

Victorian Museum Awards 2015



Left: Winners of the Museums Australia (Victoria) Award for Excellence (Paid Staff), Geoffrey Edwards and Deborah Tout-Smith with MC, Tegan Higginbotham (centre).

Opposite top left: Members of the Caulfield RSL Sub-Branch receiving the Archival Survival Award for Small Museums from Martin Hallett, Senior Arts Officer, Creative Victoria. From left to right: Martin Hallett, Peter Frost, Jim Hardy, Colin Bradley, Nathan Haynes, David Lebrun & Jason Yelen.

Opposite top right: Angela Henricksen from Awards Sponsor Archival Survival presenting the Archival Survival Award for Volunteer Run Museums to Christine Grayden from the Phillip Island & District Historical Society.

Opposite bottom left: Hugh Brideson from Awards Sponsor Arthur J. Gallagher presenting the Museums Australia (Victoria) Award for Medium Museums for the Hellenic Museum, to John Tatoulis and Penni Pappas.

Opposite bottom right: Andrew Abbott, Deputy Secretary, Creative Victoria, presented the Museums Australia (Victoria) Award for Large Museums to Priscilla Gaff (left) and Adrienne Leith for Museum Victoria's Autism Friendly Project.

Photos: Simon Fox, Deakin University.



The 2015 Victorian Museum Awards were presented on 6 August at the National Gallery of Victoria by Museums Australia (Victoria). The night was hosted by special guest, performer, actor and writer, Tegan Higginbotham and featured a special address by Martin Foley MP, Minister for Creative Industries.

The 22nd Victorian Museum Awards were presented to this year's winners by special guests Emily McCulloch Childs, Co-Director of McCulloch & McCulloch, Martin Hallett, Creative Victoria, Hugh Brideson from sponsor, Arthur J. Gallagher, Bryony Nainby, Director of Benalla Art Gallery, Angela Henricksen from sponsor Archival Survival and Andrew Abbott, Deputy Secretary, Creative Victoria. Nearly 200 guests enjoyed drinks and canapés in Persimmon at the National Gallery of Victoria before and after the Awards formalities. Our congratulations to these winners of the 2015 Victorian Museum Awards:

Organisation Awards

Museums Australia Award for Large Museums (51+ paid staff)

MUSEUM VICTORIA

Museum Victoria for the Autism Friendly Museum Project

Highly Commended: State Library of Victoria for the *Bohemian Melbourne* exhibition

The aim of the Autism Friendly Museum Project is to welcome and include people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder at

Melbourne Museum, Scienceworks and the Immigration Museum. Since 2013 Museum Victoria has been working with AMAZE, the peak body for Autism Spectrum people in Victoria and the Department of Early Childhood Development to provide staff awareness and training, and online resources including social scripts and sensory maps. The Autism Friendly Museum Project was recognised by the judges as a ground breaking and innovative project, they commented that "this project takes us into different territory where audiences are being thought of in a more granular way and the special needs of particular groups are now being seriously considered."

Museums Australia Award for Medium Museums (8-50 paid staff)

HELLENIC MUSEUM

Hellenic Museum for the *Gods, Myths and Mortals* exhibition

Highly Commended: Shrine of Remembrance for The Galleries of Remembrance

The Hellenic Museum received this Award for the *Gods, Myths and Mortals* exhibition launched in September 2014 for display over the next 10 years. In 2013 the Hellenic Museum secured a long-

term loan from the Benaki Museum in Athens. Over 150 artefacts were loaned and relate key moments of the Greek experience spanning 8,000 years. The Greek Ministry of Culture has never allowed a collection of this significance to leave Greece for more than a year, making this ten-year loan to the Hellenic Museum a substantial achievement. The judges admired the multicultural links developed for this exhibition that will be the foundation for future projects, and were impressed by the quality of the loaned objects, the curatorial ambition and ingenious transformation of the museum interior for the new displays.

Archival Survival Award for Small Museums (1-7 paid staff)

CAULFIELD RSL

The winner of this Award received Archival Survival materials to the value of \$1000

Caulfield RSL for the *Back to Gallipoli* exhibition

Highly Commended: The Johnston Collection for *An Englishman Abroad: At home in British India*

The Caulfield RSL received this Award for the *Back to Gallipoli* exhibition. Approximately 20,000 visitors to the

exhibition were transported back to Turkey in 1915 with recreated Gallipoli trenches made with 2,599 sandbags, replicated scenes using wall mounted photographs, simulated artillery and hundreds of props. The exhibition included an Honour Roll for the 3,500 men and women from Caulfield that served in WW1, and forged an ongoing relationship with local schools and the community. The judges were impressed with this timely exhibition and the huge construction effort over a short space of time. The dedication of the staff and volunteers involved was highly praised and the judges applauded the museum for the visitation levels to the exhibition, the large number of schools who visited and the level of media attention it received.

Archival Survival Award for Volunteer-Run Museums

PHILLIP ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The winner of this Award received Archival Survival materials to the value of \$1000

Phillip Island and District Historical Society for Philip Island and San Remo Oral History Radio Project

Highly Commended: Kiewa Valley Historical Society for *The first people of Kiewa Valley and Bogong High Plains*

The Phillip Island and District Historical Society worked with the South Gippsland Community Radio Station 3MFM to produce a series of seventeen talks about the area for broadcast. The Society's

Secretary, Christine Grayden co-ordinated the project with assistance from a Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) Local History Grant. Once the talks have all been broadcast they will be made available on the Society's website. The judges praised the training undertaken by the volunteers, the focus on stories rather than objects, the realisation of the importance of recording intangible heritage and the fantastic selection of topics. The Phillip Island and District Historical Society opened in 1982 and is located in the Phillip Island Heritage Centre in Cowes.

Individual Excellence Awards

Individual Excellence Award (paid staff)

DEBORAH TOUT-SMITH & GEOFFREY EDWARDS

The winners of this Award each received a package of gifts from Museums Australia (Victoria) to the value of \$500

Highly Commended: Michelle Stevenson, National Alpine Museum of Australia and Paul Fuller, ACMI

Deborah Tout-Smith has received this Award for her work on the exemplary *Love & Sorrow* exhibition at Melbourne Museum, and for involving people and communities. Deborah used soldier's diaries from Museum Victoria's collection to make contact with descendants and to collect their stories to reveal the personal and generational impact of war. The

photographs and oral histories from *Love & Sorrow* have contributed to the network of WW1 commemorative programs across the sector including schools and veteran's organisations. The judges recognised Deborah Tout-Smith's commitment to this project and her use of personal voices to create an exhibition that is vastly different from traditional displays memorialising war. The judges commented that the intervening 100 years since WW1 has given us enough time to contemplate a more honest and complete story of the impact of war.

The judges recognised Geoffrey Edwards for developing a significant collection and for an outstanding long term contribution to the Geelong Art Gallery. Geoffrey Edwards has dedicated the last fifteen years to developing a renowned collection and the judges acknowledged his whole of career contribution to the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museum sector. The collection numbers over 5,500 works of art including \$7 million of new acquisitions secured through ambitious fundraising programs. These new acquisitions have enhanced the Gallery's holdings of images of Geelong and the wider region.

Individual Excellence Award (volunteer)

JOHN LINDSAY

The winner of this Award received a package of gifts from Museums Australia (Victoria) to the value of \$500

John Lindsay received this Award for his outstanding contribution over forty-