

## **FRIENDS OF WESTGARTHTOWN: ZIEBELL'S FARMHOUSE GAINS MUSEUM ACCREDITATION**

**The Friends of Westgarthtown: Ziebell's Farmhouse has gained Accreditation by Museums Australia (Victoria). A professional panel of museum experts has made a final assessment and compiled a positive report on the museum's operations. The Friends of Westgarthtown have worked hard to meet set criteria from the *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries* and joins the 74 Victorian collections Accredited in Victoria.**

Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum forms part of Westgarthtown, a historic former dairy farming settlement sixteen kilometres north of Melbourne, and was established in 1850 by German and Wendish immigrants. Although now located within the residential suburbs of Thomastown and Lalor in the City of Whittlesea, many of Westgarthtown's outstanding bluestone heritage buildings and structures still survive.

The Farmhouse Museum is owned by the City of Whittlesea and managed by the Friends of Westgarthtown Inc., a volunteer-run Incorporated Association formed in 1995 to bring together those who care for Westgarthtown's heritage and its unique architectural and landscape assets.

The Accreditation panel were particularly impressed with the skill level, commitment and achievements of the current Committee and volunteers. The panel commended the museum on the high level of presentation in the exhibition spaces and the extensive work done in the heritage garden.

To become Accredited museums spend 2-3 years developing procedures and policies, and practice to meet recognised museum standards. Training, advice and other resources are made available to assist museums in meeting these standards.

The Victorian-based Museum Accreditation Program (MAP) is now in its 24th year and is run by Museums Australia (Victoria), the professional association for the museum and gallery sector. There are currently 75 Accredited cultural organisations and a further 18 working towards this goal.

Caroline Wall, Co-Manager, Museum Accreditation Program, Museums Australia (Victoria), says, *"We are delighted to recognise the hard work and commitment shown by the team at Friends of Westgarthtown. Caring for our shared heritage is an important task and by becoming Accredited Friends of Westgarthtown has proven to be a leading heritage site in Victoria."*

A formal presentation of the Friends of Westgarthtown: Ziebell's Farmhouse Accreditation certificate, signed by the Hon Martin Foley MP, Minister for Creative Industries, was made at the 2018 Victorian Museum Awards, held on Wednesday 29 August at Melbourne Museum.

**Further information:**

Westgarthtown is located at 100 Gardenia Road, Thomastown and is open on the second Sunday of each month from 1pm to 4pm for self-guided and assisted tours of the Farmhouse, outbuildings and garden.

<http://www.westgarthtown.org.au>

The Museum Accreditation Program

[http://www.mavic.asn.au/museum\\_accreditation\\_program](http://www.mavic.asn.au/museum_accreditation_program)

**For all media enquiries please contact:**

Museums Australia (Victoria)

Telephone: 03 8341 7344 or email: [mavic@mavic.asn.au](mailto:mavic@mavic.asn.au)

**Notes for editors:**

Museums Australia (Victoria) was established as the peak body for museums in Victoria in 1994. Our 1,000+ museums include galleries, science centres, Indigenous keeping places, historical societies, historic houses, botanic gardens, zoos, aquaria, cultural centres, and archaeological monuments. Two-thirds of these are volunteer-run. Community museums care for an estimated 8 million objects in Victoria. We support and advocate for the development of quality museums, collections care, knowledge and specialised skills, and support the creative industries with key initiatives including the Museum Accreditation Program and Victorian Collections, the online portal to our State's cultural treasures:

[www.mavic.asn.au](http://www.mavic.asn.au) and [www.victoriancollections.net.au](http://www.victoriancollections.net.au)

For an interactive map of Victoria's Accredited museums:

[http://www.mavic.asn.au/museum\\_accreditation\\_program/victorias-accredited-museums](http://www.mavic.asn.au/museum_accreditation_program/victorias-accredited-museums)

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