



Discovery Centre Futures Project



Proposed \$34M project to be established at the Wentworth Aerodrome

*The purpose built facility to house the Wentworth Military Collection
and expand the Marching Matilda Experience,
while providing a Veteran Support and Educational Hub for learning and a benefit
to regional tourism through the establishment
of a state of the art attraction and event hosting.*

Sharing their stories... for generations to come.



The Marching Matilda Experience



Broadening Horizons

The Marching Matilda Experience has been designed to take an individual and immerse them into a self guided tour of Australian and international military history.

By using the most advanced audio tour system available in the world today, the tour enhances the individual's reflection of service and sacrifice.

Providing an easy to use technology accessible to all ages and providing an adult and junior tour.

With future options to expand the tour to coincide with an expanding collection, it is already a proven tool for sharing the narrative and cementing the museum as a professional attraction and state of the art facility.

Currently providing devices for a group of 40 visitors, it is envisaged that as the capacity of managing more groups at the same time more devices would be acquired in groups of 20 devices per charging bay.

Benefits

To provide a memorable experience for all visitors.

To maintain a professional standard in the delivering of historic facts and information.

To alleviate the amount of information needed to be known by museum volunteers.

To become a leading facility in terms of the technology used and the experience provided

Expanding the Collection



A collection like no other

Already established as a unique and substantial Military collection, the museum consists of military items and artifacts from all over the world. The purpose of the Discovery Centre is to provide the basic element of more display space. We already have items being loaned and donated to the museum, however we have found that each time we increase the space these donations also increase.

In recent times private and public collections have closed up or have been in need of new custodians. Many don't want to see their years of passion broken up and lose its intended purpose. The establishment of a purpose built facility will see the available space for all the further acquisition of entire collections for display and the guarantee of collections to remain intact. It will also provide facilities for traveling or temporary exhibitions to be displayed.

We have already had a number of collections offered as donation in their entirety to the museum only to have missed out due to the limited space. This in turn has resulted in local and nationally important items leave the region or have been broken up and sold off. Unfortunately as time progresses a lot of these collectors are ageing and the availability of acquiring these collections will increase. It is vital that collections in a space that will allow these items to be displayed.

Benefits

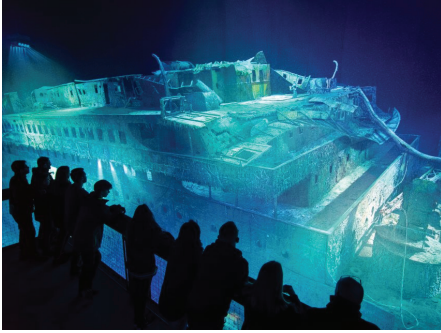
To acquire and retain items of significance for display.

To maintain a reputation of trust and care for items and entire collections donated or loaned to the museum.

To establish a working relationship with private collectors and other museums to share the display of items.

To expand all practices in the preservation of military history for future generations.

A Virtual Sunken Environment



A collection like no other

The aim of Ghosts of the Ocean is to expand on the current Common Bonds Exhibit. Common Bonds unites around 30 countries through their similarities and ends on the notion of the memories of those souls lost at sea are carried on the breaking wave upon the shore.

This then leads into a state of the art exhibit that utilises holographic projections and ultra high definition plasma paneled flooring that explores the sunken wrecks of war ships. Ghostly images immerses the individual into a submarinal environment. The realisation of the fate of many. Their wrecks a home to sea life and silent memorials to those lost at sea.

A space that will be the closest to being in the depths and bring the wrecks to life in a magnitude not seen in any other space of exhibit in Australia. Visually stimulating and a context for items that take place in the display including existing artifacts in the current collection such as original ships crests to wreckage recovered from the sunken HMAS Perth to full sailors uniforms of the world.

This exhibit would have the value of being least expected in a remote regional town, designed to spark empathy and imagination and leave a lasting feeling of helplessness and the vastness and depth of the ocean on the visitor. The indiscriminate toll of the water, together with the fate of some of mankind's largest creations.

Benefits

To set the Museum apart from all other experiences while connecting through emotive reflection.

To maintain the narrative of peace through the common bonds of service and sacrifice.

To engage the viewer through a sensory experience that will leave a lasting impression.

To engage all generations and create a context to discuss maritime service.



Education & Learning

The Ros Buckley Learning Centre would provide a composite of learning and study areas for the use of visiting schools and study groups. This would allow teachers to conduct theory, pre and post tour discussion and study sessions.

These rooms could also be utilised by visiting clubs and special interest groups, as well as smaller conference meetings by local community committees and organisations.

Generic and specific lessons could be provided and delivered through multimedia projector and Smart-board facilities allow the creation of a classroom environment outside of the classroom.

This would allow a full days program to be delivered from the purpose of the visit and an educational experience enhanced by on-site learning and access to information and artifacts provided by the museum.

Benefits

Educational benefits for regional and visiting schools. An on-site classroom with learning facilities to tailor study requirements.

To allow groups to further discuss their experience and maintain an independent group environment.

To allow community groups access to meeting rooms with the potential of hiring fees to support income to the Museum.

The Lt Col Denis Poynton Memorial Library



Research and Assistance

The inclusion of a Memorial Library and Research Centre follows the donation of a private military library by Barbara & Denis Poynton of some 2,500 military books.

This facility would also provide the ability to research and print notes and documents relating to study, personal history and service histories.

The Library would also provide access to support for veterans. eg accessing required forms, documents, medals & honors applications as well as assisting families to apply for service base assistance.

A members short term borrowing system would be incorporated to best utilise access to the library as well as a quiet reading and study area for non member access.

The library space would also lend itself as a site for book launches, "Meet the Author" opportunities and accommodate small gatherings for special interest groups and less formal lectures by guest speakers.

The Lt Col Denis Poynton Memorial Library and Research centre would continue to honour the service in the memory of Denis - keeping his role of quality instruction, command and leadership as his legacy.

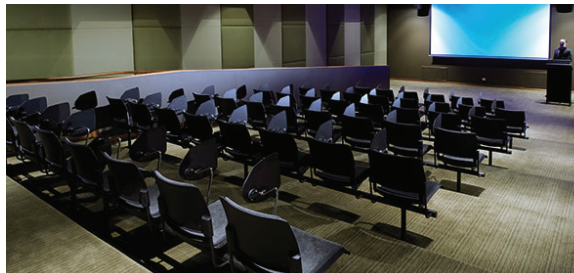
Benefits

To better engage the community with a facility that can offer a range of research aspects.

To provide a environment for research and study requirements.

Through working with schools and educational organisations the centre can offer support to new and existing curriculum and programs.

The promotion of a high standard of research accessibility and encourage discovery of one's own family history of service and sacrifice.



Enhanced Education

The inclusion of a theatrette will allow the learning process to become more personalised. The Museum will have a venue to host guest speakers, lecturers and specialised discussions.

Schools will be able to run lectures pre or post Museum tour allowing them to define to their students the purpose of their visit to the museum and any particular topics they want to cover or go further in depth.

Complete with individual notation desks, multimedia projector for presentations and a capacity of 80-100 would provide a venue for professional lectures of customised presentations.

This would provide a learning environment for larger groups or classes than the learning centre rooms, allowing groups to remain together or combine with others for a structured learning.

Presentations would be on file for use by visiting schools and available upon request. The facility would provide a space also for volunteer training and best practice learning.

Benefits

This Facility would enhance the education program and flexible learning structures.

The Museum could utilise the venue for museum training and development learning programs.

The Museum would be able to host guest speakers and gain income through such events.

The venue could be rented to other community groups generating further income for the museum.



Support for the Region

Hosting Commemorative services, providing a Hub of Veteran Support Activities and to provide meeting rooms and facilities for Veteran Support services and organisations is essential for our vision.

Providing support to Veterans and their families, be it facilitating advocate guidance programs and linking Veterans with the support that they require or providing a safe, secure and functional space to meet with organisations or for organisations to hold their meetings on a regular basis.

The purpose of such support from a proposed facility such as this, assists in the personal wellbeing that is long pledged by the Wentworth Military Collection.

It is vital to maintain and uphold the respect, assistance and community connection that remains the rite of those who have served and whom continue to serve.

Providing facilities for organisations such as the local branches of Legacy and the RSL to conduct their meetings with no or little cost. To ease the burden to already stretched supportive efforts.

Benefits

To provide local support to those seeking support and advocacy programs.

To provide a facility for the conducting of meetings for local branch organisations.

To establish a working relationship with local branch organisations.

To improve and support the health and wellbeing of our Veterans and their families.



Skills and Exposure

The inclusion of a WTSS facility to the Wentworth Military Collection has many benefits. These include allowing school students and visitors to utilise a virtual range to experience the closest thing to an actual military range. Exposing them to a new skill set while teaching firearms safety and promoting self confidence.

The WTSS range is a safe and secure environment and can be totally supervised under the strictest of controls. This is ideal for providing veterans to relive positive military experiences and students to be exposed to some of the more exciting military skills, exposing them to elements of the Australian Defense Force with the prospect of recruiting capabilities.

This would also provide a facility that would be utilised by regional ADF personnel for required training without having to travel to on-base facilities. This would be the same for Reserve Units, Cadet Units and Veteran Associations.

Benefits

To expose individuals to a military skill set for the purpose of ADF recruitment.

To provide a training facility that would be utilised by the ADF for their requirements.

To provide a range experience to visitors and special interest groups in a safe and secure environment.

To generate income to the Museum through the establishment of a social virtual range competition.

The Mess - Museum Cafe



Catering for a day's experience

The inclusion of a Museum Cafe is to allow Tour Groups and Visitors to enjoy a full experience at the Museum. This would mean that they can break up their visit with a morning or afternoon tea, snack or light lunch.

This would allow Tour groups to take in the entire collection and not have to juggle travel times for meals and rest breaks. It would also allow staggered breaks for museum staff and volunteers who would benefit from a shared environment with patrons.

This would also allow expanding options for external catering, events etc.

Veteran Support would also be offered by providing coffee sessions for Veteran support groups and set days, times and routines where they are able to talk, share and trust without having the general public around.

As Veteran support is a key purpose of the museum it would not only prove a safe and secure environment for such activities but would offer employment opportunities within a semi-military environment.

The Cafe would need to be able to provide 100 seats which would allow 2 buses and several public visitors at any one time.

Benefits

To keep visitors and tour groups in the museum longer and erasing time limits from their experience.

To create employment opportunities and further enhance added income to the Museum.

To provide a space for veterans and sufferers of PTSD to talk and gather as part of social therapy

To increase capacity for tour group visits by proving eating and coffee as part of their visit

The Workshop - Maintenance & Restoration



On-site maintenance

The ability to maintain and service working equipment on site would be vital to the Museum with loaned and donated items of a mechanical nature.

This would provide work experience to automotive classes in a vocational classroom setting, provide a purpose to veterans in a veterans style mens shed and allow restorations to take place on-site to prevent further transporting cost to and from the site.

Mobile exhibits could be washed and returned to display
(eg. after providing support to RSL marches)

The workshop would provide a space for major restorations, minor repairs and community tinkering. It would allow on-site compliance to render equipment safe or unserviceable. It would provide a space to create compliant dummy weapons for military equipment for display or on site exhibit structures such as temporary petition walls.

The ability to do this on site would benefit the museum greatly and save the museum financially long term.

Benefits

To reduce the risk of damage to exhibits by keeping on-site.

To secure military assets on site while having strict control over asset movement.

To provide a space for veterans and sufferers of PTSD to talk and work as part of social therapy.

To provide a space that can be used for class vocational and practical study.



Remembering Your Visit

Proven to be a great generator of income for the Wentworth Military Collection is the sale of military based gifts and souvenirs.

The inclusion of a purpose built giftshop is essential to further generate income to cover museum running costs and financial contributions to identified veteran support bodies.

With established accounts to such suppliers of licensed and ADF approved gifts, the giftshop will expand on the average spend of both individual and group visits. Catering for both a junior student wanting to remember their school visit to a high end collector of limited edition releases and mail orders.

A professional and well lit showcase area with the ability to serve bus groups while maintaining a secure product environment to encourage both item purchases and donation opportunities to Veteran Support Organisations such as Soldier On and Legacy.

An ideal method to capitalise on a professional museum experience with items for sale that reflect the emotive efforts of service and sacrifice.

Benefits

To provide a memorable souvenir of the visitors experience.

To maintain a professional standard and generate greater income to the museum.

To promote the donation of funds to Veteran Support Organisations.

To give opportunity of local art and craft for supply of ranges of gifts included in the product range.

Wings Over Wentworth - Sound & Light Show



A True Story - Told like no other

The aim of the sound and light show is to provide a state of the art and professional night-time activity for both the Museum and Wentworth in particular. This spectacular visual would see holograms of Second World War air craft during training, projections of air to air combat manoeuvres and tragic crashes depicting the local bombing ranges and the story of the 2OTU RAAF training facility in the region.

Their story would be told as a visual memorial and would be the epic crown jewel of the Museums ability to captivate, simulate, educate and provide our local narrative in a unique and exciting fashion.

The lay of the Museum in design would have the viewing gallery facing the west which provides the actual horizon of the Wentworth Bombing Ranges. The accurate recreations and scenarios would depict and honour the 54 pilots and ground crew killed during training accidents during the wartime efforts.

With around 85% of all crews serving in the Pacific having done some form of training at 2OTU during the war there are some great service histories that could also be shared including 461 sinking U461 and the story of Local Pilot Dudley Marrows DFC.

Benefits

To set the Museum apart from all other experiences while connecting through emotive reflection.

To share the narrative service and sacrifice of local military history and giving a sense of place to the museum.

To engage the viewer through a sensory experience that will leave a lasting impression.

To increase overnight stays in Wentworth and have a positive effect on local economic growth.

Wings Over Wentworth - Wentworth Air Show



Events for the Region

By having the Museum located at the Wentworth Aerodrome would allow the Wentworth Military Collection to host regional Air Shows. This would allow the regional calendar to expand and the increase of tourism opportunities within the district, impacting positively on the local economy and overnight stays.

By partnering with the ADF, such events would allow recruitment and positive ADF exposure to regional centres. While allowing the collection to display aircraft and equipment that would not usually be on display.

The History of the region and its strong links to the RAAF would also be built on with the local bombing ranges of the Second World War and the importance of the 2OTU being linked directly to the events.

It would be through such events that the Wentworth Military Collection would become the cornerstone of tourism in the region and the supporter of local organisations and clubs such as the Wentworth Aero Club and neighboring 2OTU historical groups and RAAF museum.

Being a non commercial airfield the facility would better lend itself for such an event and local bus services could be utilised to shuttle from designated parking in Mildura to better free up parking for the event.

Benefits

To expose individuals to a military skill set for the purpose of ADF recruitment.

To provide a tourism and economic opportunities for growth in the greater region.

To establish a working relationship with the ADF and promote the return of Air Shows to regional centres.

To build a relationship with other like minded organisations for the benefit of all and generate further income to the museum.

Fort 2 Port - 20km Challenge



Events for the Region

Having the Museum located at the Wentworth Aerodrome would allow the Wentworth Military Collection to host regional events that support veteran organisations already supported by the museum. This would allow the regional calendar to expand and the increase of tourism opportunities within the district, impacting positively on the local economy and overnight stays.

By partnering with the Soldier On and Legacy, such events would allow positive exposure to these organisations and the work that they do.

This would allow the collection to have a practical involvement in the promotion of veteran needs and care. This would also allow the Museum to attract a different demographic to the region in an event that has never been utilised in Wentworth.

The proposed route for the event would start at Fort Courage and finish at the Historic Port of Wentworth. The establishment of the Discovery Centre at the Aerodrome would have the event pass right in front of it, giving a greater involvement and representation of the museum to the event.

This would allow our region to be included in a national calendar of running events, planting the region as preferred host for such an event.

Benefits

To expose individuals to veteran support organisations and the work that they do.

To provide a tourism and economic opportunities for growth in the greater region.

To establish a working relationship with the support organisations to generate financial support and greater awareness around the topics of PTSD and mental illness.

To build working relationships to generate further exposure and income to the museum.



**Wentworth Military Collection
Business Case & Strategy Development**

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