

# Case Study: Bathurst Rail Museum

## Leo Kelly OAM Art and Cultural Awards 2020

### COUNCIL NAME

Bathurst Regional  
Council

### WEB ADDRESS

bathurst.nsw.gov.au

### SIZE

3,820km<sup>2</sup>

### POPULATION

43,206 (Division B:  
30,000 to 70,000)

## Summary

The renovation and restoration of the Bathurst Rail Museum (BRM) has created a world class facility that interprets the social history of the development of rail for Bathurst and regional NSW through the stories of everyday people. The museum includes a large train layout the size of a tennis court, and a Kids Central learning area, both of which have been created in the two recent architecturally designed extensions.

*"This project is an adaptive re-use of an historic building which has shown innovation to provide a different point of view for residents and visitors. It is likely that most councils will have buildings and land that have a history or potential to tell a story if such innovation was replicated."*

**Judges comments**



## Outcomes

### Replicability/Leadership

The project is an example of creating a world class museum in a regional setting and demonstrating leadership through using local people to convey local stories. The project also created spaces for children to encourage local families to visit regularly.

### Budget

The Bathurst Railway Musuem is a \$5.4 million project with \$4 million contributed from Council and the other funding sourced from state and federal government.

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### **Innovation**

The project includes adaptive re-use of an historic building. The building was used pre-1915 as a place of education and recreation for railway workers and their families. Traditionally rail museums focused on the technical elements of railways through objects. Bathurst Railway Museum has turned its focus to the people and their stories. The aim of the museum is to engage audiences of all ages and includes a café to attract locals.

### **Measurable Cultural Outcomes**

The Bathurst Railway Museum has created a sense of belonging to shared cultural heritage by using local stories about the development of the rail line. A Local Stories Cabinet has also been developed, encouraging families to curate their rail history through objects and images. Education is also a primary outcome and education tours have been developed to cater for children of all ages.

### **Contact**

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