

RESOURCES > Western Australian Museum

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Western Australian Museum



The Western Australian Museum is the State's premier cultural organisation, housing WA's **scientific and cultural collection**. For over 120 years the Western Australian Museum has been making the State's natural and social heritage accessible and engaging through **research, exhibitions and public programmes**.

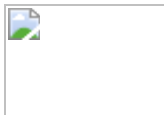
Established in 1891 in the old Perth gaol, it was known as the Geological Museum and its collections were geological, ethnological and biological. In 1897 it officially became the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery. During 1959 the botanical collection was transferred to the new Herbarium and the Museum and the Art Gallery became separate institutions. The Museum focussed its collecting and research interests in the areas of natural sciences, anthropology, archaeology and the State's history. Over the 1960s and 1970s it also began to work in the emerging areas of historic shipwrecks and Aboriginal site management.

Today the Western Australian Museum comprises six public sites and a collection and research centre and houses more than 4.5 million objects from rare fossils to the iconic racing yacht Australia II. The Museum also manages 200 shipwrecks sites of the 1500 known to be located off the WA coast and manages eight Aboriginal land reserves.

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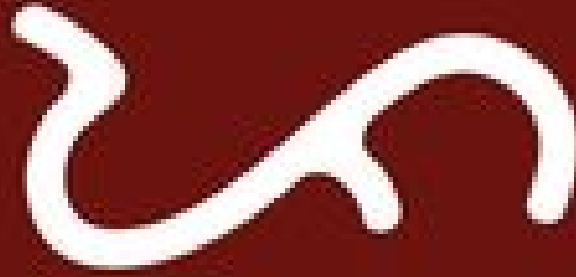
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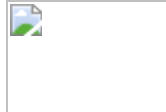
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Art Gallery of Western Australia

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WEBSITE
[HTTP://MUSEUM.WA.GOV.AU/](http://museum.wa.gov.au/)

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