

# Living Heritage Grants Program

## Successful Projects: Round 5 2020-21

A former railway engine shed, a dredger and an historic shipwreck are among the 15 significant heritage places from across the state receiving heritage grants through the fifth competitive round of Victoria's Living Heritage Grants Program. Round 5 of the Community Grants Stream (2019-20) will provide a total of \$2.146 million for urgent conservation works or studies to 15 significant heritage places across Victoria.

The Living Heritage Grants Program is an initiative of the Victoria State Government and supports the repair and conservation of 'at risk' heritage places and objects identified as being of State significance and included in the Victorian Heritage Register under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2017*. The program benefits local communities all over Victoria. Round 6 of the Program will open in early 2021.

### Barwon South West



**Christ Church Complex**  
*Warrnambool City Council*  
Warrnambool

A matched grant of \$120,000 has been awarded to Christ Church Warrnambool (Anglican Parish) on a matched-funds basis to undertake urgent conservation works. Built in 1855, the Gothic Revival Church is constructed of sandstone with a slate roof. Today, the Church is open daily to the public and hosts local cultural activities such as concerts and community gatherings. The necessary works to the interior of the Church will repair salt damage and address threats to the interior decoration and architectural values.

### Hume



**Chiltern Athenaeum and Museum**  
*Indigo Shire Council*  
Chiltern

A grant of \$120,000 has been awarded to Indigo Shire Council for urgent conservation works to the Chiltern Athenaeum and Museum. The Conservative Classical style building was built in 1866 and still retains much of its original furniture. The Chiltern Athenaeum and Museum is open 7 days a week as a museum and community hub. The grant will enable roof and masonry repairs and works to address water ingress. These works will ensure the longevity of the building and protect its interior objects.



**Former St Michael's Catholic Church**  
*Wandong History Group*  
Wandong

A grant of \$200,000 has been awarded to the Wandong History Group for urgent conservation works to the former St Michael's Catholic Church, Wandong. Built of local lumber bricks in 1891, the former church is an important heritage asset to the community. Managed by Wandong History Group, the former church holds the historical archives, and is used for exhibitions, seminars, local events and as a community meeting space. The grant will stabilise and conserve the terra cotta lumber church, to ensure continued community use.

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**Whitburgh Cottage**  
*Mitchell Shire Council*  
Kilmore

A grant of \$200,000 has been awarded to Mitchell Shire Council to support the urgent stabilisation and restoration of Whitburgh Cottage. Built in 1853, the cottage is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Kilmore. Due to its current poor condition, the building is closed to the public. The grant will support conservation works to the roof, walls, ceilings, windows, fireplaces, and flooring. These works will enable this historic building to reopen for community use.

## Port Phillip



**Abbotsford Convent**  
*Abbotsford Convent Foundation*  
Abbotsford

A grant of \$196,000 has been awarded to the Abbotsford Convent Foundation to undertake urgent structural stabilisation of the Abbotsford Convent Gatehouse ensemble. Located within the Convent site since the 1870s, the ensemble includes the Gatehouse, Stables and Workshop. The Gatehouse ensemble is currently closed due to safety issues. Works include floor, roof, joinery and brickwork repairs, as well as decontamination. The grant will allow the building to become safe and is the first step in making it accessible to the community.



**Eildon**  
*Alliance Francaise de Melbourne*  
St Kilda

A grant of \$200,000 has been awarded to Alliance Francaise de Melbourne for urgent structural repairs to Eildon. The Renaissance Revival style mansion was constructed in 1872, incorporating an existing 1853 Georgian dwelling. The project includes roof repairs and replacement, rainwater goods repair and installation, and plaster and render repairs. Due to the building's poor condition, it is currently closed to the public. The grant will allow Eildon to reopen as the centre for French culture in Melbourne, hosting training, exhibitions and events.



**Former Queen Victoria Hospital Tower**  
*Queen Victoria Women's Centre Trust*  
Melbourne

A grant of \$100,000 has been awarded to Queen Victoria Women's Centre Trust to support urgent conservation works to the Former Queen Victoria Hospital Tower. The project will repair the building's stormwater system to address water ingress. Built in 1910, the red brick Edwardian building was used as a hospital for most of the century. Today, the place operates as the Queen Victoria Women's Centre, supporting women through information services, events and training. The grant will ensure the ongoing structural integrity and operation of the building.



**La Mama Theatre**  
*La Mama Theatre*  
Carlton

A grant of \$200,000 will assist La Mama Theatre to restore after a devastating fire. Built as a printing works in 1883, it has served as a theatre since 1967. The theatre is important for its significant role in the development of Australian drama and has nurtured a host of internationally award-winning Australian playwrights, directors and actors. The grant will enable replacement of the slate roof, repair and reconstruction of brickwork and windows, and reinstatement of original stairs, theatre floorboards and fireplace.

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## **Springthorpe Memorial, Boroondara Cemetery**

*Boroondara  
General Cemetery  
Trust*  
Kew

A grant of \$200,000 has been awarded to Boroondara General Cemetery Trust to undertake urgent conservation works to the Springthorpe Memorial. Built in 1897 to commemorate Annie Springthorpe, the memorial reflects the ideals of the Victorian Garden Cemetery movement which aimed at providing comfort for mourners. The grant will enable necessary works to the memorial's Bertram Mackennal Statuary, which has suffered significant damage, and the Auguste Fischer Leadlight Roof. These works will protect the memorial from further deterioration and safeguard its structural integrity and aesthetic values.

## **Grampians**



## **Former Ararat Gaol**

*Friends of J Ward  
Inc*  
Ararat

A grant of \$55,000 has been awarded to the Friends of J Ward Inc. to undertake urgent conservation works to a highly unique mural at the Former Ararat Gaol. The mural of three ships was painted sometime before 1886 when the site was still operating as a gaol. Only one of the three ships remain today as a clear example of its type. The grant will ensure the remaining ship is in a stable condition so visitors can continue to explore and understand the gaol and Victorian era crime and punishment.



## **Warracknabeal Town Hall**

*Yarriambiack  
Shire Council*  
Warracknabeal

A grant of \$200,000 has been awarded to Yarriambiack Shire Council to fund structural repairs to Warracknabeal Town Hall. The Town Hall was erected in 1939-40 on a prominent site in the centre of town, as one of the first Modernist Town Halls in Australia. The building also includes a cinema with 1930s projection and sound equipment. Today, it is used by a wide range of community groups and provides an accessible venue for community events and functions. The grant will support the ongoing use of the building as a community space.

## **Loddon Mallee**



## **Former Railway Engine Shed**

*Loco Shed  
Echuca Inc*  
Echuca

A grant of \$190,000 has been awarded Loco Shed Echuca Inc for urgent conservation works to the Former Railway Engine Shed, Echuca. Erected in 1864, the building is an important element of the Echuca railway complex, which was once the busiest non-metropolitan station during the nineteenth century. Today, there is currently no public accessibility due to the condition of the building. Necessary works will address water damage and the installation of a fire protection system. The grant will enable the building to open to the public as a community space.



## **Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historic Museum**

*Castlemaine Art  
Gallery and  
Historical  
Museum  
Foundation*  
Castlemaine

A grant of \$85,000 has been awarded to fund urgent works to the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historic Museum. Built in 1930, the gallery is an early example of austere Neo-Classical "modern" design. The gallery is open 4 days a week for permanent and rotating exhibitions, school tours and programs. The grant will allow necessary works to address water damage including re-rendering the parapet wall and installation of new gutters and drainage. These works will protect the historic fabric and ensure the building can continue to be enjoyed by the community.

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## Gippsland



**Amazon Shipwreck**  
*Amazon 1863 Project Inc.*  
Inverloch

A grant of \$20,000 has been awarded to Amazon 1863 Project Inc. to fund urgent conservation works to the Amazon Shipwreck. On 13 December 1863, Amazon, a Jersey-built 402-ton barque, struck the beach near Inverloch while en route from Melbourne to Mauritius. Today, the shipwreck is viewable during low tide. The grant will extend the life of the shipwreck by conserving the deadwood, which is the lower part of the ship's stem. The deadwood is no longer stable and will rapidly deteriorate if left untreated. The grant will ensure this part of the shipwreck is not lost. Once conserved, it will be displayed for community education.



**No.21 Dredger**  
*Gippsland International Inc*  
Morwell

A grant of \$60,000 has been awarded to Gippsland International Inc to support urgent conservation works to the No.21 Dredger. Built in the 1950s, the dredger serviced the Morwell open cut mine for over 40 years. It is one of the first bucket-wheel excavators used on site to remove the overburden waste. The grant will enable the removal or corrosion and repainting of the dredger to ensure its ongoing structural integrity. These works will support increased up-close access to the dredger on open days.

For more information on the Living Heritage Grants Program email [living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au)

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