

# Museum Interpretation and Exhibition

## Introduction

This policy aims to guide the interpretation of materials within the Shire of Toodyay collection.

## Objective

1. To create entertaining, educational and interactive displays
2. To design a style, use of space and branding appropriate to the theme of the individual exhibition, without being detrimental to the existing exhibitions.
3. To improve the aesthetic appearance of the Museum internally.

## Scope

This policy applies to all Workers at the Shire of Toodyay and it is a requirement that all Shire Officers adhere to this Policy. Breaches of this Policy may result in disciplinary action.

## Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
Interpretation	The act of providing information or conveying knowledge about an object or theme. The physical evidence of this includes but is not limited to wall panels, information sheets, labels, diagrams, audio, and digital displays.
Local community	People living and/or working in the district of the Shire of Toodyay.
Shire	The Shire of Toodyay.
Shire Officer	Employee of the Local Government. May also be referred to as Worker in accordance with Work Health & Safety (WHS) legislation.
Target audience	Key visitation demographics including, but not limited to people fitting the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents with young families, or young couples and individuals aged 18 – 35;</li> <li>• Semi-retirees (age demographic of 50+);</li> <li>• Social groups or Retirees (65+); or</li> <li>• Primary school groups.</li> </ul>

Term	Definition
Thematic interpretation	The method of interpreting objects by historic themes as opposed to general classification.
Workers	Employees, contractors, and volunteers of the Shire as per the Work Health and Safety legislation (WHS) and regulations.

## Policy Statement

The Museum aims to create displays and interpretation of a high professional standard.

### 1. Permanent displays

- 1.1. These types of displays are to interpret the main themes of the collection as stated below:
  - 1.1.1. That relate to the Indigenous cultural history of the Shire.
  - 1.1.2. That document or relate to the exploration of, settlement of, and/or arrivals to the Shire.
  - 1.1.3. That relate directly to law and order, law enforcement, convictism in the region, the Police Force in the region and those relating directly to imprisonment, life and conditions in the Newcastle Gaol or the region that became the Shire.
  - 1.1.4. That relate directly to Connor's Mill in its usage as a mill and a power station.
  - 1.1.5. That relate to Toodyay's involvement in military conflict.
  - 1.1.6. That relate to the environmental history of the Shire.
- 1.2. Thematic interpretation principles are to be used as the best practice for displays and displays should be created with meaningful context.
- 1.3. Interpretation of objects on display is not to compromise the conservation considerations of an object. It is recognised that deterioration of objects may occur within the course of normal Museum use. However, interpretation should never increase risk to an object's condition.
- 1.4. All interpretation is to be based on the best research available and be as accurate and accessible as possible.
- 1.5. The Museum is to use a range of interpretive strategies to appeal to the diversity of the target audience and encourage visitor and community participation. Each should be designed in a format and media appropriate to the target audience.
- 1.6. Exhibitions and displays are to be designed in a manner that best facilitates public access to the displays.
- 1.7. Displays should always be designed to also appeal to the local community.
- 1.8. Interpretation and exhibitions should be designed with the target audience in mind.

## 2. Policy Review

Policy to be reviewed every five years, in conjunction with the review of the Museum Strategy.

### Reference Information

- [Australian Museums and Galleries Association Code of Ethics, 1999](#) - which supports the “international efforts of UNESCO, ICOM and other organisations to control and eliminate international trafficking in stolen and/or illegally exported works of art (particularly of indigenous peoples), antiquities, endangered or protected animal and plant species, and any other Museum object”.
- [International Council of Museums](#)
- Museum Collection and Conservation Management (COM2)
- [Heritage Strategy](#)
- [Heritage Master Plan](#)
- [Museum Strategy](#)

### Legislation

- [Art Gallery Act 1959](#)
- [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021](#)
- [National Trust of Australia Act 1964](#)

### Associated documents

Nil

### Version control information

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