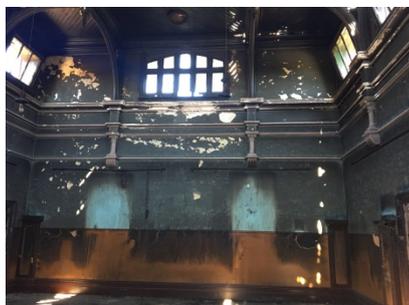


# Living Heritage Grants Program

## Major Building Projects 2017-2018

In 2017-2018 \$3.8 million will support the safeguarding and reactivation of six iconic Victorian heritage places through the Major Building Grants stream of the Living Heritage Grants Program. This funding is in addition to the \$22.2 million announced in 2016-2017 to support major works to twelve of Victoria's key heritage assets. The projects selected for the Major Building Grants stream are places included in the Victorian Heritage Register, that have highly complex conservation needs exceeding traditional grant funding amounts.

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 1995*.



### **Former Moonee Ponds Court House, Moonee Ponds**

Essendon Historical Society

The Former Moonee Ponds Court House in Melbourne will benefit from a grant of \$1.5 million to fund urgent remedial works following a 2016 fire which destroyed the roof and damaged period timber woodwork. Built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the building operated as a court house until the mid-1970s. From 1980 the Court House housed the museum, collection facility and meeting space of the Essendon Historical Society. Currently in a state of disrepair, the grant will reconstruct new timber ceilings and joinery, complete floor repairs and provide new safety fire measures to restore this 1890 building with new purpose. The grant will allow this prominent building to re-open its doors to the public.



### **Paddle Steamer Gem, Swan Hill**

Swan Hill Rural City Council

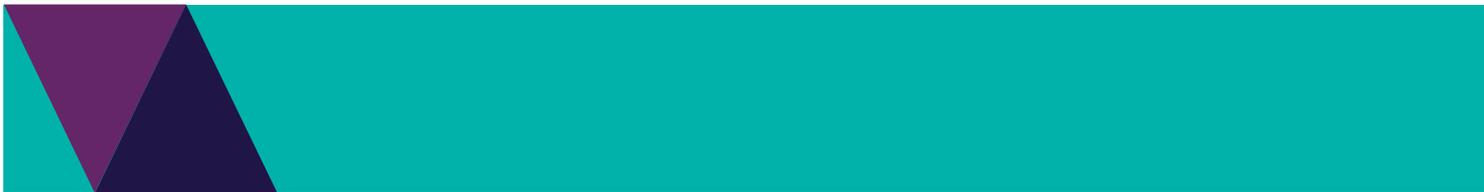
A grant of \$500,000 will support complex conservation repairs to the Paddle Steamer Gem in Swan Hill to prevent water ingress. The vessel was first launched in Moama, NSW in 1876 and is a rare survivor of the steam boat era of trading along the Murray-Darling. The Gem was built in red gum planking over iron frames for a local Echuca shipowner. The Gem was originally fitted with a 40 horsepower steam engine, wood fired boilers and carried both freight and passengers, mainly in the lower reaches of the Murray below Mildura. The grant will ensure the Gem continues to float and will enhance the visitor experience aboard the vessel.



### **Werribee Park Mansion, Werribee South**

Parks Victoria

The Werribee Mansion in Werribee Park will undergo urgent masonry repairs, supported by a grant of \$500,000. Conservation works involve repairs to the bluestone and sandstone parapets, chimneys and roof, addressing safety issues for visiting public and staff. Werribee Park is one of Australia's grandest and most architecturally sophisticated mansions, notable also for its extensive garden. Built from 1874 for Scottish pastoralists, the Mansion has been used variously as a private home, religious seminary and currently, hotel. The estate is open daily and the funded works will ensure the continued public use and appreciation of the mansion.



**Bluestone building,  
Pipe Makers Park  
Complex,  
Maribyrnong**

Maribyrnong City  
Council

A grant of \$400,000 will enable the reopening of the bluestone building for use as a community/public event space and will include masonry repairs, essential structural works and roof, joinery and flooring repairs. The 'Pipe Makers Park Complex' building was originally occupied in 1847 as a meatworks, boiling down and canning establishment in the industrial heartland of Melbourne and the banks of the Maribyrnong River. During WWI, the site was repurposed as a concrete works producing reinforced concrete pipes. It is located within an 8 hectare park precinct, also home to the Living Museum of the West community museum.



**Great Melbourne  
Telescope Building,  
Melbourne**

Royal Botanic  
Gardens Board

The Great Melbourne Telescope Building, located in Melbourne's Royal Botanical Gardens, will benefit from a grant of \$400,000 to bring the building up to a standard to enable the return of the 'Great Melbourne Telescope' – one of the world's major nineteenth century astronomical instruments – currently under restoration and due for return in 2019. The building was purpose-built for the Telescope with a roll-off roof to be reinstated through this grant. The works include the remediation of rising damp and salt attack issues. The works will ensure that the place will be accessed, understood and appreciated as originally intended.



**Former Reid's  
Coffee Palace,  
Ballarat**

Uniting Care Ballarat

A grant of \$500,000 will support further interior reconfiguration and conservation works to the 1886 Reid's Coffee Palace, including the restoration of decorative finishes. The Victorian building features hand-painted murals, leadlight windows and an imposing timber staircase. Coffee palaces were established at the height of the temperance movement, which also coincided with the Gold Rush. The building is operated by Unitingcare Ballarat, delivering affordable accommodation to Ballarat. Repairs will allow the building to continue its valuable community services.

For more information on the Living Heritage Grants Program, please call 03 9938 6851 or email [living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au).

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