

## Key Collection Themes

To be eligible for donation, items **must** have an explicit connection to Devonport and/or Bass Strait, evidenced through the story that accompanies the object.

**Local History**, particularly items that relate to early Devonport families and properties, and the towns of Torquay and Formby, that became Devonport in 1890.

**Maritime History**, especially relating to transport, sport, fishing and other industry in Bass Strait.

**Communications**, EG. Flags, signals, bells and navigational aids.

**Shipwrecks**,\* items relating to Bass Strait's "Ships Graveyard"

**Naval History**, personal and service memorabilia, militaria, photographs, records, medals, uniforms etc.

**Natural World**, geological specimens, shells, fossils, minerals and gem stones.

\*In some cases, shipwrecks and associated materials fall under legislation that restricts their eligibility for collection. If you think this may apply to your item, please discuss this with our curator, or visit:

[www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage/laws](http://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage/laws)

### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage:

At BSMC we respect and value cultural heritage of Aboriginal Tasmanians, and recognise their contribution to maritime history.

Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural materials are defined as "relics" and therefore protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

It is an offence to remove or otherwise interfere with a relic. If you have discovered cultural materials, please leave items where you found them, take a photo and report your findings to: [aboriginal@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:aboriginal@dpac.tas.gov.au)

## Initial Checklist

Before bringing your item to the museum, please answer the checklist below:

- Is the item yours to donate?
- Is the item in good condition and free of mould?
- Does your item have an explicit connection to Devonport or Bass Strait?
- Does your item specifically relate to at least one of our Key Collection Themes? (see left)

If you have answered yes to each of the four checklist questions, your item may be suitable to donate.

The next stage is to complete a donation form, available from the museum or by emailing:

[bookings@bassstraitmaritimecentre.com.au](mailto:bookings@bassstraitmaritimecentre.com.au)

If you are unsure about the eligibility of your item, please email your query to our curators, who will be in touch.



6 Gloucester Avenue  
DEVONPORT, 7310, Tasmania  
punnilar panner Country - lutrawita

Phone: 03 6420 2790

Email: [Bookings@bassstraitmaritimecentre.com.au](mailto:Bookings@bassstraitmaritimecentre.com.au)

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## Museum Donations

[bassstraitmaritimecentre.com.au](http://bassstraitmaritimecentre.com.au)

# Our Collections

Bass Strait Maritime Centre (BSMC) is an important repository for the thousands of objects that make up our Collections. Most of these items have been donated by community members, since we opened in 1973. The decisions we make about collections items are guided by The BSMC Collection Policy.

Collection items are cared for by the historians, researchers and curators at BSMC, on behalf of our communities.

Once accepted into the BSMC Collection, donated items are carefully documented and conserved, ready to become exhibits and other learning opportunities for our visitors, school students, and the broader research community.

Our focus is to secure relevant items, in good condition, and with good provenance, that do not duplicate the impacts of the items already in our care. It's essential that all accepted items are in stable condition, free from bacteria and mould.

Whilst we would like to be able to accept all donations offered, our capacity depends on a range of variables including: available space, storage requirements, condition and conservation issues, and with full consideration for the items that we already care for.

# Donations

*Bass Strait Maritime Centre is always interested in acquiring donated items that address gaps within our current collections.*

*Unless requested for temporary exhibitions, we do not accept loans or conditional donations.*

## Acceptable Donations May Include:

**Artefacts** ; objects, shipbuilding tools, maritime instruments, clocks, furniture, medals, geological specimens and ship models.

**Ephemera**; documents, letters, maps, drawings, postcards, photographs, tickets, advertising materials, charts, books etc.

**Textiles**; clothing, flags, uniforms, millinery and other accessories.

**Artworks**; including paintings, sculpture, drawings, ceramics, and fine prints.

**Objects d' Art**; including ornaments, glass, ceramics and jewellery.

**Bric-a Brac**; like souvenirs, *kitchenalia*, sporting equipment, signage and household goods.

*If you have an item that you would like to donate, please refer to the checklist overleaf.*

# FAQ

**How do I start the donation process?**  
*Please complete the checklist overleaf.*

**Will I be paid for my donation?**  
*No, we rely on the generosity of donors. The museum does not have an acquisition budget.*

**When will my item be displayed?**  
*Displayed objects are rotated according to relevance, after which they are rested. There is no guarantee that your object will be on display when you visit. You are welcome to make a time to view your object with the curator.*

**Can I donate if the item doesn't belong to me, or I don't know where it came from?**  
*We require written consent from the legal owner of the donated item. If the owner is an estate, you must provide written consent from the executor. Please remember that the item must have a connection to Devonport and/or Bass Strait.*

**My object smells musty, can I still donate?**  
*Maybe, but we'll need to assess it's condition before committing.*

**Should I clean my item before I bring it in?**  
*Please don't. We recommend that you discuss cleaning issues with the curator, to avoid unintentional damage.*

**BSMC can't accept my donation...what now?**  
*We may be able to recommend an alternative institution for your item. Please ask.*