

**MUSEUM  
AND ART  
GALLERY**  
NORTHERN  
TERRITORY

**2022**

**The Impact of  
Your Support**





## Director's Message

In 2022, I was thrilled to join the MAGNT Team. It's been an exciting six months in the role. Most importantly, the construction of the new Northern Territory Art Gallery has begun, and we are working on the inaugural displays and programs for the new gallery. Planning is also underway on a \$100 million Masterplan for the redevelopment of the Bullocky Point site, to convert it into the Northern Territory Museum. Delivering the 39th *Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (Telstra NATSIAA)*, now Australia's richest art awards following our new 3-year agreement with Telstra was also a major highlight.

Bouncing back to normal life, MAGNT has prioritised a deeper engagement with community and has been able to achieve major outcomes. Working closely with the Larrakia Community and traditional custodians, we have an Acknowledgement of Country in the MAGNT Darwin foyer, a new Digital Archive Access Studio at the Strehlow Research Centre in Alice Springs and will begin digitisation of the George Chaloupka Rock Art Archive Images.

MAGNT has improved our visitor experience at MAGNT Darwin, updating our visitor brochure, donor acknowledgement wall and our What's On program that offers a breadth of public programs suitable for all ages.

I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to you all, our valued donors, for your generosity and support. Without our donors, MAGNT's work is not possible.

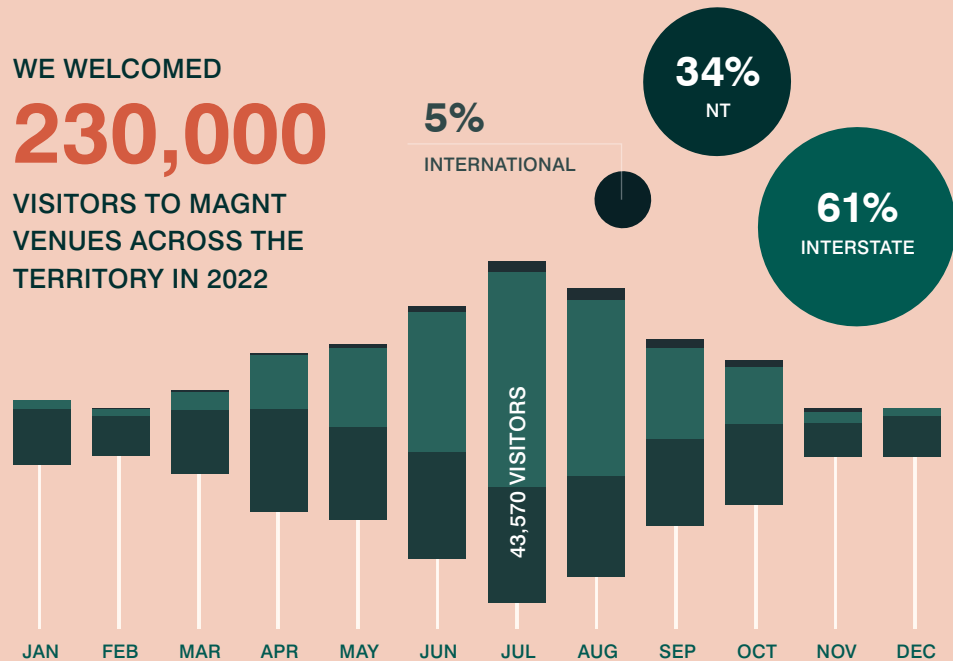
**Adam Worrall**

# 2022 at a glance

WE WELCOMED

## 230,000

VISITORS TO MAGNT  
VENUES ACROSS THE  
TERRITORY IN 2022



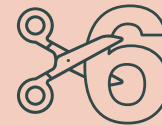
### 4,865

STUDENTS VISITED  
MAGNT WITH 115  
SCHOOL GROUPS



### 21,590

ATTENDEES TO  
TOURS, TALKS &  
WORKSHOPS



### SIX

EXHIBITIONS  
OPENED



### 296

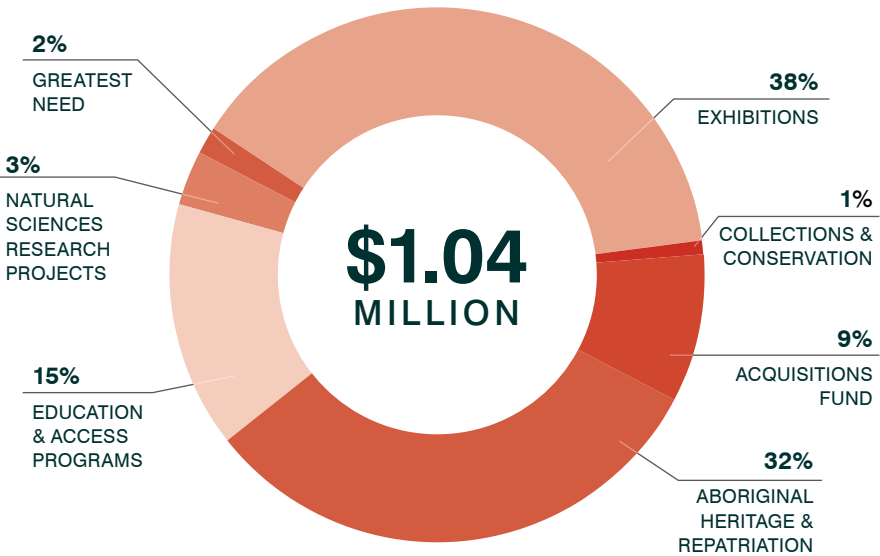
FREE TOURS,  
TALKS &  
WORKSHOPS



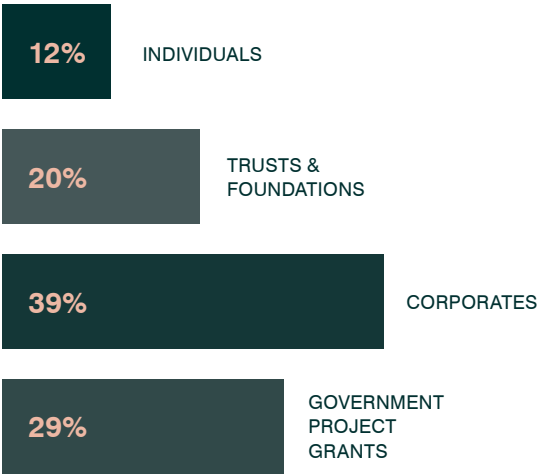
**MAGNT acknowledges the traditional owners of country across the Northern Territory and beyond, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging**

# 2022 Giving

## Project areas supported by our donor community



## Supporters by type



TOGETHER IN 2022,  
OUR COMMUNITY OF  
INDIVIDUAL DONORS  
CONTRIBUTED

**\$120,000**

TO SUPPORT MAGNT  
RESEARCH, ACQUISITIONS  
AND PROJECTS

ANNUAL GIVING  
CAMPAIGN  
DONATIONS  
HAVE GROWN BY

**23%**

YEAR ON YEAR



**746**



OBJECTS ADDED  
TO DISPLAY FOR  
VISITORS



**5,550**

NATURAL SCIENCE  
SPECIMENS  
REGISTERED




MAGNT  
FOUNDATION  
MATCHED

**\$12,100**

IN ANNUAL GIVING  
DONATIONS



**24** ACQUISITIONS TO  
HISTORY, CULTURE  
AND THE ARTS



**5 MILLION**

MAGNT SPECIMEN  
RECORDS  
ACCESSED ON  
ATLAS OF LIVING  
AUSTRALIA



# Dating the Diprotodon fossil

The Northern Territory has just a single known specimen of Diprotodon from the Victoria River Downs region of the Top End. Thanks to generous support from Janie Mason AM, MAGNT has been able to start preparation work on this Diprotodon fossil.

The Diprotodon fossil was extracted by MAGNT in 2013 from the remote site and has been preserved in a plaster casing.

The fossil was recovered in three main pieces with two pieces alone, the ribcage and pelvis, having a combined total weight of 250kg.

Earlier this year, a technical expert was contracted and was able to fully prepare a femur and two separate strings of vertebra.

In September, Professor Lee Arnold from the University of Adelaide joined MAGNT experts to revisit the fossil site. They used a unique technique to date the sediment – specifically quartz sand grains – that surrounded the

specimen. The results, along with the fully prepared fossil, will provide MAGNT with data that constrains the age of the Diprotodon.

With these findings MAGNT will produce a scientific paper that, for the first time, documents a Diprotodon from the 'top end' of the Northern Territory with a constrained date.

The impact of this paper will be largely determined by the results of this dating. We are excited by the possibility of a very young date (< 60,000 years) that would reveal overlap with the earliest Aboriginal inhabitants of Australia.

## Alcoota Fossil Dig

In July, the MAGNT Earth Science team embarked on their first excavation of the Alcoota Field Reserve since 2019.

This excavation program has been a mainstay of the Earth Science program, with biennial digs for 30 years supporting scientific research and enhancing the collection. The program enables and promotes meaningful engagement with the neighbouring Engawala community and wider public engagement/education. Alcoota is a significant palaeontological site where well preserved rare megafauna fossils provide evidence of the evolution of the NT's animals and climate. It preserves the abundant bones of 30 species of animal, including many megafauna that were living in the heart of Australia in the late Miocene Epoch, about 8 million years ago.



**1,582**  
HOURS IN  
THE PIT



**22**  
VOLUNTEERS



**363**  
REGISTERED  
LOTS



## Aboriginal Heritage

**Our Aboriginal Heritage Team preserves and protects important cultural knowledge for future generations, working in close consultation with communities and Elders.**

A key priority for MAGNT is to develop greater Aboriginal agency over the objects and stories held in its collection. In 2022, we reviewed the access policies for the Strehlow and Aboriginal Heritage Collections, improving access to the significant items they hold.

We partnered with the Central Land Council to protect fragile genealogical records through a digitisation project. These important documents are regularly accessed by community and the project will ensure the information is accessible for future generations.



**158** GENEALOGIES  
DIGITISED

**40** FAMILY TREE  
CONSULTATION VISITS

The Aboriginal Heritage Team partnered with the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia to build a recording studio in Alice Springs. The studio will be used to record and preserve important cultural knowledge including sacred ceremonies, songs, traditions and language.

In 2023, MAGNT is establishing an Aboriginal Advisory Body which will provide crucial support and guidance to MAGNT staff and Board as well as the Strehlow Research Centre.

70

ARTISTS FROM  
ACROSS AUSTRALIA

\$79,000+

PAID TO ARTISTS FOR  
ACQUISITIONS TO THE  
MAGNT COLLECTION\*

\$190,000

PRIZE MONEY AWARDED

44

LANGUAGE  
GROUPS  
REPRESENTED

(Plus English and  
dialects!)

## Telstra NATSIAA Ceremony returns to the MAGNT lawns



1,200

ATTENDEES TO THE  
AWARDS CEREMONY



2,074

PARTICIPANTS AT FREE  
OPENING WEEKEND EVENTS

After two years of virtual Awards Ceremonies, MAGNT was thrilled to once again welcome visitors to the lawns for a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture.

The 2022 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards featured **63 finalist works** and a new prize pool of **\$190,000** making Telstra NATSIAA the richest art award in Australia

The 2022 Telstra NATSIAA exhibition was exclusively previewed by 55 of the finalist artists with their friends and family. Artists travelled across the country to come together and proudly view their works in the gallery before the exhibition opened to the public. They were welcomed to Larrakia Country with a generous Smoking Ceremony by Tony Lee and sons.

MAGNT is privileged to be the host of these illustrious awards that showcase the best contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

### Celebrating 40 years in 2023

Forty years since the *National Aboriginal Art Award* was established, it has flourished to become the *Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, representing culture and creativity from across the country.

To mark this milestone, MAGNT will present 40, an exhibition featuring an incredible selection of artworks and stories from artists who have shared in the history of the Awards. It is exciting to see this expression take new forms and evolve over the lifetime of the Awards.



## Dating the Collection

Recent radiocarbon dating of wood sculptures and textiles from MAGNT's Southeast Asian Collection revealed many objects to be far older than anticipated, **underscoring the international importance of the MAGNT collection.**

Among the surprising results was a Burmese wooden statue of the Buddha dated 1301-1401, Malaysian carved funeral pole (kelirieng), measuring 6.5 metres in height, dated 1508-1668 and a longhouse door depicting crocodiles dated 1453-1624. Testing also uncovered remarkable ages for some textiles, making them amongst the oldest known Indonesian textiles surviving anywhere. These results included a Lampung ceremonial cloth dated 1497-1636, a Balinese wrap cloth dated 1671-1783 and a West Timorese warrior's head band dated 1672-1741.



120

NEW CONDITION  
ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED



61

OBJECTS TREATED BY OUR  
CONSERVATION TEAM

Indonesia, Ceremonial cloth (tampun) with 'naga' dragon ship, 1723-1812, Lampung, hand-spun cotton with natural dye, 730mm x 680mm; Acquired 1979.

# Thank you

It is through the ongoing support of our community of donors and partners that we welcome visitors to explore the cultures, environments, histories and arts of the Northern Territory and our neighbouring regions.

**Without our donors, MAGNT's work is not possible.**

## Individuals

### Platinum

Janie Mason AM

### Gold

Allan Garraway

Geoffrey Hassall OAM and Virginia Milson \*

The Hon Clare Martin AO

Jeff Pinkerton OAM and Marilyn Pinkerton

### Silver

Anonymous

John and Jane Ayers \*

Candy Bennett \*

Ross Bonthorne \*

Dr Vicki Krause and Dr Bart Currie

Richard and Harriett England \*

Rick and Jan Frolich \*

Elizabeth Kingdon and Michael Rowe \*

Diana Laidlaw AM \*

Prof Louise Maple-Brown and Simon Niblock

Alice and Edward Richardson \*

Arthur and Suzie Roe \*

Michael Sitzler and Terri Layman \*

Paul and Thelma Taliangis \*

Colin and Andrea Wicking

### Bronze

Kirsti Abbott and Jeremy Gibson

Gabrielle Brown

Mark Chapman

Peter and Agnès Cooke \*

The Edlund Family

Jacqueline Healy

Paul and Helena Lassémillante

Richard and Emma McFarlane \*

Dr Stephen Morton and Dr Faye Alexander

Marcus and Andrea Schutenko

Jude and Jono Tolley \*

Angela Tomazo

Chris and Biddy Van Aanholt \*

*\* Supporters of Aboriginal Art circle*

## Government Project Partners



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Communications  
Office for the Arts

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Parks Australia

Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy

National Indigenous Australians Agency

Regional Arts Fund



## Corporate Partners



## Trusts & Foundations



This list represents donors from January – December 2022.

Learn more about MAGNT's Donor Program and how you or your organisation can make a meaningful difference to the cultural life of the Northern Territory at [magnt.net.au/support](https://magnt.net.au/support)