



WESTERN
AUSTRALIAN
MUSEUM



Volume 1

Western Australian Museum

Annual Report 2022–23

Our Museums and Cultural Sites

WA Museum Boola Bardip

Perth Cultural Centre, James Street, Perth.

WA Shipwrecks Museum

Cliff Street, Fremantle.

WA Maritime Museum

Victoria Quay, Fremantle.

Museum Of The Great Southern

Residency Road, Albany.

Museum of Geraldton

Museum Place, Batavia Coast Marina, Geraldton.

Museum of the Goldfields

Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie.

WA Museum Collections and Research Centre

49 Kew Street, Welshpool.

Gwoonwardu Mia

Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre

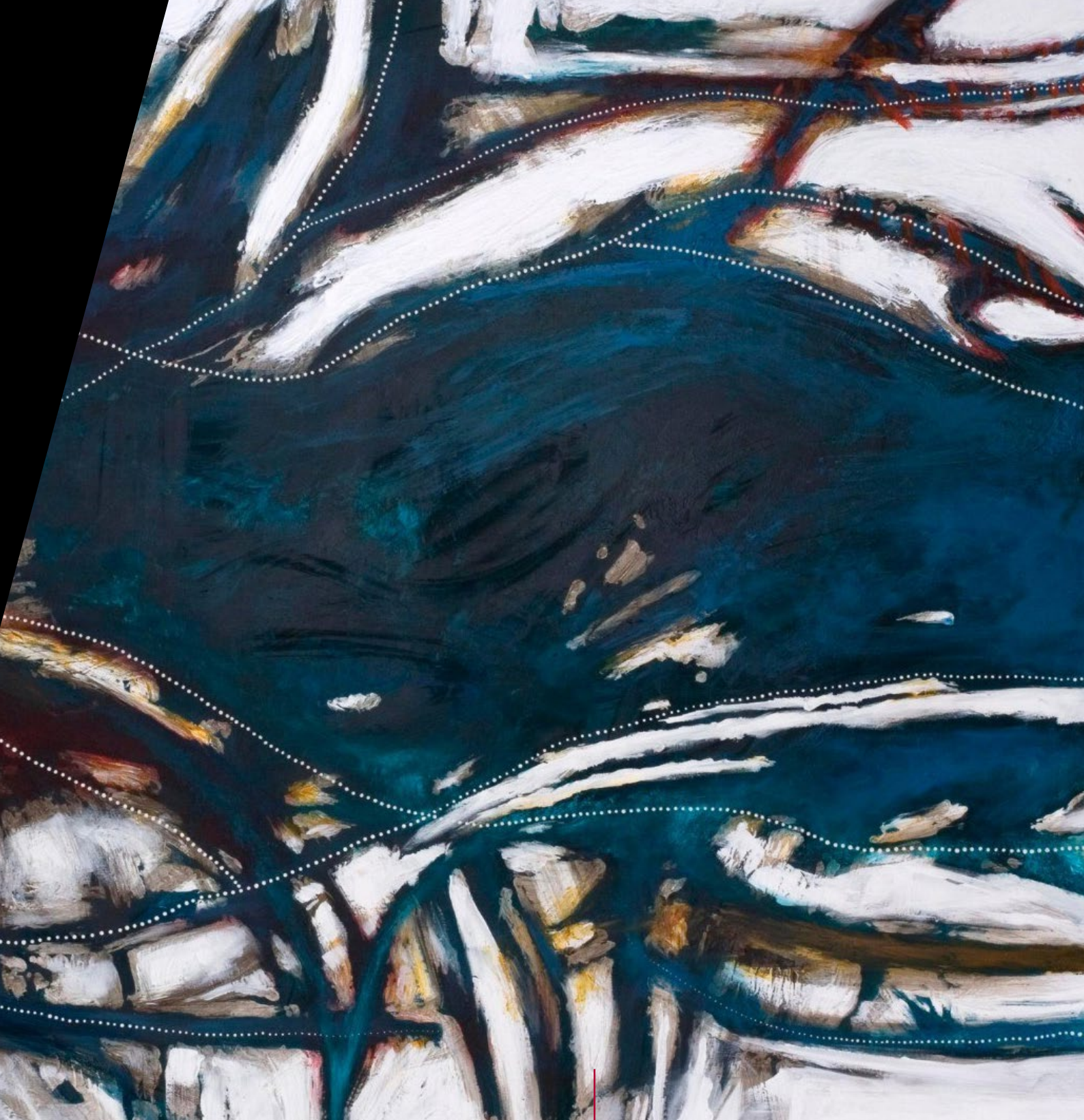
146 Robinson Street, Carnarvon.

The WA Museum also retains an interest in the **National Anzac Centre** through a Service Level Agreement with the City of Albany.


The Western Australian Museum acknowledges the primary rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their cultural heritage and we work collaboratively to advance understanding between all peoples.

The Western Australian Museum recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of Australia and respects the Traditional Owners of the Country on which we operate, and their connection to the lands, waters and skies.





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Cover: *Dinosaurs of Patagonia*
© Miles Noel Photography

Six Seasons 2008 [Muguroo],
by Meeyakba Shane Pickett
© Image by Bo Wong

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museum.wa.gov.au



Moon Dreaming
Virginia Mmolotsi as
featured in *Portrait
of Diversity* by
Nomad Two Worlds

© Collaborative
artwork by Bessie
Daylight. Photograph
by Russell James.



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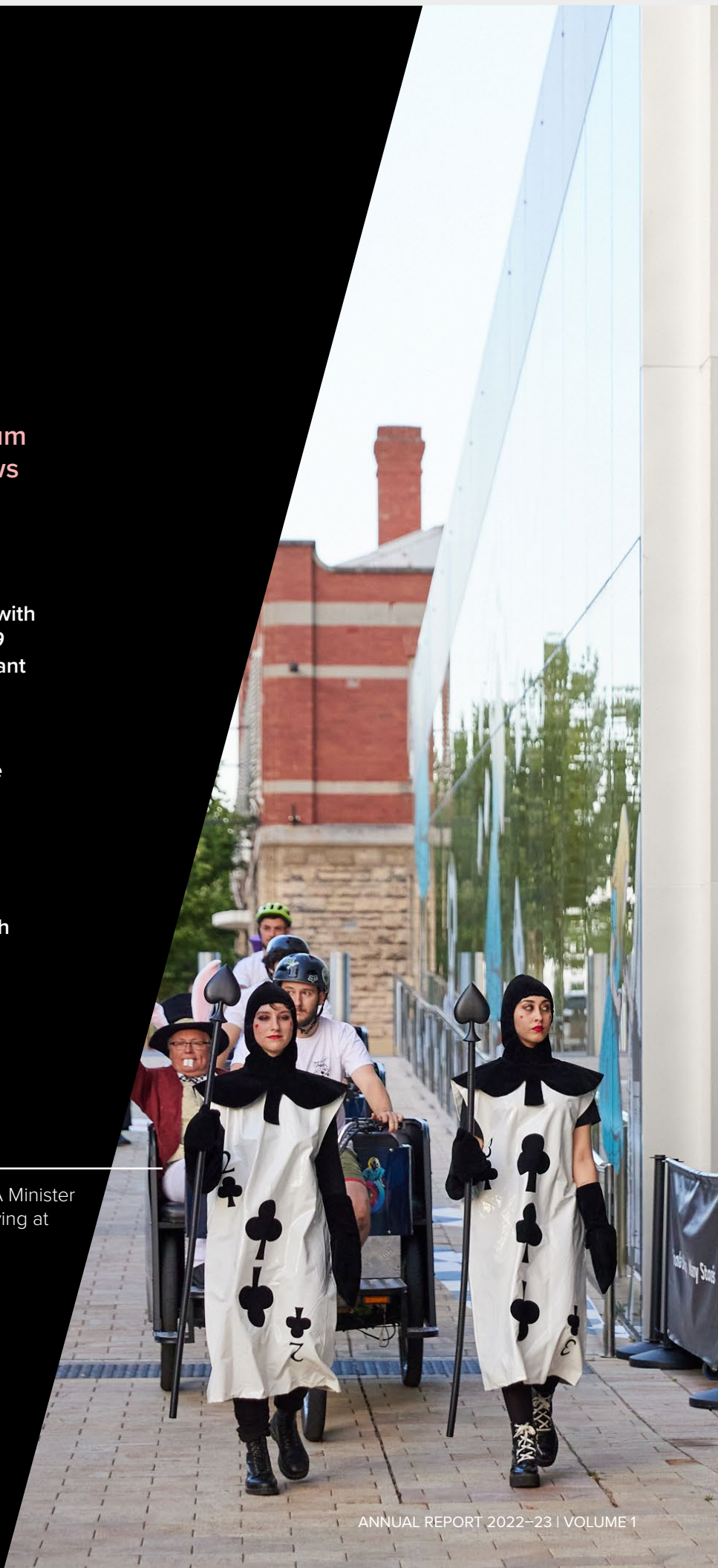
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About this Report

The Western Australian Museum Annual Report 2022-23 reviews the Museum's performance for the financial year ending 30 June 2023.

The report is produced in accordance with the provisions of the *Museum Act 1969* (WA), its amendments, and other relevant legislation that governs the Museum's operations. It is provided to the Minister for Culture and the Arts, the Hon David Templeman MLA, as the State Minister responsible for the Culture and the Arts portfolio, within which the Western Australian Museum operates as a statutory authority. This report is tabled in the Parliament of Western Australia in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*.

Hon. David Templeman MLA Minister for Culture and the Arts arriving at the *Wonderland* launch
© Jessica Wyld Photography





Statement of Compliance

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Hon. David Templeman MLA

Minister for Culture and the Arts

In accordance with section 63 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* (WA), we hereby submit, for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Western Australian Museum for the reporting period ended 30 June 2023.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006*. This year's report is presented in two volumes.

Hon. Melissa Parke

Chair, Western Australian Museum

Board of Trustees

21 August 2023

Steve Scudamore AM

Chair, Finance and Audit Committee

21 August 2023

WA Museum annual reports are available online at museum.wa.gov.au/about/corporate-documents



Digital copies are archived in the State Library of Western Australia, the National Library of Australia, Canberra, and the Western Australian Museum Library.

For more information about the WA Museum visit museum.wa.gov.au



Right: CEO WA Museum Alec Coles, Chair WA Museum Board of Trustees Hon. Melissa Parke, and Hon. David Templeman MLA Minister for Culture and the Arts at Wonderland launch.
© Jessica Wyld Photography

Message from the Chair

It is with mixed feelings that I provide these opening remarks for the Annual Report. After two rewarding years as Chair of the Trustees of the WA Museum, I will shortly be leaving the position to take up a role overseas. Whilst excited at this opportunity, I am sad to be leaving the WA Museum at this time. Our mission implores us to question the present and shape the future and there could be no more important time to do so.



“Our events have fearlessly addressed the issue of global warming and its causes, and the ways in which we can demand change.”

Melissa Parke, Chair, WA Museum

The pandemic may have receded, but global issues continue to affect our world, our nation, our state and our museum: the impacts of species loss; climate change; the nuclear threat; cost of living pressures; the slow recovery of international visitors to our shores and, of course, the referendum on Indigenous recognition and the Voice.

Museum scientists are at the forefront of research into our state's biodiversity. Our events have fearlessly addressed the issue of global warming and its causes, and the ways in which we can demand change. At the time of writing, a 3-metre-tall gorilla stands adjacent to the Museum entrance, reminding us about the threats to biodiversity. Gillie and Marc's *Wild About Babies* exhibition, staged in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund, includes 20 bronze baby animal sculptures of endangered different species dotted around the Perth Cultural Centre!

Our membership scheme was introduced to provide year-round entry to our charging venues for the price of a single admission and to maximise both value for money and access for everyone. This has been extraordinarily

successful with well over 40,000 members signing up in the first year of operation.

Our exhibition program has provided tourists with a further compelling reason to visit WA. Boola Bardip's *Dinosaurs of Patagonia* exhibition was a world-first, whilst a burning desire to see the total solar eclipse, saw people travel from all over the world to the Gascoyne region – including to an exceptional program of activities at Gwoonwardu Mia.

Importantly, the Museum has placed itself at the centre of debate over some weighty and important issues, none more so than the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the proposed Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Museums continue to be recognised as some of our most trusted institutions, and it is vital that they play their part in ensuring that the Australian



Wild Mother Gorilla bronze sculpture unveiling
© Luke Riley Creative

people are as well informed as they can possibly be, prior to casting their vote.

I extend my gratitude to my fellow Trustees, for their guidance and passion. I thank Minister David Templeman, for his continued advocacy on behalf of the Museum, and the Foundation for the WA Museum, for its tireless support.

I thank the employees and volunteers of the WA Museum, who under the guidance of CEO Alec Coles, continue to achieve remarkable things. I wish them and the Museum

the greatest success for the future and look forward to watching the WA Museum continuing its important work with the people of our State.

Hon. Melissa Parke
Chair
Western Australian Museum
Board of Trustees

Message from the CEO

The forthcoming referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament brings the work of the WA Museum sharply into focus. You need to look no further than the WA Museum Boola Bardip to understand the significance of allowing First Peoples to speak for themselves.



“We should not underestimate the Museum's influence, or its reach: nearly 800,000 visitors crossed our threshold this year, including a significant proportion of the WA population.”

Alec Coles, CEO, WA Museum

The referendum will require every eligible citizen to cast a vote, so it is vital that people understand what they are voting for. The WA Museum will continue to play its part in equipping people with the knowledge to make an informed choice.

We should not underestimate the Museum's influence, or its reach: nearly 800,000 visitors crossed our threshold this year, including a significant proportion of the WA population. Boola Bardip benefitted from the Government's decision to extend the free general admission period by three months. The impressive *Dinosaurs of Patagonia* exhibition (a world-first), as well as *Sea Monsters* at the WA Maritime Museum certainly played their part, but every one of our museums exceeded its visitation targets and that is a great testimony to the commitment and creativity of our staff.

Visitation is, of course, not just led by exhibitions: the continued success of the *Shipwreck Hunters* series, featuring WA Museum maritime archaeologists has almost certainly encouraged visitation to the Shipwrecks Museum, whilst Gwoonwardu Mia became a satellite (no pun intended) location for activity centred around the solar eclipse.

Shipwreck Hunters was a great example of how a 'back-of-house' activity – researching and preserving underwater cultural heritage – can be brought to a broad audience. Our research activity ranges well beyond this, and this year has seen the usual plethora of discoveries in the fields of biodiversity and earth and planetary science. New species, both extant and fossilised, marine and terrestrial, have been discovered, identified, named and published.



Sea Monsters: Prehistoric Ocean Predators
© Luke Riley Creative

We were particularly delighted to welcome visiting fellow, Dr. Chris Mah, from the Smithsonian Institution, to work on our sea star 'starfish' collection. During his fellowship, he studied recent material from the research trip aboard the Research Vessel *Falkor*, and from the Museum's historic collections. This is the first of a series of annual fellowships funded by the Foundation for the WA Museum, in this case through the popular Minderoo Grants scheme. The Foundation Fellowships are a great example of how the Foundation enables the Museum to go 'above and beyond' in its research activities.

Whilst much collections management, conservation and research takes place behind the scenes, some are played out in the full view of

the public. The remedial work on our Oberon submarine, HMAS *Ovens*, is an example of the latter. Having said that, she was shrouded under a massive polyethene tent during preparation and repainting for a period, but has now emerged, looking better than she has done for years. We are looking forward to welcoming visitors back aboard in the new year.

I finish with thanks to all those who have supported us over the year: far too, many to mention here, but who are acknowledged elsewhere in this report.

I thank our Minister, the Hon. David Templeman for his commitment and enthusiasm and to the Museum's Board of Trustees, especially its outgoing Chair, the Hon. Melissa Parke. It has been a pleasure to work with Melissa and we will miss

her but wish her well in her new role leading the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons.

I thank the Foundation for the WA Museum and all its supporters for their generosity, which is so important in elevating our ambition.

Finally, of course, I want to thank all my many colleagues – staff and volunteers – at the Western Australian Museum. They are quite literally the lifeblood of the Museum: our achievements are theirs.

Alec Coles OBE
Chief Executive Officer
Western Australian Museum

Agency Overview

Our Purpose

Mission

Inspiring curiosity to explore the past, question the present and shape the future.

Aspiration

To be valued, used and admired by all Western Australians and the world.

Vision

An informed and engaged community working together for a better future.

Discovering Ancient Egypt
© Tori Lill





Values

Respectful

We will respect the views and opinions of others, consider their needs and sensibilities, and work collaboratively to build trust and understanding.

Inclusive

We welcome and engage with people of all abilities, backgrounds and experiences. We will make sure that our workplace, facilities, programs and resources are accessible to all.

Accountable

We exist for the benefit of all the people of Western Australia, including those in the regions. We hold ourselves accountable to them, and are custodians of their collections.

Enterprising

We will be creative, resourceful, imaginative, innovative, agile and entrepreneurial. We will be commercially astute, embrace change and aspire to excellence in all we do.

Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia.

We acknowledge the primary rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their cultural heritage and will work collaboratively to advance understanding between all peoples.

Performance Against Strategic Plan

This report into the WA Museum's performance over the past financial year is presented in relation to the Organisational Pillars as outlined in the *Museum's Strategic Plan 2022-26*.

A visitor holding a spiny leaf insect at WA Day.
© Miles Noel Photography

The pillars are:

1

Sustainability

Create an agile organisation committed to organisational, social and environmental sustainability.

2

At the Heart of the Community

The Museum's philosophy is 'people-first', and we will engage the community in the creation and sharing of knowledge, ideas and stories.

3

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

The Museum values open, honest, collaborative and respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities to enable truth-telling and to create welcoming and safe places.

4

State-Wide

Working across the State for the benefit of all Western Australians, ensuring regional engagement in organisational practices and processes.

The WA Museum Strategic Plan 2022-26 is available at museum.wa.gov.au/about/corporate-documents





“ Museums provide us with opportunities to explore our past, question our present, and shape our future, nurturing an understanding of ourselves and our planet.”

Alec Coles, CEO, WA Museum

Sustainability

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The WA Museum strategy supports the below United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Museum integrates sustainability principles into its operations and collaborates with local and global partners to address the pressing global challenges such as climate change.

International Museum Day 2023 presented the opportunity for the Museum to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability. 2023's theme, 'Museums, Sustainability and Well-Being', focused on three UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- **Goal 3:** Good Health and Well-Being
- **Goal 13:** Climate Action
- **Goal 15:** Life on Land.

Above: International Decade of Indigenous Languages launch UNESCO Paris HQ
© Martine Perret



The WA Museum strategy supports these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Learning Programs

The WA Museum offers a range of education programs and professional learning programs aligned to STEM education and sustainability.

103
WORKSHOPS

2,579
STUDENTS

456
TEACHERS

Changes Gallery - Shape the Future
© Luke Riley Creative



Boola Bardip and the Central Energy Plant

The Perth Cultural Centre's central energy plant was funded through the development of Boola Bardip and seeks to provide reliable and efficient, contributing to a reduction in electricity consumption in the Perth Cultural Centre.

The central energy plant is connected to a large backup generator in the event of power supply from the grid failing.

Sustainable Initiatives

- Bike racks were installed at the WA Museum Boola Bardip.
- The Museum replaced single use disposable tableware with reusable crockery and cutlery for internal events.

Biodiversity

As the State's foremost custodian of Western Australia's natural and cultural heritage, the WA Museum is a leading authority in marine and terrestrial biodiversity, and geoscience.

Through extensive fieldwork, the WA Museum contributes to significant research outcomes that deepen our understanding of Western Australia's unique environment, and aid in the conservation of biodiversity.

Highlights included:

- RV *Investigator* is Australia's national offshore marine research vessel, operated by CSIRO. WA Museum staff participated as Co-Principal Investigators or onboard participants in two expeditions:
 - A month-long biodiversity survey led by Museums Victoria (MOV) focussed on characterising deep sea biodiversity around Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
 - A month-long expedition in collaboration with CSIRO to conduct biodiversity surveys from 50-5,000m in the Gascoyne Marine Park. The work was later highlighted in a multipage spread in *Australian Geographic* magazine.
- WA Maritime Museum – curated activities exploring fish diversity, biology and conservation as part of the January school holiday programming. The program featured a 'meet the scientist' event, junior fishing clinics, a shark biology workshop, sawfish craft activities and conservation displays linked to the *Martuwarra Fitzroy River* exhibition.
- Bush Blitz is a species discovery program run by the Australian Government, BHP and EarthWatch Australia. WA Museum expedition highlights included:
 - A land-based expedition was made to the Charnley River, in the Kimberley region.
 - The Kepa Kurl expedition was focused on both land and water-based activities. As part of this research, members of the Aquatic Zoology team partnered with Minderoo Foundation to sample marine biodiversity in the Recherche Archipelago.
- Inaugural participation in Karratha's Red Earth Festival included reef walks, meeting with Murujuga Rangers, and delivering community talks.

33

NEW ANIMAL SPECIES
DESCRIBED

22

NEW ANIMAL SPECIES
HOLOTYPES DEPOSITED

WA Museum Technical Officers
Aquatic Zoology, Corey Whisson and
Ana Hara, onboard RV *Investigator*.
Photo by Dr. Lisa Kirkendale





The unclassified
tusked stink bug
© WA Museum

New Discoveries

- Dr Nikolai Tatarnic, Curator of Entomology and entomologists from the University of New South Wales made the fascinating discovery of a stink bug species that is believed to be new to science during a two-week Bush Blitz expedition near Kepa Kurl (Esperance) in Western Australia.
- Dr Lisa Kirkendale, Curator of Molluscs and scientists from Griffith University, University of Western Australia, and the University of Nottingham (UK) formally described a new species of freshwater mussel and two subspecies from southern coastal Western Australia. Following consultation with the WA Museum Aboriginal Advisory Committee, the name '*Inbisi*' was selected, meaning 'freshwater mussel' in Noongar to recognise the local indigenous people and their long history and knowledge of southwest places, plants and animals including freshwater mussels.
- Dr Kenny Travouillon, Curator of Mammalogy, found that the now extinct Liverpool Plains Striped Bandicoot, *Perameles fasciata*, previously thought to have been located only in the Liverpool Plains area of New South Wales, had, in fact, been widespread throughout New South Wales and Queensland. Fossil evidence suggests that whilst the species was already threatened, if not extinct, in Queensland before the arrival of Europeans, the arrival of European settlements, agriculture and introduced predators such as foxes and cats in New South Wales, led to the extinction of the species in NSW by the early 1900s.
- Dr Mark Harvey, Curator Terrestrial Zoology, discovered and described seven new pseudoscorpions native to the Kimberley region. The discovery of these unique species will aid understanding of the effects of climate change on wildlife.



- Dr Kailah Thorn, Technical Officer Terrestrial Vertebrates, and colleagues described the largest known fossil skink found in recent times. *Tiliqua frangens* is 1,000 times heavier than typical skinks living today.
- More than 30 new species of sea stars were identified by visiting Smithsonian Institute Fellow, Dr Chris Mah. Dr Mah's fellowship was funded by the Foundation for the WA Museum through a Minderoo Grant.

Above: WA Museum scientists and Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation on a fieldtrip in the far north of the Kimberley region of Western Australia.
© Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation



WA Museum Technical Officer Terrestrial Vertebrates Dr Kailah Thorn with a WA Shingleback Lizard
© WA Museum



ILLUMINATE WILD ABOUT BABIES

Boola Bardip's Old Gaol comes alive each night with the *Illuminate* series of projections supported by the Minderoo Foundation.

This year, the *Illuminate* program included *Wild About Babies*, in association with the outdoor exhibition of the same name, featuring the world's vulnerable animal species such as hippos, chimpanzees and African elephants. Produced by VJZoo.

Another *Illuminate* program celebrated *World Ocean Day* by featuring WA's coastline and oceans with a projection featuring marine mammals, deep ocean life and aerial footage of the coastline. Produced by Michael Haluwana and Sam Price.

Above: *Illuminate: Wild About Babies*
© VJzoo

Diversity and Inclusion

In early 2023, the WA Museum joined Diversity Council Australia, an independent, peak body leading diversity and inclusion in the workplace. The Museum has conducted analysis of its workforce demographics to inform planning, and provide insight to workforce measures for the:

- Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.
- Multicultural Plan.
- Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Plan.

The Museum offers programs and experiences that represent and celebrate the richness of human experiences, perspectives and creativity.

Half Mad Bar at the
WA Museum Boola Bardip
© Luke Riley Creative



Highlights included:

- *Understanding Autism: Working with the Autism Association of WA*, Boola Bardip organised a community event to foster awareness of autism and help participants better understand the signs, symptoms, and realities of autism.
- *Hu木an – A Sensory Forest Adventure*: An immersive tactile performance created for children with special needs. Inspired by the William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings at the National Museum of Singapore. Presented in partnership with the 2022 AWESOME festival, Sensorium Theatre, The Artground (Singapore), the National Museum of Singapore, and Performing Lines WA.
- *QUoir – A Family-Friendly Choir*: Launched in early 2023, *QUoir* is led by Abbe May and the WA Bad Ass Choir. It provides a space for all to celebrate music by LGBTQI+ artists each month.

- *Grandies Big Day Out!* This Intergenerational Seniors Week event was presented in partnership with the Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour Association and featured a mermaid performance and activities for children and accompanying grandparents at the WA Shipwrecks Museum.
- *Early Learning Programs*: The WA Museum hosted a range of early years learning programs to engage children aged five-and-under along with accompanying adults. *Little Learners*, *Story Time*, and *Discovery Time* sessions.

Additional highlights can be found in Volume 2 reported under the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and Multicultural Plan.

QUoir session, led by Abbe May and the WA Bad Ass Gospel Choir
© Miles Noel Photography





Volunteer, Gerry Westernberg – *Naval Sea Power in Miniature* exhibition
© WA Museum

Right: Volunteer, Jenny Crouch with teaspoon collection
© WA Museum



NO. OF HOURS VOLUNTEERED

16,366

NO. OF VOLUNTEERS

296

Volunteers at the WA Museum

The WA Museum recognises the significant contribution passionate volunteers make to the organisation by donating their valuable time, knowledge and resources.

Highlights included:

- Robert Steele Workshop engineers restored three 100+ year-old steam powered pumps severely damaged in the 2016 Waroona Bushfire. The restored engines were returned to the Yarloop Steam Engine Workshop.
- WA Museum volunteer and former submariner Gary Coombes gave a short presentation on the HMAS *Ovens* submarine to feature on the augmented reality app – ANZAC XR, developed by Comet Bay College as a learning resource on Australian military history.

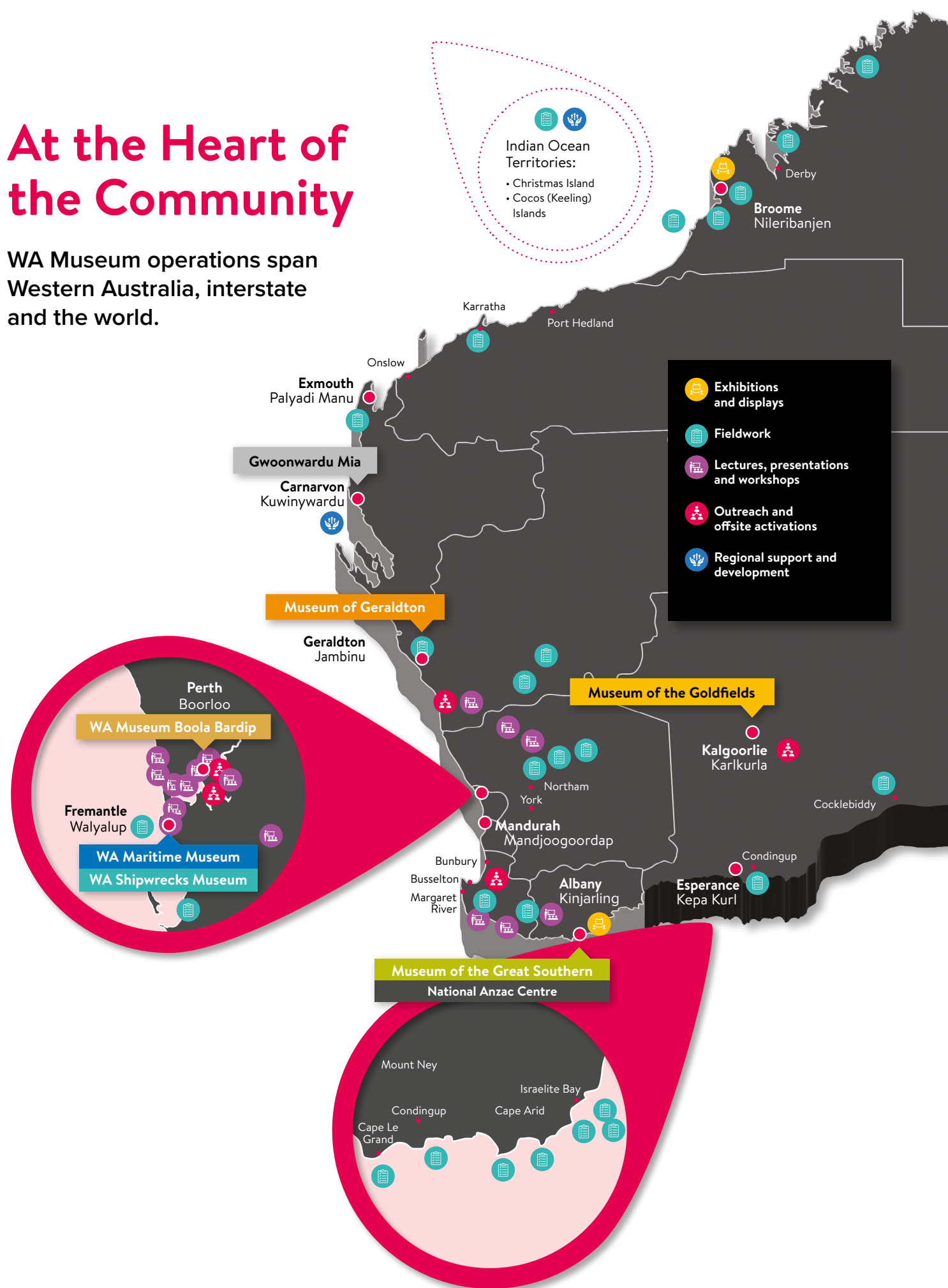
- *Naval Sea Power in Miniature* exhibition – a collection of exquisite handmade detailed miniature British and Australian warships beautifully crafted by Museum volunteer, Gerry Westernberg, featuring miniature ship models spanning over 40 years featured at the WA Maritime Museum.
- A recent gap analysis of the WA Museum's volunteer program identified the Museum meets the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement benchmarks, including engagement, safety and retention of its volunteers.



Volunteer Mike Myers with Eglinton Smoothing Iron
© WA Museum

At the Heart of the Community

WA Museum operations span Western Australia, interstate and the world.



Visitation

2,523,142

PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH MUSEUM
CONTENT AND COLLECTIONS

795,542

VISITORS TO MUSEUM SITES, OFF-SITE
AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

HIGHEST VISITATION SINCE 2018

INTERSTATE VISITORS

14% 

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

13% 

5%

INCREASE VISITORS AGED OVER 55
FROM 2021-22

Dinosaurs of Patagonia exhibition
© Luke Riley Creative



TOTAL VISITS

449,322 

19% INCREASE FROM 2021-22

EDUCATION VISITATION

9%

INCREASE FROM 2021-22

1,353

PARTICIPANTS AT
PUBLIC TALKS LECTURES

23,431

PARTICIPANTS AT PUBLIC TOURS

49,133

PARTICIPANTS IN HOLIDAY AND
OTHER ACTIVITIES

BOOLA BARDIP WELCOMED ITS
**ONE-MILLIONTH
VISITOR**

Red Shoes installation
© WA Museum

Highlights included:

- *Inaugural Perth Design Week – Perth Unbuilt:* featured unrealised building design for the city by Perth architects.
- *Artist in Residence – Jason Lim:* As part of the Indian Ocean Craft Triennial, Singaporean contemporary artist Jason Lim produced an original ceramic performative sculpture, *When the Inside is Outside and Under is Above*. The work explored relationships between meaning and identity, sensual and cerebral, organic and geometric, and male and female.
- *Red Shoes and 16 Days in WA: Stop Violence Against Women:* As part of the annual campaign to stop violence against women, the WA Museum collaborated with Dr Paula Magni and Mexican artist Elina Chauvet to present this powerful installation. 392 pairs of red shoes were displayed in tribute to the Australian women who have lost their lives in domestic violence events between 2015 to 2020.





LIVE ARTS PROGRAM

Live Arts is a successful and growing program that attracts new audiences to the Museum. Highlights included:

- *The Necks*: Defying musical boundaries, The Necks mesmerised audiences with their unique, transcendent improvisational sound and the combination of keys (Chris Abrahams), bass (Lloyd Swanton) and drums (Tony Buck).
- *Grigoryan Brothers*: Renowned guitarists Slava and Leonard Grigoryan crafted a moving musical suite, *This is us*, inspired by selected objects selected from the National Museum of Australia.
- *Sun Returns*: In partnership with the Audible Edge: Festival of Sound, the WA Museum Boola Bardip presented a concert series set against the backdrop of the rising sun.
- *Mindy Meng Weng and Tim Scheil*: A ground-breaking collaboration between Chinese/Australian avant-garde composer Mindy Meng Wang 王萌 and Melbourne-based contemporary artist Tim Shiel.
- *The Australian String Quartet*: The Australian String Quartet performed pieces by Ravel and Tchaikovsky at the WA Museum Boola Bardip.

Above: Live Arts:
Mindy Meng Wang 王萌
& Tim Shiel
© Luke Riley Creative

WONDERLAND

Wonderland, an Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) touring exhibition invited visitors to join Alice on her adventures in Wonderland, celebrating Lewis Carroll's timeless stories. Visitors explored Alice's journey from book to screen, through original picture books, magic lanterns, and more than 40 moving images.

Illuminate: Alice, launched at the WA Museum Boola Bardip as part of the City of Perth Christmas Lights Trail, inspired by the iconic scenes from the first *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Produced by VJzoo.

Illuminate series of projections supported by the Minderoo Foundation.

Right: *Wonderland* tea party
© Phoebe Powell



DINOSAURS OF PATAGONIA



This remarkable exhibition spanned most of the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods from 70 to 230 million years ago. Developed by the Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio in Argentina.

The WA Museum unlocked its doors to larger-than-life fossils offering extensive programming to complement the exhibition, including *The Bar Before Time* - 18+ extended Friday nights, that included music and late night pop-up talks from experts.

Left: *Dinosaurs of Patagonia*
© Luke Riley Creative



Museum Membership Program

The Museum Membership Program underwent significant changes in October 2022 to accommodate the introduction of paid admission at WA Museum Boola Bardip. The new Museum Membership Program has experienced significant growth since its implementation, with more than 47,500 paid members as of 30 June 2023.

The Gogo Digital Guide

The Gogo Digital Guide (named after the celebrated Gogo fish fossils) uses location awareness to locate and guide visitors around the WA Museum Boola Bardip, helping them discover more, and access extra content and the many stories of WA. There are two options:

- *Let Us Guide You:* visitors can choose to follow an immersive audio tour around the Museum to discover untold stories of WA and highlighted objects.
- *Go Your Own Way:* using near-field technology, visitors can explore the Museum at their own pace, accessing extra content including curator talks, community stories and stunning soundscapes all inspired by WA.

Above: Artist in Residence: Jason Lim sculpting a large mound of clay
© WA Museum

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

FAN BOOLA BARDIP:

33,526

FAN MARITIME MUSEUM:

4,919

SUPER FAN:

7,573

FRIEND:

1,493

TOTAL:

47,511

THE GOGO DIGITAL GUIDE

305

OBJECTS

149,814

GOGO OBJECTS VISITED

14,258

GOGO TOURS TAKEN FOR AN
AVERAGE 51 MINUTES EACH

TOTAL VISITS:

123,736 

5% INCREASE FROM 2021-22

16%

INCREASE EDUCATION VISITS
FROM 2021-22

1,205

PARTICIPANTS AT PUBLIC
TALKS/LECTURES

2,106

PARTICIPANTS AT PUBLIC TOURS

15,748

VISITOR PARTICIPATIONS
HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING

Highlights included:

- *The Sea Monsters: Prehistoric Ocean Predators* exhibition attracted over 30,000 visitors.
- *The innovative BShed Builds* featured creative projects and displays from local makers and artists.
- *The Martuwarra Fitzroy River: Lifeblood of the Kimberley* exhibition, presented by The Kimberley Like Nowhere Else Alliance, showcased photography and a spectacular sawfish art installation.
- The WA Maritime Museum celebrated its 20th anniversary with a free outdoor concert and extended opening hours.

WA Maritime Museum at sunset
© WA Museum



THE NONNA PROJECT



The Nonna Project: Journey to a New Life, presented by Nella Fitzgerald Events and supported by Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour and Fremantle Italian Club, celebrated migrant Italian grandmothers' contributions to WA's culture.

The *Nonna's Big Day Out* event included music, cooking, film and dance, while Italian language students engaged with volunteer elders in a special Q&A session as part of the Immigration Stories program.

Left: From Mother to Nonna - family is everything
© Nella Fitzgerald Events

FREMANTLE THEN AND NOW: HISTORICAL PANORAMAS

The Fremantle Then and Now: Historical Panoramas exhibition was presented in partnership with Curtin University's HIVE, the City of Fremantle, the State Library of Western Australia and CAN.

The exhibition featured seven panoramic views spanning 155 years, providing unique insights into the changing face of Fremantle (Walyalup). Visitors explored histories and heritage, immersing themselves in the city's rich cultural past. Public programs, school holiday activities, and self-guided family trails further enriched the experience.

The 'Freo Hub' space within the exhibition, resonated with visitors, with engaging activities including videos of Fremantle celebrations, audio stations featuring local musicians, interactive kiosks detailing the Aboriginal artwork *Place Names Walyalup*, and Freddy's Films heritage collection recorded by Sir Frederick Samson. 3,412 visitors left messages on the Love Freo wall.

Right: *Fremantle Then and Now: Historical Panoramas*
© Jessica Wyld Photography





CONSERVATION OF HMAS OVENS

HMAS *Ovens*, the Oberon Class submarine proudly displayed at the WA Maritime Museum in Fremantle, was temporarily closed for essential repair and repainting.

During the meticulous blasting and repainting process, the submarine was fully encapsulated. Over 350 tonnes of scaffolding reached nearly seven stories high. This measure ensured safe containment and subsequent disposal of the original 1960's paint.

Ovens, a major visitor attraction and significant part of Australia's naval history, will reopen to the public in late 2023.

Above: HMAS *Ovens* resurfacing and repainting
© Alina Cavanagh

TOTAL VISITS:

169,713 

57% INCREASE FROM 2021-22



Highlights included:

- *Tropical to Temperate: A Journey Under the Waters of Western Australia:* An exhibition presented by the WA Underwater Photographic Society that showcased the stunning marine diversity of the State's waters.
- *Photographic Fragments:* This exhibition celebrated the work of the prolific Goldfield's photographer John Joseph Dwyer (1869-1928) and was presented by Foto Freo and The University of Western Australia School of Design.
- *Splash Freo:* In partnership with the City of Fremantle, *Splash Freo* transformed the WA Shipwrecks Museum lawn area into a school holiday paradise. The program featured a thrilling water slide.
- *Fremantle Dragon Boat Festival:* This lively event was delivered by the Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour Traders Group. The festival celebrated world class dragon boat athletes, featuring high-octane match races, acrobatic Dragon and Lion Dancers and centuries-old Chinese culture and tradition.
- *16 Days in WA to Stop Violence Against Women:* The WA Shipwrecks Museum supported the *16 Days in WA* campaign, by increasing awareness of the violence suffered by women and girls.

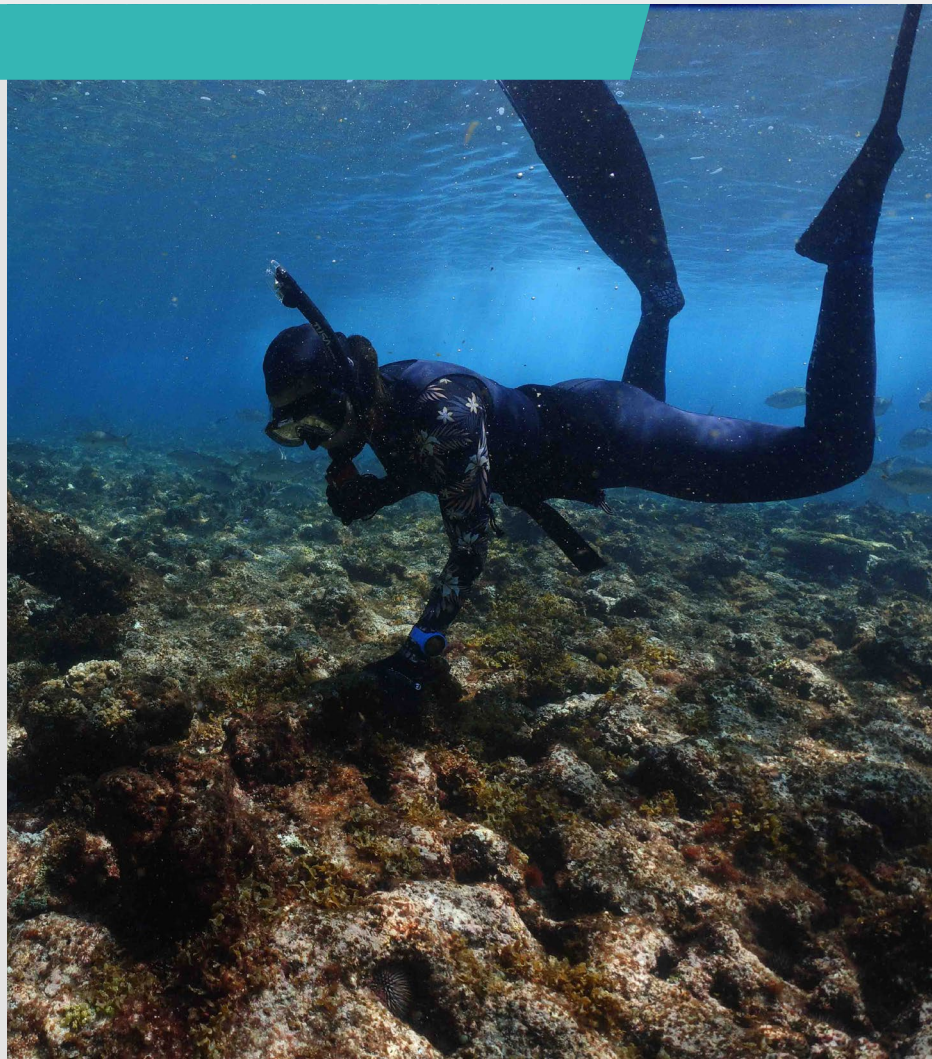
Photographic Fragments exhibition
© Aerature

SHIPWRECK HUNTERS AUSTRALIA

A gallery floor talk, presented in collaboration with the Disney+ television series *Shipwreck Hunters Australia*, provided Maritime Heritage curators with a platform to share research insights gleaned from objects and evidence from the WA Shipwrecks Museum displays. The talk shed further light on the shipwreck sites that featured in the series.

During the July school holidays, the Shipwrecks Museum hosted a program of activities, exploration, treasures, and cabinets of curiosity, to captivate young minds, including a natural history specimen discovery display, and a gallery trail featuring sunken treasures.

Right: Deb Shefi inspecting an anchor on the *Zeewijk* (1727) shipwreck site, Half Moon Reef, Houtman Abrolhos Islands. Patrick Morrison © WA Museum



Exhibition upgrades at Shipwrecks Museum

Several temporary and permanent exhibition upgrade projects were undertaken, including replacement of showcases, new physical displays and new story content incorporated into digital kiosks.

Left: Permanent exhibition upgrade © WA Museum

TOTAL VISITS:

55,888 

16% INCREASE FROM 2021-22



Highlights included:

- *Brickwrecks: Sunken Ships in LEGO Bricks exhibition*, created in partnership with the Australian National Maritime Museum, featured LEGO models of famous shipwrecks, including the Batavia.
- *National Science Week 2022*: The Museum of Geraldton hosted three herpetologists, Dr Paul Doughty (WA Museum), Dr Renee Catullo (University of WA) and Dr Damian Lettoof (Curtin University) for a public talk 'Wildlife Research in Action' and a 'Careers in Science' panel for secondary school students. Herpetologists also made a special stop at the Meekatharra School of the Air studio, where they spoke about reptiles and science to remote learning students.
- *Shore Leave Festival and Shipwreck Hunters Australia Talks*: At this annual festival, maritime archaeologists presented lectures on the *Zeewijk*, which featured in the *Shipwreck Hunters Australia* series on Disney+ Australia.
- *Batavia 1629 e-book Launch*: The WA Museum's first e-book, *Batavia 1629*, explores the shipwreck story through an interactive, digital experience.

Dr Paul Doughty presenting at National Science Week
© WA Museum

BEYOND THE MILKY WAY VR EXPERIENCE

Beyond the Milky Way is a captivating 360-degree virtual reality film showcasing one of the most significant scientific endeavours in human history - the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). The SKA is the world's largest radio telescope and is being built on Wajarri Yamaji Country in WA's Mid-West region. The VR experience exploring this work was launched at the Museum of Geraldton in May and featured a talk from award-winning filmmaker Briega Whitehead.

Collaborating with SKA project members and Wajarri Yamaji Traditional Owners, the Museum facilitated screenings and engagement sessions during the July school holidays. The program, *Awesome Astronomy*, involved CSIRO experts and SKA radio astronomers, and strengthened relationships with stakeholders.

CSIRO's Australian SKA Pathfinder (ASKAP) telescopes at CSIRO's Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory.
© White Sparks Pictures



Highlights included:

- *Bush Mechanics – Cars and Coffee Closing Events:* The Museum of the Goldfields marked the end of the Bush Mechanics exhibition with a display of vintage cars around the museum grounds. A talk by Kalgoorlie's unofficial Bush Mechanic, Mr Chris Jennis, shared the restoration story of his bush wreck 'Wounded', named after bullet holes on a panel. Following restoration works, Mr Jennis and the original owner, an Aboriginal Elder, crossed the Nullarbor to attend the Early Falcon Nationals gathering in South Australia.
- *Williamstown Heritage Project:* A collaborative community heritage project with Northern Star Resources Ltd, chronicled the history of Williamstown and its residents. The project developed as part of a response to community concerns about the impact of nearby mining activity and the associated voluntary relocation assistance program. Through consultation with over 60 households, residents expressed a desire to record and celebrate the history of Williamstown. Local photographer, Melissa Drummond, captured residents' stories and memories, whilst Social Performance Advisor for Northern Star Resources, Claire Weir, identified themes from historical sources.

TOTAL VISITS:

69,270 
13% INCREASE FROM 2021-22

Remote Goldfields Community Outreach

The Museum of the Goldfields continued to strengthen ties with communities outside Kalgoorlie-Boulder, including a day of water games during the summer school holidays in Leonora.

Another collaboration included an April school holiday program hosted in the Kurrawang community.



Community Outreach - Leonora
Photo by Peta Osborne



ART ON THE MOVE – BRETT LEIGH DICKS

Art on the Move, a Western Australian organisation touring contemporary visual art exhibitions, collaborated with the Museum of the Goldfields for two residencies in 2023.

Artist Brett Leigh Dicks used the Museum of the Goldfields' Dwyer and MacKay photographic archive to follow in the footsteps of the two photographers, revisiting the sites of the original photographs applying the technique of repeat photography to create a diachronic view of Kalgoorlie and the surrounding goldfields.

The project is made possible by the Regional Exhibition Touring Boost, an \$8 million commitment from the State Government, and explores societal and environmental changes in the region.

Right: Brett Dicks recreating 100-year-old images of the Goldfields
© ABC Goldfields: Giulia Bertoglio



TOTAL VISITS:

92,787 ↗

3% INCREASE FROM 2021-22



Highlights included:

- *Dino Disco:* To close the Dinosaur Explore: Lost Creatures of the Cretaceous exhibition, the Museum of the Great Southern hosted a family friendly 'Dino Disco' in February. Children and parents attended in their best dino outfits and were treated to guest appearances from Dino Wrangler Jamie and Big T (Rex).
- *Bush Mechanics Open Day:* The Museum of the Great Southern hosted a free Open Day for the *Bush Mechanics* exhibition with community-owned vintage cars and motorcycles on display, and activities and entertainment for all ages.
- *Karen First Nations Crochet Group:* Led by a small group of Town Teams volunteers, this group met weekly to crochet and improve conversational English, contributing to projects such as making beanies for Karen refugees living in Thai camps and a batch of soft, natural fibre beanies for a local cancer support group. The group ran a fundraising stall and shared Karen culture on stage with traditional song and dance at WA Day 2023.

Dino Disco fun
© WA Museum

Bush Mechanics open day
© Emily Elsasser



ART ON THE MOVE – GOK-LIM FINCH



As part of the Art on the Move collaboration with the Museum of the Great Southern, artist in residence, Gok-Lim Finch, delved into the history of Chinese settlers in the Great Southern region and the lingering traces of market gardens in Albany (Kinjarling).

Through conversations about the vegetables and fruits cultivated in early settlement gardens, the work sought to connect with community memories and shed new light on the historical significance of Chinese settlers and their contributions to the region's heritage.

Left: The Chinese Diaspora Reaches Albany
© Gok-Lim Finch



Gwoonwardu Mia
Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre



TOTAL VISITS:

10,670 

30% INCREASE FROM 2021-22

Mungurrigurra Burrowing
Bee program
© WA Museum

MUNGURRIGURRA BURROWING BEE EDUCATION PROJECT

A unique and culturally significant species of burrowing bee caused a buzz in the Gascoyne region after making an appearance at Gwoonwardu Mia's Burrowing Bee Community Day on 24 June.

Funded by the Western Australian Museum Foundation's Impact Circle, the event encouraged the celebration of the cultural significance of the region's Mungurrigurra, known as the Dawson's Burrowing Bee species.

The Mungurrigurra Burrowing Bee Community Day

'*Museum in a Container*' travelling exhibition gave visitors the opportunity to observe the Burrowing Bee up close, with entomologist, Nik Tatarnic, hosting an information session on the science behind the bee's significance.

The event included the launch of an all-new interactive colouring-in table, which allows visitors to create their own animated Burrowing Bee to be included in a visual exhibition.

Left: Dawson's Burrowing Bee
(*Amegilla dawsoni*) up close
© Toni Roe





Gwoonwardu Mia offered extensive programming

across 12-days to celebrate the total solar eclipse, in collaboration with Aboriginal artists, musicians and volunteers. Highlights included:

- *Beyond the Milky Way VR Experience.*
- *Burlganjya Wanggaya – Old People Talking – Listen, Learn, Respect tours.*
- *Bush Tucker Cultural Experience* – exploring traditional artifacts and learning about the local bush food, customs and traditions.
- *Artist in Residence* – Maureen Foster workshops.
- *Weaving workshops* by Davinia Wainwright.
- *Aboriginal Night Sky Experience – The Aboriginal Dark Sky Stories.*
- *Yarning Circles and Damper Nights.*
- Aboriginal dance performances under the night sky.

Left: *Bush Tucker Cultural Experience*
© Creality Arts



'Spirit Woman' performance
© Creality Arts, Photographer Anton Blume



**NATIONAL
ANZAC
CENTRE**

The WA Museum provides curatorial and conservation support to the National Anzac Centre as part of a Service Level Agreement.

A series of proposed works to mark the 10-year anniversary of this collaboration in 2024 is underway.

In 2022-23, the National Anzac Centre hosted 57,261 visitors.

Right: Pool of Reflection
© WA Museum



Indian Ocean Territories

The WA Museum continued its work with the Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands communities. On Cocos Islands, the ongoing Jukong Restoration Project, led by master boat builders and volunteers preserves Cocos Malay cultural heritage while transferring traditional skills and knowledge to younger generations. Broome-based Goolarri Media provided accredited oral history training to Cocos Island's community members.

On Christmas Island, the *Streets are Our Museums* project featured 10 murals strategically located to tell stories of Christmas Island's history

WA Museum's services in the Indian Ocean Territories are funded by the Australian Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

Left: Jukong boat in Chula shed on Cocos Island
© Tim Eastwood

Temporary Exhibitions

	PARTNERS	START DATE	END DATE
WAM WA MUSEUM BOOLA BARDIP			
<i>Thalassa: Pertaining to the Sea</i>		25/02/2022	21/08/2022
<i>Papunya Painting: Time and Place</i>	National Museum of Australia	05/03/2022	19/03/2023
<i>Rangelands School of Air: 2021 Photo Competition</i>	Rangelands Natural Resource Management	12/03/2022	10/07/2022
<i>Dinosaurs of Patagonia</i>	Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio, and AKROM	02/07/2022	23/10/2022
<i>The Trailblazers: West Coast Eagles 1992 Premiership exhibition</i>	West Coast Eagles	17/09/2022	10/03/2023
<i>Remembering the Bali Bombings: 20 Years On</i>	Royal Perth Hospital	12/10/2022	12/02/2023
<i>Wonderland</i>	ACMI	16/12/2022	23/04/2023
<i>Portrait of Diversity</i>	Nomad Two Worlds	22/03/2023	ongoing
<i>Reconstructing the Antikythera Mechanism</i>	Consulate of Greece in Perth, Dr Nick Andronis, Dr Tony Freeth, and the National Archaeological Museum of Athens	25/03/2023	13/09/2023
<i>Meeyakba Shane Pickett: Six Seasons</i>	Mossenson Galleries	01/04/2023	24/03/2024
<i>Perth Unbuilt</i>	Perth Design Week	20/02/2023	30/03/2023
<i>The Lester Prize Youth Awards</i>	The Lester Prize Inc	08/04/2023	16/07/2023



Bush Mechanics
© Remote Digital Imagery

	PARTNERS	START DATE	END DATE
<i>The Nonna Project: Journey to a New Life</i>	Nella Fitzgerald Events	28/05/2022	04/09/2022
<i>Evolution: Torres Strait Masks</i>	National Museum of Australia, Gab Titui Cultural Centre	04/06/2022	21/08/2022
<i>Fremantle Then and Now: Historical Panoramas</i>	Curtin University, State Library of Western Australia, City of Fremantle, Fremantle Ports and Community Arts Network	23/09/2022	19/02/2023
<i>The Martuwarra Fitzroy River: Lifeblood of the Kimberley</i>	The Kimberley - Like Nowhere Else Alliance, Damian Kelly, Adam Monk and Strategic Art Services	24/09/2022	29/01/2023
<i>Nikon Walkley Press Photography</i>	The Walkley Awards	21/02/2023	30/04/2023
<i>Sea Monsters: Prehistoric Ocean Predators</i>	Australian National Maritime Museum	01/04/2023	16/07/2023
<i>The World of 70%</i>	Aeroture	13/05/2023	15/10/2023

<i>Photographic Fragments</i>	Foto Freo	14/05/2022	24/07/2022
<i>Exploring Watercolour</i>	Watercolour Society of WA	13/08/2022	30/10/2022
<i>Tropical to Temperate: A Journey Under the Waters of Western Australia</i>	Western Australia Underwater Photographic Society	23/12/2022	26/03/2023
<i>Naval Sea Power in Miniature</i>	Gerry Westenber	08/04/2023	30/07/2023

Sea Monsters exhibition
© Luke Riley Creative



PARTNERS

START DATE

END DATE



MUSEUM OF
THE GREAT
SOUTHERN

<i>Peregrination of a Citizen Botanist</i>	Susie Vickery Art on the Move	14/05/2022	24/07/2022
<i>Southern Art and Craft Trail</i>	ArtSouthWA	24/09/2022	09/10/2022
<i>Cleverman</i>	ACMI	12/06/2022	09/10/2022
<i>Dinosaur Explore: Lost Creatures of the Cretaceous</i>		12/11/2022	05/02/2023
<i>Bush Mechanics</i>	National Motor Museum, a museum of the History Trust of South Australia, in conjunction with Pintubi Anmatjere Warlpiri (PAW) Media	18/02/2023	18/06/2023
<i>South West Printmakers Exhibition</i>	South West Printmakers	09/04/2023	23/04/2023



MUSEUM OF
GERALDTON

<i>GRAMS Heal Country! NAIDOC 2021 Photography</i>	GRAMS	07/05/2022	07/08/2022
<i>Sixteen Legs: Enter the Cave Exhibition</i>	Bookend Trust	11/06/2022	14/08/2022
<i>Brickwrecks: Sunken Ships in LEGO® Bricks</i>	National Maritime Museum, Brickman	03/09/2022	20/11/2022
<i>Cleverman</i>	ACMI	03/12/2022	23/04/2023
<i>Beyond the Milky Way</i>	White Spark Pictures	13/05/2023	23/07/2023



MUSEUM OF THE
GOLDFIELDS

<i>Brickwrecks: Sunken Ships in LEGO® Bricks</i>	Australian National Maritime Museum, Brickman	28/05/2022	14/08/2022
<i>Golden Mile Community Art Exhibition</i>	Golden Mile	28/08/2022	11/09/2022
<i>Bush Mechanics</i>	National Motor Museum, a museum of the History Trust of South Australia, in conjunction with Pintubi Anmatjere Warlpiri (PAW) Media	24/09/2022	12/02/2023
<i>Reconstructed Art Competition Exhibition 2022</i>	Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group	12/11/2022	27/11/2022
<i>Williamstown Heritage Project Exhibition</i>	Williamstown Heritage	10/03/2023	23/04/2023
<i>Cleverman</i>	ACMI	06/05/2023	10/09/2023



Offsite Activation

Off-site activation and outreach programs attracted 19,973 participations across a variety of popular events including:

WA Day Festival

The WA Museum celebrated the 2023 WA Day Festival at Burswood (4-5 June 2023) displaying a range of native bees and insects endemic to WA, including the unique life of the (Mungurragurra) Dawson's burrowing bee – *Amegilla dawsoni*.

Perth Gem and Mineral Show

The WA Museum's minerals curators attended the Perth's Inaugural Gem and Mineral Show two-day event, displaying a range of collection items, and providing a talk – *Golden tales from the Western Australian Museum Collection*.

A Most Curious Adventure

The WA Museum presented *Alice in Wonderland* inspired maze, favourite characters, and fun optical illusions at Cockburn Gateway (9-29 January). The holiday program attracted 8,881 participants.

Cinefest OZ, Busselton

More than 2,580 attended the *Beyond the Milky Way VR Experience* screening at Cinefest Oz Festival (24-25 August 2022).

Above: WA Day at Burswood Park
© Miles Noel Photography

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

The Museum recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the custodians of their stories, cultures, practices, and traditions and acknowledges their ongoing connections to the past, present, and future. The WA Museum's vision for reconciliation is to create a culturally safe, respectful, and inclusive space for all people to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history, and to advance understanding between all peoples.

Emerging Curators

The Aboriginal *Emerging Curators* program continued successfully in 2022-23, fostering professional and personal development through mentoring. Participants engaged in weekly online modules and two internships with the WA Museum in Perth and the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

This year, the WA Museum partnered with Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation Limited (NYFL) based in Roebourne (Leramugadu) to collaborate with three talented participants: Linda Rowlands, a Ngarluma woman; Treinaya Phillips, a Yindjibarndi-Ngarluma woman, and Jessica Allan, a Yindjibarndi woman.

Project highlights included workshops on object handling, preventative conservation, storytelling, and project management. Participants received accredited training in recording oral histories with Goolarri Media in Broome.

The 2023-24 program partnership with Yamaji Arts, Geraldton is in development.

Emerging Curators visiting the WA Museum Collections & Research Centre as part of their training
© Miles Noel Photography



Reconciliation Action Plan

The Museum continued work on the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), a strategic document that assists organisations embed the principles and purpose of reconciliation.

There are four levels of RAP: *Reflect*, *Innovate*, *Stretch and Elevate*. Each is designed to support organisations at different stages of their reconciliation journey.

The Museum published the *Reflect* RAP in 2015 which was followed by the *Innovate* RAP 2019-21. In March 2023, Reconciliation Australia conditionally endorsed the Museum's updated *Innovate* RAP for March 2023-25. This plan aims to build on previous strategies, and strengthen relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, engage staff and stakeholders, and pilot innovative strategies for empowerment.

Image: Warakurna Superheroes #6 with Brittany Malbunka Reid, *Warakurna Superheroes Photographic Series*, 2017
© Tony Albert, David C Collins and Brittany Malbunka Reid





Discomfort: Brave Conversations and New Connections in a Changing Environment

In May, the WA Museum presented a paper at the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA) conference. The conference theme, *'Discomfort: Brave conversations and new connections in a changing environment'* was an opportunity for the Museum's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team to deliver a session titled *'Navigating Black experiences within museum walls'*.

Marlia Fatnowna, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learning and engagement staff member, participated as a panel member at the AMaGA conference session focusing on the role of the Museum in *'Truth Telling'*.

Above: Marlia Fatnowna presenting at the AMaGA conference

Procurement Target with Aboriginal Businesses

The WA Museum awarded 3.8% of purchases above \$50,000 to registered Aboriginal businesses in 2022-23.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TARGET

3.5% 

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Training

In 2022-23, the WA Museum continued its strategic focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and training. Initiatives included a specific selection strategy to attract Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by modifying language and artwork used in job adverts, and by introducing an employment register to remove barriers and make the process more culturally inclusive. The Museum workforce comprises of 5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees. This is an increase from 4% in the 2021-22 with the Museum working towards a target of 6%.

WA Museum Aboriginal Advisory Committee

In December 2022, Professor Christopher Lawrence resigned as the Chair of the WA Museum Aboriginal Advisory Committee (WAMAAC) due to work commitments. The WA Museum welcomed Dr. Libby Jackson-Barrett as a member to the WAMAAC in April 2023, and she was appointed Chair in May 2023. Dr. Jackson-Barrett is a Senior Lecturer and Senior Indigenous Researcher within the School of Education and Kurungkurl Katijin at Edith Cowan University.

The Museum also welcomed new committee members, Krystyn Bonney, Sarah Bellottie, Jarra Somerville, Cohen Taylor, Christian Miller-Sabbioni and Perrun Bonser in April 2023.

Partnerships with Aboriginal Organisations

- *Nyumbi* – Karla Hart Productions produces a weekly program of celebration of Nyoongar culture through song, dance and language, with a different Aboriginal performance group featured each week at the WA Museum Boola Bardip. Performance groups include: Wadumbah, Kwarbah Djookian, Koolangkas Kreate, Djurpin Djindas, Little Dooram, Biguurda, Kwarbah Djookian, Midn Marr Dreaming, Moorditja Djinda, and Nglalak Nidja.
- The WA Museum has an ongoing relationship with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company. Highlights include programming as part of NAIDOC Week 2022:
 - WA Museum Boola Bardip – *Yirra Yaarnz*: two days of play readings from emerging West Australian First Nations playwrights.
 - WA Maritime Museum – *Bilya Kaatijin* (Fresh Water Knowledge in Noongar): Connecting stories from Noongar land (south-west Western Australia) to Wonguktha land (the northern Goldfields), Aotearoa (New Zealand) and the Kikuyu people of Kenya, *Bilya Kaatijin* by Zac James teaches the importance of water to First Nations people around the world.
- In collaboration with publisher, Upswell Publishing, the WA Museum hosted the book launch of *Sun & Shadow: The Art of the Spinifex People*, edited by John Carty (South Australian Museum) and Luke Scholes (Deakin University).
- The WA Museum partnered with The Kimberley – Like Nowhere Else Alliance to present *The Martuwarra Fitzroy River: Lifeblood of the Kimberley* exhibition and the *Martuwarra Fitzroy River Film Festival* at the WA Maritime Museum. The exhibition included screening of *Voices of the River*, an award-winning documentary series featuring Traditional Owners from the Martuwarra Fitzroy River.



- *Dancing at Home Project* – Gary Lang, NT Dance Company choreographed 'Spirit Woman' with performers from Coral Spawn Dancers and Pundarra Dance Group as part of a project collaboration with Gwoonwardu Mia for the total solar eclipse programming.
- *Jardilunji Mia* training café at Gwoonwardu Mia is an exciting partnership with Real Futures Pty Ltd, offering on-the-job hospitality, tourism and cookery training and certification for Aboriginal individuals.

Above: Gwoonwardu Mia's training cafe, Jardilunji Mia
© Socially Creative

National Reconciliation Week

The year's National Reconciliation Week theme, 'Be a Voice for Generations,' urged Australians to actively engage in reconciliation efforts in their daily lives, workplaces, and social circles. The WA Museum partnered with Reconciliation WA to host a range of programs and activations. Highlights included:

- *National Reconciliation Week Virtual Breakfast:* Reconciliation WA's virtual breakfast was broadcast live from the WA Museum Boola Bardip.
- *Reconciliation Memoirs with Dr Richard Walley OAM:* Dr Richard Walley, a recognised figure in Indigenous reconciliation, shared insights and experiences at the launch of his *Reconciliation Memoirs*, written in collaboration with Victoria Laurie, and hosted at the WA Museum Boola Bardip.

- *In Conversation – The Uluru Statement from the Heart:* An expert panel explored the invitation of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* and explored the principles around establishing a Voice to Parliament for Australia's First Nations People.
- *Sea of Hands Digital Screen:* An interactive digital screen at the WA Maritime Museum invited visitors, staff, and volunteers to trace their hands and leave messages about their understanding of, and commitment to reconciliation.
- *Voices of Fremantle Museums Choir:* Museum staff and volunteers performed 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' by Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody, adding their voices to the growing call for reconciliation action.

Below: Nyumbi smoking ceremony
© Alison Rodrigues





NAIDOC Week

During NAIDOC week 2022, the WA Museum celebrated Indigenous cultures and histories across all sites. Highlights included:

- Daily drop-in activities for making friendship bracelets, key chains, and badge-making, as well as colouring and drawing sessions.
- *Canvas and Coffee with Charlie Colbung* – a guided art workshop with Nyoongar artist Charlie Colbung, provided participants with an insight into Nyoongar culture and the significance of spirituality through art.
- *Weaving with Sharyn Egan* – Sharyn is a prominent Nyoongar artist who led a group collaborative animal weaving session.
- The Museum screened the film *The Final Quarter* which follows the final stages of Adam Goodes' Australian football career, during which he was the target of repeated racism by opposition fans. A thought-provoking panel discussion followed the film screening.
- *Galup VR Experience* – featuring untold stories of Lake Monger in a new 360 VR film, a truth-telling experience inviting Australians to learn more about our collective past and shedding light on the tragic events that occurred in and around Lake Monger.
- Museum of the Goldfields, activities included guided painting with local artist Jason Dimer, sand stories with Mara Pirni Healing Place, and a weaving workshop for *Reclaim the Void*, facilitated by local artist Carol Thompson.
- Museum of Geraldton staff attended the NAIDOC Week Expo at Champion Bay Senior High School, with 151 students participating.

Above: *Canvas and Coffee with Charlie Colbung*
© WA Museum

Repatriation Program

- The WA Museum attended a National meeting of Museum Repatriation Officers hosted by the Australian Government Office for the Arts. The meeting coincided with the Federal Advisory Committee for Indigenous Repatriation (ACIR) between the ACIR Members and Museum Repatriation Officers. These meetings facilitated conversations on creation of and maintenance of cooperative working relationships, ideas and experiences, current projects, and success stories.

This year's repatriation work involved activities tied to discussions around the return of Ancestral Remains to Mirning, Wajarri, and Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi country.

While no returns were arranged during the year, significant progress was made for the return of the Mirning Ancestral Remains. In June 2023, the Mirning Traditional Lands

Aboriginal Corporation received funding to conduct a site verification trip to Eucla, where a suitable re-burial location was identified. Final plans for the transportation and re-burial of eight Ancestors is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

- In June 2023, the Museum curators travelled to Roebourne (Leramugadu) to meet with staff and Board members at the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi Foundation to discuss the approach to the return of one Ancestor from Cossack. Preliminary feedback regarding access to the original burial location will assist the Museum and community in developing plans for the final return.
- The third activity involving the possible return of Wajarri Ancestral Remains was not progressed pending further advice from the Wajarri Yamaji Aboriginal Corporation.

Exhibitions

- ***Cleverman***: A free exhibition celebrating the award-winning television series, opened at the Museum of Geraldton in December 2022. An exploration of Aboriginal storytelling, the exhibition immerses audiences in

powerful and contemporary expression origin stories through a combination of video, audio and objects that showcase the making of the *Cleverman* series.

Cleverman
© Courtesy of Goalpost Pictures
& Pukeko Pictures Production



- ***Bush Mechanics: The Exhibition*** – exhibited at Museum of the Goldfields, explores the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Aboriginal mechanics and their repair techniques in the Australian outback, and provides insights into the life and culture of the Warlpiri people of Central Australia.

- ***Meeyakba Shane Pickett: Six Seasons*** – a captivating exhibition, on loan from the Mossenson Art Foundation, of Meeyakba Shane Pickett's works was shown at the WA Museum Boola Bardip.

Above: *Bush Mechanics*
© National Film and Sound Archive

Pilbara Project

The Pilbara Project, a collaborative partnership between FORM and the WA Museum, and funded by BHP, commenced in mid-2023. The project enables Aboriginal stakeholders in the Pilbara region to lead, envision, plan, and realise a cultural project of significant scale and impact.

The Project aims to create opportunities for truth-telling and reconciliation, creating pathways for a better, more collaborative future. Aboriginal cultural heritage and histories will be recorded and expressed in communities across the Pilbara.

Nyumbi

Nyumbi a celebration of Nyoongar culture through song, dance and language, is presented every Saturday morning at the WA Museum Boola Bardip and attracts an average of between 120 and 200 people. Visitor survey results indicate that tourism audiences are deeply appreciative of the cultural experience. It is supported by Tourism WA and the City of Perth, the program was extended.



RECLAIM THE VOID

Reclaim the Void expresses the response of the Ngalia people to the 'gaping mining holes left all over our country'. This bold, global collaboration is creating a large-scale artwork from thousands of hand-woven, recycled rag rugs to symbolically 'seal' one of the holes and tell a story of Country.

As part of this major cross-cultural art project, the Museum of the Great Southern commenced programming of four guided workshops enabling community members to weave circular 'dot' rugs from recycled fabrics.

Reclaim the Void will present a project exhibition at the WA Museum Boola Bardip and regional museums, and begin assemblage of the artwork, in 2024.

Artists in Residence

Several special experiences linked to an Artists in Residence program: *Reclaim the Void weaving workshops* with Rachel McKenzie and Lucy Ridsdale and *Weaving with Words* with Rachel Robertson.

Above: Rugs on the rocks
© Vivienne Robertson

ABORIGINAL DIGITAL ARTS PROGRAM: ARTIST IN FOCUS



Two screen installations on the façade of the WA Museum Boola Bardip's screened a series of four short films celebrating Aboriginal art and storytelling, directed by Sohan Ariel Hayes and Devris Hasan.

These digital artworks will run from February 2022 to February 2023 and are part of a public art program of curated and commissioned digital Aboriginal artwork coordinated in partnership with Aboriginal Arts Centre Hub WA (AACHWA).

Left: Alice Guinness, Wendy Hubert, Judith Coppin
© Juluwarlu Art Group

State-Wide

Collections and Research

The WA Museum is the custodian of the State's collections of natural, scientific and cultural heritage.

Additions to the Collection highlights included:

- John Winter's gold medals for High Jump from the 1948 London Olympics (the first gold medal won by a Western Australian) and the 1950 Auckland Commonwealth Games.
- A slab of polished lamproite breccia from the Argyle Diamond Mine, donated by Rio Tinto.
- Coloured screen-print, *Namarali, Ungud and Dumbi*, by Yorna (Donny) Woolagoodja (deceased), a renowned Kimberley artist and chairman of the Mowanjum Artists Spirit of the Wandjina Aboriginal Corporation.
- A coconut posted from New Guinea by Private Eric Herbert Gericke – 4th Australian Infantry Battalion, to his wife Florence Gericke in Aldersyde WA, during his service in the Pacific in WWII. Donated by Peta Marrell.
- An original painting of the *Helena Mena* ship that sailed from London to Fremantle in 1891. Donated by the Walton Family.
- A perfectly intact rare Ruby seadragon, donated by Annika Engstrom.

The Ruby seadragon (*Phyllopteryx dewysea*) is only the third species of a seadragon ever recorded in the world and lives along Western Australia's temperate coast.

- An incredibly rare and valuable black cowrie shell found in Western Australian waters was gifted to the WA Museum. The *Leporicypraea geographica rewa form rovae* cowrie shell was found off the coast of Exmouth in a 24-metre-deep sea sponge garden.
- Artefacts believed to be from *Vergulde Draeck* (Gilt Dragon) wrecked off the coast near Ledge Point in 1656, were returned to the WA Museum by Leon Pule and Hanneley Tredoux.

The find is significant in that it is a land-based site related to the possible fate of the *Vergulde Draeck* survivors. The WA Museum's maritime archaeologists will examine the artefacts, and the site where they were found, to learn more about the fate of the *Vergulde Draeck* and its crew.

“ Finds like these from the public can be very beneficial for research. Hopefully this one will provide new DNA data to better understand how genetically diverse populations of this species are.”

Dr. Nerida Wilson



Ruby seadragon
(*Phyllopteryx dewysea*)
© Annika Engstrom



Walton family heirloom
 – painting of the *Helena Mena* ship
 © WA Museum

CONSERVING COLLECTIONS

1,162
 OBJECTS TREATED

718
 MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 OBJECTS

143
 ANALYSES AND CONDITION
 REPORTS OF OBJECTS
 AND SPECIMENS

526
 OBJECTS FOR EXHIBITIONS AND/
 OR EXTERNAL LOANS



CONSERVATION OF AN IRON NAIL BARREL

Marine archaeological iron/wood composite artefacts recovered from shipwreck sites, such as the iron nail barrel recovered from the *Zeewijk*, a Dutch East India Company (VOC) vessel wrecked in 1727 at the Houtman Abrolhos Islands, present notoriously difficult challenges in treatment and stabilisation using standard treatment regimes. Several post-treatment acid formation issues are known to severely affect long-term stability of these artefacts.

The WA Museum is currently investigating the suitability of using trehalose, an artificial sugar substitute, as an alternative to traditional polyethylene glycol impregnation methods.

Above: Wooden nail barrel (ZW5581)
 recovered from the *Zeewijk* site
 © James Harvie

National Science Week programming

The *National Science Week 2022* theme was 'Glass: More than meets the eye' to inspire participants to consider all things glass in the world of science.

All Museum sites were involved in a series of virtual talks during *National Science Week* in August 2022, in which schools engaged with Museum curators to hear about recent findings, discoveries and facts. Site incursions, and other learning programs were offered to complement the programming.

National Science Week School Program
© Miles Noel Photography



New Knowledge

Contributions to the State collection covered the fields of science and technology, research and development, conservation, planning, and education.

16
RESEARCH
PRESENTATIONS

58
PUBLIC TALKS

18
WORKSHOPS

45
PEER-REVIEWED
RESEARCH
ARTICLES

23
FIELDTRIPS

71
STATE COLLECTION
ITEMS LOANED
TO GROUPS AND
ORGANISATIONS



Building The Collection

The WA Museum acquired items for the State Collection through donations, fieldwork and purchases.

23,119

ITEMS ADDED TO THE STATE COLLECTION DURING 2022-23

1,137

ITEMS DONATED

644 ITEMS PURCHASED TO THE VALUE OF

\$581,970

21,338

ITEMS COLLECTED DURING FIELDWORK

Review of the Maritime Archaeology Act

The *Maritime Archaeology Act 1973* (WA) (MA Act) protects wrecks and relics of historic ships (defined as those lost prior to 1900), associated maritime archaeological sites and terrestrial maritime archaeological sites, such as shipwreck survivor camps in Western Australian State waters.

The MA Act is outdated due to subsequent developments in the protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage nationally with the *Commonwealth Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018*, and internationally with the *2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* (2001 UNESCO Convention).

The WA Museum is working to update and amend the MA Act to allow, amongst other things, the protection of important cultural maritime heritage not covered by the existing legislation, such as abandoned sealing, whaling and pearling sites, and artefacts. An updated MA Act will align with Commonwealth legislation and will deal with anomalies over the current definitions of State coastal, Commonwealth, and inland waters, removing confusion over jurisdictional discrepancies. It will also enable Australia to proceed towards ratification of the 2001 UNESCO Convention. The WA Museum has undertaken extensive public and Government consultation between March and June 2023 to inform proposed legislative changes. This has resulted in over 200 interactions with Government, non-government groups, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and community groups.

SS *Colac*, pictured, wrecked in 1910 in King Sound, near Derby, lies within State waters
© WA Museum



Maritime Heritage

The Museum is responsible for several large collections, research projects and public engagement on the state's unique and fascinating maritime history. It includes the study, protection and interpretation of maritime archaeological sites and objects under the *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018* (Cth) and the *Maritime Archaeology Act 1973* (WA).

A key highlight was the *Visualising Batavia silverware* project with the University of Western Australia and Rijksmuseum, the Netherlands.

The WA Museum holds a unique collection of seventeenth-century Amsterdam silverware – from the Dutch East Indiaman *Batavia* wrecked on the Houtman Abrolhos Islands in June 1629. The silverware was identified as warranting research to contribute to a fuller understanding of the Dutch East India Company's (VOC) trade and cultural exchange.

Batavia's shipment of luxurious silver ewers, water basins, dishes, bowls, and bed ornamentation were part of a trial by VOC to stop the drain of precious metals from the United Netherlands to Mughal India.

This project brought visualisation expert Professor Rob Erdmann and conservator Tamar Davidowitz from the Rijksmuseum to apply a new method of optical scanning to render highly reflective 3D objects, enabling the visualisation of fine surface details.

Some of the silverware pieces were examined to offer insights into the production of the VOC objects as well as their condition and history. The 3D scans will be shown in-gallery and on an interactive website, where the results will be made available.

Above: A silver plate recovered from the *Batavia* shipwreck

© Photo by University of Western Australia

Collections Online

The WA Museum recognises the importance of ongoing digitising of the State Collection to provide accessibility for researchers and interested online users.

Digitisation Centre of WA Collaboration

The WA Museum is entering its second year of partnership with the Digitisation Centre for WA, in collaboration with WA universities and the State Library of WA. This collaboration is digitising collections that are at risk of deterioration and susceptible to damage such as those in the media of video, film and tape.

Stonemason chipping at a block of limestone for renovations to the Old Goal. 1975

© WA Museum

Online Database

2,312,304
ITEMS DOCUMENTED, DIGITISED
AND MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE.

Collections are recorded on digital databases and key information – metadata – is added to the record. Where possible, digital images are captured, and the record is then made available online.



Wanderland

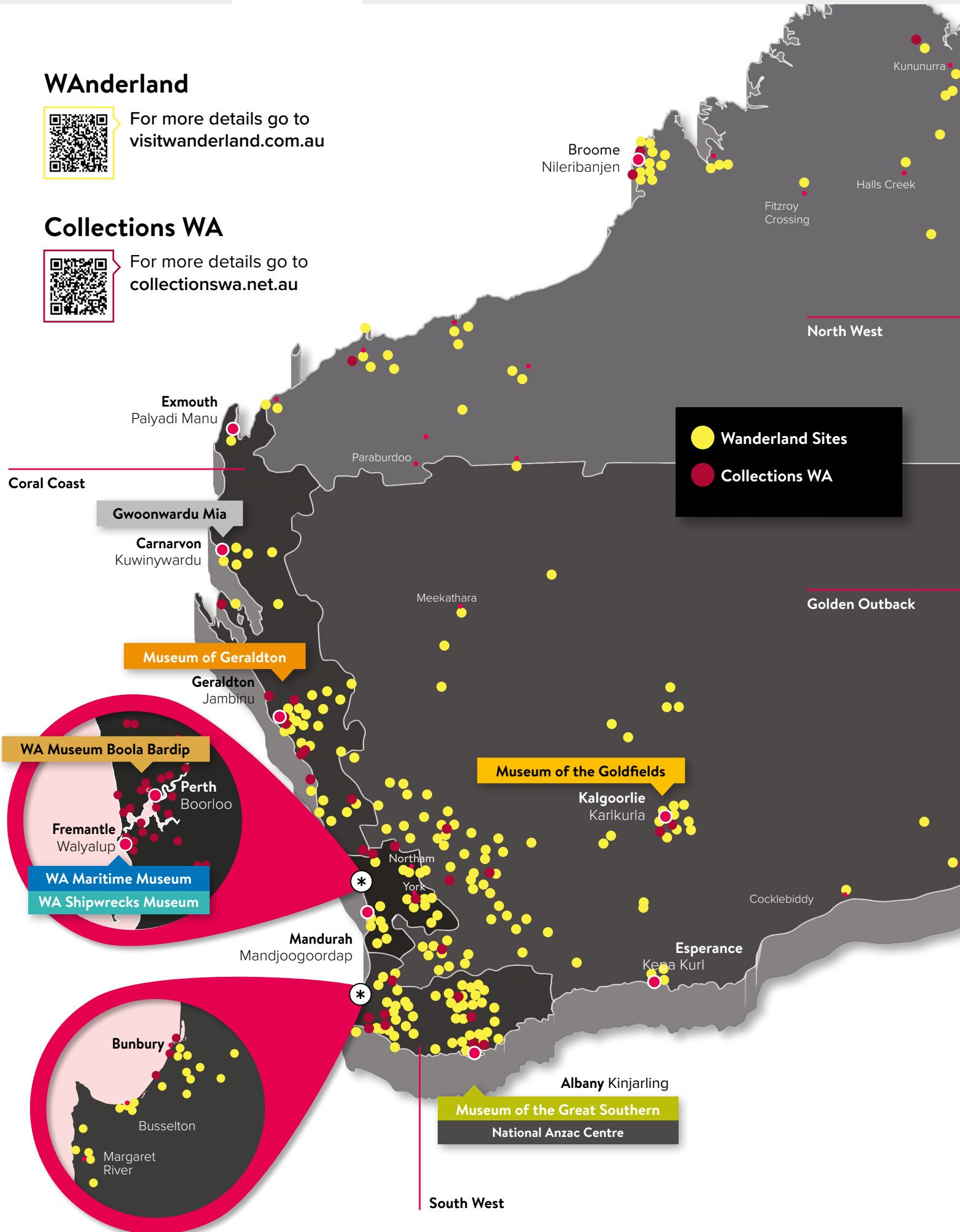


For more details go to visitwanderland.com.au

Collections WA



For more details go to collectionswa.net.au



Wanderland

Wanderland - visitwanderland.com.au - offers a unique opportunity to explore 220 museums and collections across WA, inspiring individuals to hit the road and embark on their own adventure.

The Wanderland website allows users to explore the collections digitally and create customised bucket lists using an online itinerary planner. The website also features articles from local contributors, sharing lesser-known stories behind the unique items and a series of mini documentaries entitled *Such was Life*.

Led by the WA Museum and funded by the State Government, Wanderland showcases over 1,200 rare and remarkable items that celebrate the cultural heritage of Western Australia.

Information on Wanderland is available online at visitwanderland.com.au



Right: Gwalia Historical Precinct – Gwalia
© Wanderlust

18,183
WEBSITE VISITS

223
ORGANISATIONS



Collections WA

Collections WA brings together digitised collections from libraries, galleries, museums, archives, historical societies, cultural organisations, community groups and other collecting organisations across Western Australia.

Collections WA is managed by the WA Museum in association with the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA), the latter providing training for staff and volunteers of regional collections.

This collaboration provides opportunities for access, for example, an image from the Claremont Museum will be included in a Screen Australia documentary about women's soccer in Australia which will screen on the FIFA YouTube channel to 19.4 million subscribers.

AMaGA WA partnered with the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA) to bolster digital literacy as part of the National Be Connected e-safety program. Digital Mentor

57,582
OBJECTS

176
ORGANISATIONS

906,852
WEBSITE VISITS IN 2022-23

training was held in Albany, Katanning, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Broome, Port Hedland and Perth.

Funding is provided by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Culture WA

Culture WA provides public access to the online collections of the WA Museum, State Records Office of Western Australia and State Library of Western Australia. Collections from the Art Gallery of WA will be made available in the future. The WA Museum developed Culture WA and is responsible for maintaining the platform.



SUCH WAS LIFE

The WA Museum commissioned filmmaker Paul Barron to create a series of five mini documentaries featuring locals taking the viewer back in time to the origins of the pieces and collections in WAnderland.

One mini documentary features the activities of Sikhs in Dongara over 100 years ago. This project strengthened ties between the Dongara Historical Society and the local Sikh community, culminating in a major community event at the Museum in Dongara with over 180 people from the Sikh community attending to celebrate their history.

This event was held in partnership with the Sikh Association of WA and the Irwin Districts Historical Society.

The *Such Was Life* series is now streaming on SBS On Demand, reaching 260,000 Australian viewers every month.

Above: *Such Was Life*: William Wilton
© Paul Barron

Museum Website

2,712,358
WEBSITE VISITS

26
DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

2,024,234
WEBSITE VISITS ACROSS THE
26 ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The WA Museum's website museum, wa.gov.au enables online visitors to explore collections and research areas and resources, as well as discover what's on across the Museum's six locations.

In August the homepage was redesigned to enhance user experience and align with the visual theme and functionality of the Boola Bardip, Shipwrecks, Maritime and regional location homepages.

A redesigned membership section of the website was published in September to reflect the Museum's new annual membership model.

Chrissy on location at the Museum of the Goldfields filming a Destination WA episode.
© WA Museum



Museum in the Media

The WA Museum regularly communicates with audiences through traditional and digital media, including social media.

1,386
MENTIONS

39,553
CUMULATIVE REACH

Museum Social Media

Engagement with the WA Museum's Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram social media platforms saw great growth, reach, and engagement.

Twitter activity was de-prioritised in favour of developments in Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn activity as flagship platforms that foster strong connections and attract a multitude of followers.

Social media continues to be an integral platform to inform, engage and market the Museum's exhibitions, and to share many stories with local, national and global audiences.



MUSEUM SOCIAL MEDIA

 FACEBOOK

74,120
FOLLOWERS (+17.7%)

1,110
PUBLISHED POSTS (+30.6%)

 INSTAGRAM

23,299
FOLLOWERS (+24.2%)

445
POSTS PUBLISHED (+16.8%)

 LINKEDIN

5,444
FOLLOWERS (+27%)

119
PUBLISHED POSTS (+561%)

 TWITTER

7,860
FOLLOWERS (-0.2%)

46
PUBLISHED POSTS (-25.8%)



2023 Season Launch
© Jessica Wyld Photography

Awards and Honours

National Awards

Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMAGA) National Awards 2023

- Interpretation, Learning & Audience Engagement Category: HIGHLY COMMENDED – Early Learning Programs at WA Museum Boola Bardip.
- Temporary or Travelling Exhibition Category: HIGHLY COMMENDED – Level 2: WA Maritime Museum for *Fremantle Then & Now: Historical Panoramas*.

Museums Australasia Multimedia & Publication (MAPDA) Awards 2023

- Exhibition Branding Category: HIGHLY COMMENDED – WA Museum Boola Bardip for *Dinosaurs of Patagonia*.
- Program website: WINNER – WAnderland

WA Heritage Awards

- Interpretation Project Category: WINNER – WA Maritime Museum for *Fremantle Then & Now: Historical Panoramas*.

Order of Australia



Steve Scudamore AM

Mr Steve Scudamore, the deputy-chair of the Western Australian Museum Board of Trustees, and Chair of the Western Australian Museum Finance and Audit Committee was awarded the title of Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day 2023 Honours List for his significant service to business and commerce.



Irene May Stainton AO

Ms Irene Stainton was the former Trustee of the Western Australian Museum, the former Chairperson of the Western Australian Museum's Aboriginal Advisory Committee and a Fellow of the Western Australian Museum. She was awarded her AO for her distinguished service to human rights through cultural heritage leadership, and through health and social welfare organisations. Irene played a critical part in the redevelopment of WA Museum Boola Bardip.



William (Bill) McDonald Leonard OAM

Bill has been awarded for his service to community through boat restoration. Bill, a Master Shipwright, formerly worked with the WA Maritime Museum, where he researched and restored many of the boats in the extensive collection of vintage and historic vessels. He led the team that built the replica of Captain James Cook's ship HMS *Endeavour* and the replica of the *Duyfken*, the first known European ship to reach Australia in 1606.



Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy

Jason Fair OSI

Mr Jason Fair (OSI), Director of Engagement, was bestowed the title of *Knight of the Star of Italy*, by the President of the Italian Republic, H.E Sergio Mattarella.

This prestigious award is in recognition of his significant contribution to strengthening the bilateral relations between the Republic of Italy and Australia in recent years, through promoting the productive partnership between the Consulate, with successive Italian Consuls and the Italian community in Western Australia.

Left: Jason Fair and wife Rebecca, holding the *Knight of the Star of Italy* medal

Museum Supporters

The Foundation for the WA Museum

The Foundation mobilises and harnesses and directs support for the Western Australian Museum, increasing its cultural, scientific, educational and social impact of the Museum.

The Foundation does this by growing the funds under management in its Discovery Endowment Fund, obtaining direct funding support for specific WA Museum projects, and setting up a program of grant giving that supports the strategic priorities of the WA Museum.

The Museum and the Foundation recognise the ongoing support of our Founding Partners: Minderoo Foundation, Tianqi Lithium, Woodside Energy, Wesfarmers, Rio Tinto, and the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation.

Highlights included:

Dinosaurs Of Patagonia Exhibition

With the support of its International Exhibition Fund Donors, the Foundation helped bring the *Dinosaurs of Patagonia* exhibition to Perth. Featuring 13 dinosaur species including the huge *Patagotitan*, 16 skeleton casts, fossils, 3D animations and video, and interactive activities for the whole family.

Impact Circle

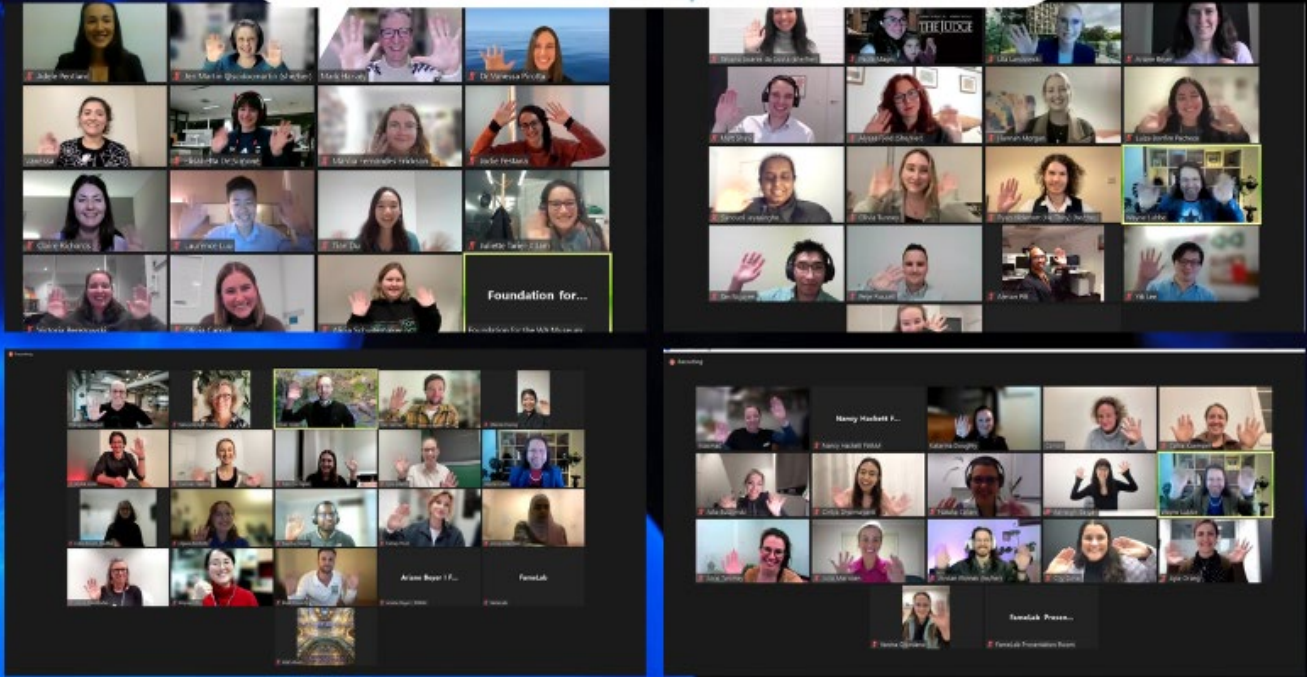
The *WA Down Under Gallery Aquarium* project was chosen as the winner of the Foundation for the Museum 2022 Impact Circle Grant. Thanks to the generosity of the Foundation's Impact Circle Members, the Foundation was in the position to award not one, but two grants in 2022, with the *Xantho* Gallery Refurbishment project announced as the runner up project.

Night at the Museum Gala
© Kelly Pilgrim-Bryne, 7 to 1 Photography



Fame Lab

TALKING SCIENCE



Grants

Project support through Minderoo Grants, funded from the Foundation's Discovery Endowment Fund, were provided to the following WA Museum projects in 2022-23:

- WA Museum Foundation fellowships for collections-based research.
- Nullarbor Plain arachnid and fossil collection.
- *Illuminate* - Wild About Babies projections.
- Cretaceous marine vertebrates from the Giralia Anticline.
- Nyoongar cultural learning resources for Fremantle Museums.

Events

- *Impact Circle Voting Event*: In August, Impact Circle donors and guests came together to learn about, and cast their votes for three projects vying for grant funding.
- *Night at the Museum Gala*: In September, hundreds of Foundation supporters had a unique opportunity to celebrate amongst the dinosaurs of the *Dinosaurs of Patagonia* exhibition and collectively raised over \$100,000 for the Foundation.
- The *FameLab Academy* final at the end of September brought together Year 8 and 9 students, teachers, FameLab Academy Partners and VIP guests to watch the nine finalists' accomplished science talks.

Famelab Australia

In consultation with Cheltenham Festivals, *FameLab Australia* was paused in 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with focus given to the Australian delivery of the global science communication competition and training program for 2023.

FameLab Australia 2023 attracted 76 applicants, all of whom received online science communication training, with 54 applicants progressing to the semi-final stage. 12 early career researchers and budding science communicators from across Australia were selected as finalists and will compete in the national final, to be held at WA Museum Boola Bardip in September 2023.

Above: FameLab 2023 semi finalists
Image by Ariane Beyer and Nancy Hackett



Famelab Academy

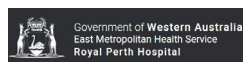
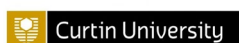
In 2022, 530 Year 8 and 9 students from nine Western Australian schools participated in the FameLab Academy science communication training program and competition. One finalist from each school received mentoring from experienced science communicators before competing in the FameLab Academy Finals on 20 September 2022.

The nine finalists delivered informative and entertaining presentations to students from the participating schools, their teachers, FameLab Academy partners and VIPs. The 2022 FameLab Academy winners were Lucy Ward-Dickson, Mercedes College (winner and audience vote winner), Megan Cardenas, Bob Hawke College (1st runner up) and Hayley Cavanagh, Sacred Heart College (2nd runner up).

Left: FameLab Academy finalists pictured with the panel
Image by Matty Loucas

Strategic Partnerships

The WA Museum collaborated with many organisations including (but not limited to):



Significant Issues Impacting the Agency

Current and Emerging Issues and Trends

The Referendum on the Indigenous Voice

Earlier in this report, the important role of the Museum in informing debate prior to the referendum has been noted; but the Museum's responsibility goes beyond this. As the referendum grows closer, the debate is becoming more fractious and confrontational. We have observed this whenever there is public debate over a critical issue. The same was true with the Gay Marriage plebiscite, with social media channels in particular becoming toxic. Running up to the referendum, and beyond it, the Museum will need to play its part in healing the divides that have been revealed: this will be true whatever the outcome.

Shield By Chubby Jones
© Bo Wong

Fragile Earth

Sustainability has long been one of the Museum's strategic pillars. This is borne out by the adherence to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Human-induced climate change is often described as the greatest existential threat facing our planet and humanity. Whilst this may be true, species loss (some of which is caused by climate change) is equally important. Extinctions of plants and animals are occurring at an alarming rate and with them, the precarious balance of nature with whole ecosystems under threat. The work of the Museum's scientists has never been more important.

Decolonisation

Decolonisation of museums has become a priority for museum authorities the world over. It is often applied primarily to those museums with collections comprised of material collected from around the world - the large European national museums, in particular. In Australia, however, whilst our large state museums certainly contain some such material, it is the cultural material – tangible and intangible – of First Peoples that is the subject of such considerations. The WA Museum has one of the most active repatriation programs in Australia and will continue its dialogue with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to address this important issue.

Revive - The National Cultural Policy

The launch of Revive, by the Federal Government, gives cultural organisations a context within which to work and plan. The five pillars of the strategy, harmonise closely with the four pillars of the WA Museum's Strategic Plan. Revive's strapline: *A place for every story and a story for every place*, also aligns with the policy practice and of the WA Museum – and particularly with the name of Boola Bardip – a place of many stories, told through many voices.

Digital Futures

Digital transformation continues to be a major priority, in terms of collections and building management and for internal and external communication. The rise of artificial intelligence offers enormous possibilities, particularly in terms of addressing 'big data' issues, but it also poses threats to knowledge integrity as information generated is only as good as that which is harvested - and that can come from many sources, reliable and unreliable. Like it or not, the age of AI is upon us, and we must adapt to survive.

Economic and Social Trends

Cost of Living

Global events continue to put pressure on national, state and household budgets. It was an issue last year and certainly continues this year. The cost of living pressures are increasing, placing strain on the family and the individual purse. People are having to make choices as to how they spend their money, and on what.

Diversifying Income

New streams of income are essential if the Museum is to reach its potential. It has been encouraging to see improvements in both retail and hire income over the year. Corporate and philanthropic supporters, however, have also been feeling the cost of living 'pinch' and there is little doubt and competition for these resources has never been greater. The Museum has a great story to tell to potential donors, and working with the Foundation for the WA Museum, we must tell it.

Appendices

A visitor exploring the
WA Museum Boola Bardip
Wild Life gallery
© Luke Riley Creative

Sponsors, Benefactors and Granting Agencies

City of Albany

Council of Heads of Australian Faunal Collections

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Cth)

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Cth)

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (Cth)

Director of National Parks (Cth)

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Embassy of Netherlands

Foundation for the Western Australian Museum

The Hermon Slade Foundation

National Museum of Australia

Tourism Western Australia

Foundation for the WA Museum Supporters:

Founding Partners

Minderoo Foundation

Rio Tinto

Stan Perron Charitable Foundation

Tianqi Lithium

Wesfarmers

Woodside Energy

Major Partners

CITIC Pacific Mining

North West Shelf Shipping

Singapore Airlines

The West Australian

Water Corporation

Media Partners

Channel 7

JC Decaux

Mix 94.5

The West Australian

Partners

Alex Hotel

COMO The Treasury

Gage Roads

Gerard Daniels

Heyder & Shears

Lux Events

PAV

Rohan Jewellers

Tattarang Springs Distilling Co

True North Adventures

Vasse Felix

FameLab and FameLab Academy Partners

Comm-it

Community Broadcasting Foundation

Curtin University

Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

Fogarty Foundation

Forrest Research Foundation

McCusker Charitable Foundation

Murdoch University

Western Australian Museum

International Exhibition Fund Donors

Kate Budiselik
Mineral Resources
Nev Power and Family
The McClements Foundation

Major Donors

Brasington Family
Kate Budiselik
Mineral Resources
Nev Power and Family
The McClements Foundation
Wellspring Foundation

Donors

Alec Coles OBE
Beth McKechnie
Christine Simpson Stokes AM
Dr Dorothy Erickson PhD
Euroz Hartley Foundation
John McKechnie
Michael Chaney AO CitWA
Peter and Joelle Larsen
Robert Petty
Torsten and Mona Ketelsen
Ungar Family Foundation
Wright Burt Foundation

The WA Museum would also like to thank the many additional supporters who supported the Foundation for the WA Museum with their kind contributions of up \$1,000.

Impact Circle Donors 2022

Dawn Barker
Melissa Black
Paul Boyatzis
Claire Burton
Pina Caffarelli
Mae Cardaci
Churchill Capital Consulting
Jock Clough
Meg Coffey
Aaron Constantine
Joanne Farrell
Jason Farrow
John Goodlad
Meagan Hamblin
Mark Hanlon
Elizabeth Harris
Julie Hobbs
Jim and Freda Irenic
Amanda Kailis
Maria Kailis
Matthew Kailis
Scott King
Karen Kopejtka
David Kyle
Anne Last
Guy Le Page
Lauren Major
Amanda Mannolini
Justin Mannolini
Margaret Matthews
Brodie McCulloch
Andrew McDonald and
Wioletta Kotnowska
Andree McIntyre and
Quentin Megson

Toria Norman
Beth McKechnie
John McKechnie
Toni and Rohan Milne
Scott Nugent and Claire Ridley
Peter and Kerry Oliver
Julian Peet
Rosalind-Ruth Phelps
Stan Quinlivan
Robert Ranalli
Bryan and Jan Rodgers
Steve Scudamore
Anna Sloboda
Phil Thick and Paula Rogers
Christine Thorpe
Mark Treasure
Nicole Unmack
Rubini Ventouras
Sara Wordsworth
Mary Ann Wright
Mel Watts

Bequests

We thank the following benefactors and their families for their generosity and contribution towards the State collection.

Honorina Ethel Anderson
Veronica Barker
Dr Harry Butler
Marjorie Keller-Tun
Dr Brian Leary
Joe Putcuypys and
Elena Moustafina
Shelagh Wakely
Ethel Patricia Wright

In Memoriam

Vale Mr. Ronald Packer

Businessman Ron Packer was born in Cape Town, South Africa, arriving in Perth in 1961.

A prominent property developer and yachtsman, Ron was appointed in 1998 as a member of the Advisory Committee for the proposed new WA Maritime Museum, which opened in 2002. Ron became Vice Chairman of the WA Maritime Museum Advisory Committee (2001) then Chairman (2008), remaining in this position until his retirement in 2022, due to ill health.

During Ron's tenure, the Committee advised the WA Museum on issues relating to

WA Maritime Museum content; public programs, including community engagement (for example, hosting community 'open days', public lectures, and educational programs); promoting the Museum within the community and providing a community perspective on museum operations; developing strong working local partnerships; assisting in advancing the commercial and fundraising opportunities of the site through networking within the local community; and providing practical support, where requested – for example, by utilising the range of expertise and community contact on the Site Advisory Committee.



Ron was made a Fellow of the WA Museum shortly before his death, on the 28 September 2022.

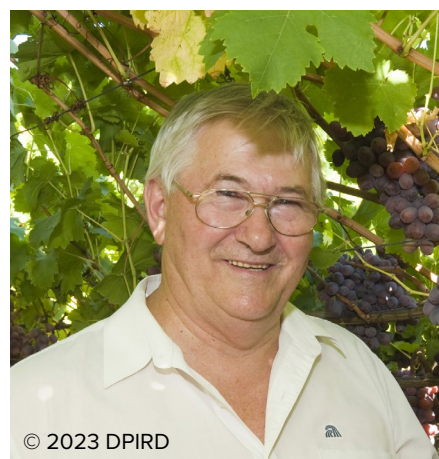
Vale Ian Cameron

In 1967, the Museum contacted the WA Department of Agriculture for advice regarding the care and pruning of two fully grown grapevines located on the Perth site. Consequently, for the past 55 years and well into his retirement, Ian Cameron continued to take meticulous care of the grapevines, pruning them annually as one of the Museum's long-term volunteers. His outstanding efforts and personal commitment over the years have kept the Museum's vines growing healthily and fruitfully.

Suspecting that the Museum vines were planted sometime in the 1850s or 1860s and intrigued

to determine if they were the oldest grapevines in Australia, Ian found that the oldest grape vine in Australia was planted by the Henty Brothers in Victoria in about 1840 – but that it has never produced a bunch of grapes! The Museum grapevines are the oldest fruiting vines in Australia and can produce up to 200 bunches of muscat table grapes per year.

During the recent redevelopment of the Perth Site for the magnificent new Boola Bardip construction, Ian meticulously continued to care for the vines. The grapevines are now an integral part of the WA Museum Boola Bardip landscaping, and part of the heritage plants of Western Australia.



Sadly, Ian passed away on Friday 16 September 2022.

Ian was made a Fellow of the WA Museum, posthumously on the 28 September 2022.

School group at
WA Museum Boola Bardip
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