounter collection items containing hazardous substances.

The judges commended Museums Victoria for “*showcasing innovation in the management of hazardous collections and providing a pathway for other institutions, big and small to follow. Information about safe practices is demonstrably shared in public forums in an accessible and equitable manner. Information and procedures are empowering when they link to safe working practices*”.

Highly Commended: Scienceworks, Museums Victoria for their ***Illuminate: How Science Comes To Light*** exhibition.

Judges commended this project and how it delivers a great, edgy, immersive and contemporary exhibition on a scientific complex subject matter, stimulating in every way.

MUSEUMS RECEIVING REACCREDITATION IN 2022 (3 Reaccreditations)

Three organisations were Reaccredited this year: the Australian Racing Museum and the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History as part of the Museum Accreditation Program, and Whitehorse Historical Society as part of the Community Museum Accreditation Program. Victorian collecting organisations have been supported through Accreditation for 29 years. The Programs aim to guide

on-going development and bring about positive change by supporting organisations to preserve and manage collections and enrich community experiences.

THE VICTORIAN COLLECTIONS AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MUSEUM CATALOGUING (4 Awards)

Dr Georgia Melville, Senior Policy Officer, Victorian Cultural Network, Creative Victoria, presented the Victorian Collections Awards for Excellence in Museum Cataloguing to Kew Historical Society (for volunteer-run organisations), The Beechworth Burke Museum (for organisations with paid staff), Melbourne Legacy (for war heritage collections) and The Federation University Australia Art Collection (for gallery and civic art collections).

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. Developed in partnership by AMaGA Victoria and Museums Victoria, and funded by Creative Victoria, Victorian Collections makes state-wide cultural treasures accessible and discoverable to the online community.

Further information: <https://www.amagavic.org.au/awards>

Photographs of the Award-winning projects, Reaccredited museums, and selected objects from Victorian Collections are available upon request.

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Notes for editors:

Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria (Museums Australia (Victoria) prior to November 2018) was established as the peak body for museums in Victoria in 1993. Our 1000+ 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

VICTORIAN MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES AWARDS SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS