

Queensland Maritime Museum

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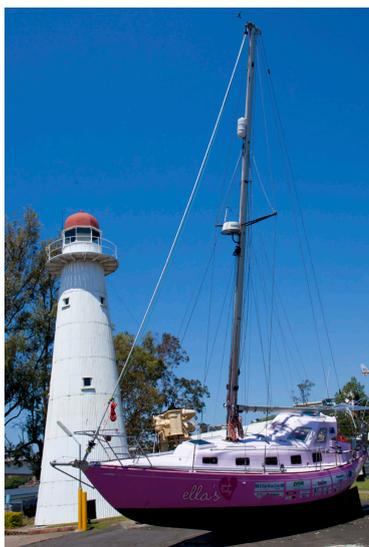
Hours: Daily 9.30am-4.30pm

Contact: Ian Jempson, CEO



HMAS Diamantina in the South Brisbane dry dock

Credit: Tim Nemeth



Pink Lady on display at the Queensland Maritime Museum

Credit: Tim Nemeth

Presented by Museum and Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with Queensland Maritime Museum.

Our Profile

Queensland Maritime Museum boasts an array of objects that have changed the course of history – for Queensland, Australia and the world. A great place to come - you can spend hours here exploring Queensland’s past. Look into the lives of sailors on board the *Diamantina* - the only one of her kind left in the world. See how they lived and worked or stand in the place where the final surrender of WWII took place. Come and find out about Z Force and their collapsible canoes or see first-hand the cramped conditions on Pearling luggers and imagine swimming in cumbersome dive suits.

Get hands on – touch, smell and experience part of Brisbane’s early maritime history. The Museum grounds boast the fascinating colonial dry dock and pump house with huge sandstone blocks and great acoustics. And don’t miss out on the Bulwar Lighthouse and collection.

Bring your picnic lunch, sit on the grass and enjoy the fantastic river views. There is room for the kids to run around and plenty to see. From the *Pink Lady* (where you can imagine the challenges experienced by Jessica Watson sailing round the world) and the tugboat *Forceful* to model ships, dinner services and artwork, along with guided tours and a gift shop, this is a destination for all the family.

Did you know?

HMAS *Diamantina* offers an amazing experience for visitors and has many interesting parts of her story. A visit allows remarkable access through the vessel, giving a rare insight into the lives of the men who served in the Australian Navy during WWII. *Diamantina* is the only survivor in the world of a significant transition in warship design – she is the largest WWII exhibit in Australia and one of only three ships surviving from that era in Australia. Named after rivers these frigates were built as specialist anti-submarine warships primarily for convoy escort. And of international importance, the final surrender of WWII was signed aboard *Diamantina* at Ocean Island on 1 October 1945.

The first Australians to row across the Atlantic Ocean were from Queensland. Their boat, named *Freedom*, was built here in South East Queensland and in 2001 they completed the journey from the Canary Islands to Barbados in 46 days. *Freedom* is now on display at the Queensland Maritime Museum.

The South Brisbane Dry Dock was a vital cog in the development of Queensland. It is a rare example of an intact dry dock dating from the 19th Century, being completed in 1881. By the time it closed in 1973 over 5000 ships had been repaired here. The dock also served as a swimming pool for major competitive swimming events and a world record for the 100 yards was set in the dock in 1903 with a time of 59.9 seconds.

What the Standards Review Program has meant for our museum

Peer and internal reviews

Standards Review Program provided us with an excellent opportunity for peer review of our achievements against the core areas of museum practice. The Reviewers provided a very balanced assessment that highlighted our strengths and the areas where we needed to have a re-think about some of our activities. The internal review took some discipline but was a valuable exercise that both reaffirmed we are operating the museum soundly and, identified those areas that needed attention.

Visitor engagement

The Program challenged us to reflect more on visitor engagement, how we can improve the visitor experience and the way we tell our stories.