

## Australian Museum Wins Prestigious National Awards

*Sharks, Burra and Progress Shark all win at Museums and Galleries National Awards*



**18 May 2023, Sydney:** The Australian Museum (AM) has been recognised with three national awards at the 2023 Museums and Galleries National Awards (MAGNAs) for its outstanding work across exhibitions and engagement. The AM won the Temporary or Travelling Exhibition category for its homegrown blockbuster exhibition, [Sharks](#), the Interpretation, Learning & Audience Engagement category for its learning and play space, [Burra](#), and the Community Engagement and Outreach category for [World Pride at the Australian Museum](#).

Members of the Australian Museum team, including AM Chief Experience Officer Russell Briggs, accepted the awards at the national ceremony held Tuesday 16 May at the Murrook Cultural Centre in Newcastle as part of the [Australian Museums and Galleries Association \(AMaGA\) National Conference](#).

Director and CEO, Australian Museum, Kim McKay AO, congratulated the entire AM team for this outstanding recognition.

“It’s fantastic to see the AM’s outstanding exhibitions and community engagement continue to be recognised at a national level. It is the second year in a row that we’ve won for our exhibitions. Last year, the AM’s ground-breaking First Nations exhibition, *Unsettled*, also took home the award for best temporary exhibition in its category,” McKay said.

“This year, we are thrilled to be recognised for our homegrown blockbuster *Sharks* exhibition, which closed in April and will now tour museums across the United States. Our popular learning and play space *Burra*, which combines First Nations and western science, has also been awarded, as well as our community engagement for our World Pride activities held at the Australian Museum, which included the unofficial icon of World Pride, Progress Shark,” McKay said.

AM Chief Experience Officer Russell Briggs thanked the teams across the AM who contributed to the success and helped the AM take home these awards.

“I am so proud of the work our teams have accomplished this year. Thanks to free general admission, blockbuster exhibitions like *Sharks*, transformed spaces like *Burra* and positive engagement with the community including during *World Pride*, the AM reached the one million visitor milestone for the first time in its nearly 200-year history,” Briggs said.

Australian Museum

1 William St Sydney NSW 2010

T 02 9320 6000

W [Australian.Museum](#)

Media Contact

Claire Vince, Media Advisor

T 0468 726 910

E [claire.vince@australian.museum](mailto:claire.vince@australian.museum)

Connect with us



The AM will deliver additional new cultural exhibitions and galleries over the coming months, including *Bilas: Body Adornment in Papua New Guinea* (opening June 2023), a new Pasifika Gallery (opening October 2023) and *Ramses The Great and The Gold of The Pharaohs* (opening November 2023).

The AM was also [shortlisted](#) for two other 2023 Museums Australasia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards (MAPDAs), including for [Mineral Icons](#) (Major Exhibition Catalogue MAPDA Category) and [Minerals Gallery online publication](#) (Program Website MAPDA Category).

ENDS

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**Facebook:** @australianmuseum

**Instagram:** @australianmuseum

**Twitter:** @austmus

**Hashtags:** #australianmuseum

## About the Australian Museum

The Australian Museum (AM) was founded in 1827 and is the nation's first museum. It is internationally recognised as a natural science and culture institution focused on Australia and the Pacific. The AM's mission is to ignite wonder, inspire debate and drive change. The AM's vision is to be a leading voice for the richness of life, the Earth and culture in Australia and the Pacific. The AM commits to transforming the conversation around climate change, the environment and wildlife conservation; to being a strong advocate for First Nations cultures; and to continuing to develop world-leading science, collections, exhibitions and education programs. With 22 million objects and specimens and the Australian Museum Research Institute (AMRI), the AM is not only a dynamic source of reliable scientific information on some of the most pressing environmental and social challenges facing our region, but also an important site of cultural exchange and learning.

## Australian Museum

1 William St Sydney NSW 2010

T 02 9320 6000

W [australianmuseum.net.au](http://australianmuseum.net.au)

## Media Contact

Claire Vince, Media Advisor

T 0468 726 910

E [claire.vince@australian.museum](mailto:claire.vince@australian.museum)

## Connect with us

