



**PORT MACQUARIE MUSEUM**  
**Our Place, Our Stories**

23 April 2025

## Media Release

### **Port Macquarie Museum Shortlisted in 2025 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards**

Port Macquarie Museum is pleased to announce it has been shortlisted in the 2025 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards - Advocacy Category. The awards recognise excellence in the conservation, protection and interpretation of natural, cultural and built heritage. Winners will be announced at the National Trust Heritage Awards ceremony on Friday 16 May in Sydney.

The Museum's nomination focuses on its advocacy work to ensure the future of Port Macquarie Museum. "Raising and maintaining the public profile, highlighting the heritage values and meaning, and advocating for place and funding are part of what it means to own a State significant property held in trust for the benefit of the community", says Debbie Sommers, Port Macquarie Museum Curator.

"It's a fitting time for this announcement", says Ms Sommers. "It was on Easter Monday 1960 that the Port Macquarie Museum officially opened its doors to the public at 22 Clarence Street. We are proud to celebrate 65 years at our State heritage site, and almost 70 years of preserving, sharing and showcasing the rich heritage of our community".

"Looking after a State significant building requires an ongoing commitment to maintenance, conservation and advocacy. With the support of the NSW Government through Heritage NSW and The Copland Foundation we have just completed a Conservation Management Strategy for our historic Store building", says Ms Sommers. "The project, completed by Design 5 Architects, has gone beyond the usual scope and we have learnt more about the Store building's age, construction and uses over the past 9 months, than we have over the entire past 65 years." The Museum is in the process of reviewing and updating its interpretation of the Store building to reflect these new insights.

The comprehensive strategy will guide the ongoing conservation and maintenance of the building ensuring its preservation for future generations and continuing its vital role as a cultural hub for locals and visitors alike. The Conservation Management Strategy report can be accessed on the Museum's website - News page - <https://portmuseum.org.au/news.html>

"We also note that for the very first time, the National Trust (NSW) has introduced a People's Choice Award with public voting open until Sunday 4 May. It would be great to see the community get behind us and vote for our nomination at this link <https://form.jotform.com/250991345157866>, says Ms Sommers.

The Museum's legacy over the past almost seven decades has been one of dedication to the stories, history, and people that have shaped Port Macquarie, and with the new Conservation Management Strategy in place, we look forward to continuing our important cultural and heritage preservation work.

The Port Macquarie Museum is an award-winning museum and tourist attraction located at 22 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie, within Port Macquarie's cultural precinct.

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