

## **ICOM Australia International Award**

### **Honouring outstanding contributions to Australian museums international relationships**

#### **Institutional winner**

#### **The Western Australian Museum**

The Western Australian Museum has long been recognised for its outstanding work around the world in advancing our knowledge of the archaeology, history and conservation of maritime heritage. Since 1972, its work as a key member of the Australia Netherlands Committee on Old Dutch Shipwrecks has been ground-breaking in demonstrating how to reconcile the common interests of nations in maritime archaeological sites. Its own work in researching and documenting shipwrecks along the vast extent of the State's coastline has been closely followed around the world. Moreover, the WAM over several decades has played a major part in establishing and assisting efforts in other countries – particularly in East and West Asia – to undertake research and museum programs in maritime heritage, and in other key areas of museum endeavour and professional practice.

Recently, the establishment of the new Western Australian Museum *Boola Bardip* has been recognised internationally for its innovative approach to community involvement and co-creation in the development of a new approach to researching and developing permanent galleries. In particular, the Museum's work with First Nations communities across the State has set new standards for collaboration with source communities, and the wider engagement program – which saw more than 54,000 people contribute to the new museum – has been acclaimed for its inclusion of many voices and perspectives.

For all this work over more than five decades, the Western Australian Museum is rightly honoured with this award for its outstanding contribution to the international standing and relationships of Australian museums.