

Living Heritage Grants Program

Successful Projects: Round 2 2017–18

A clock tower, a former RAAF base, and a Melbourne city landmark are among the 22 significant heritage places from across the state receiving heritage grants through the second contested round of Victoria's Living Heritage Grants Program. Round 2 of the Contested Grants Stream (2017-18) will provide \$2.5 million for urgent conservation works or studies to 22 significant heritage places across Victoria.

The Living Heritage Grants Program is an initiative of the Victorian 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*.

There will be subsequent grant rounds in 2018 and 2019.



Former Deaf and Dumb Institution

Deaf Children
Australia

A grant of \$150,000 has been awarded to Deaf Children Australia to undertake urgent conservation works to the windows of the main façade of the Former Deaf and Dumb Institution, St Kilda Road, Melbourne. Built in 1866 to provide a home, education and vocational training for deaf children, the site has continuously provided services to the deaf community since its foundation. Today, the building is used by the Victorian College of the Deaf, as a community event space, and as the headquarters of numerous not-for-profit organisations.



Ballarat Trades Hall

Ballarat Regional
Trades & Labour
Council Inc.

Ballarat Trades Hall will benefit from a grant of \$200,000 to undertake urgently required conservation works to the failing rendered façade of the Ballarat Trades Hall. Constructed in 1887-88 to the designs of prolific Ballarat architects James and Piper, and built by local contractors Leech and Outtrim, the three-storey mannerist building is a local landmark. Trades Hall is used for training, to teach school children about workplace rights and safety, and as an affordable leasable venue for Ballarat's many and diverse community groups.



St Francis Xavier Chapel and Catholic Cemetery

St Peter's Parish
Daylesford

A grant of \$180,000 will support urgent conservation of St Francis Xavier Chapel and Catholic Cemetery, including repairs to the roof, external walls, floor structure, joinery, and site drainage. The place is historically significant as a surviving example of the many combined church and school buildings erected throughout Victoria's goldfields in the 19th century, and the cemetery contains graves of many of the Italian Swiss and Irish immigrants who settled Daylesford. The site is open daily, and the chapel and cemetery are available for use by all members of the public, regardless of religion.



Port Fairy Battery
Moyne Shire Council

The Port Fairy Battery will benefit from a grant of \$200,000 for works to four cannons and carriages, and two timber slides. The Port Fairy Battery was first built by the Public Works Department in 1886-87 in response to the widespread fear of Russian invasion at the time. The funded project will involve the preparation of an initial condition assessment report, followed by specialist timber and metals conservation. The Port Fairy Battery is a popular tourism destination, and is used regularly by the community for recreation and events.



Christ Church Brunswick
Christ Church Brunswick

The deteriorated slate roof of Christ Church Brunswick will be repaired and replaced through a grant of \$130,000, on a matched-funds basis. The stuccoed brick church was built in stages between 1857 and 1875, and is unusual in the Victorian context for its Italianate and Villa Rustica design. The church is used extensively by both its congregation and the wider community, hosting events such as the Brunswick festival and music recitals, and making the church hall available for community hire. Christ Church Brunswick is open to all visitors daily.



Castlemaine Botanical Gardens Tea Rooms
Mount Alexander Shire Council

The Castlemaine Botanical Gardens tea rooms building will undergo urgent roof repairs, through a grant of \$37,000. One of Victoria's oldest regional botanical gardens, they were first gazetted in 1860. The scale and collection of the gardens demonstrates Castlemaine's gold rush prosperity. Erected in 1919, the tea rooms building roof is clad with rare recycled Tupper and Co. corrugated roof tiles, which require specialised conservation. The gardens are used widely by the public, and the tearooms are regularly hired by community and private groups.



Camperdown Clock Tower
Corrangamite Shire Council

A grant of \$200,000 will support the conservation of the Camperdown Clock Tower roof, render and clock faces. A local landmark, the clock tower was constructed in 1896-97 to the designs of local architect Michael McCabe. The clock tower is a rare Victorian example of the Late Victorian Early Medieval Revival style and is strategically located in the centre of Finlay Avenue, one of Australia's most outstanding avenues of elms. The clock tower is open to the public for internal guided tours on a monthly basis.



Former Ballarat RAAF Base
City of Ballarat

The Former Ballarat RAAF Base will benefit from a grant of \$200,000 to undertake conservation works to hut 48 – the former Officers' Mess - including roof, wall, floor and interior repairs, in addition to asbestos remediation works. The former Ballarat RAAF Base was constructed at the beginning of the Second World War as a training school for Wireless Air Gunners. Approximately 800 personnel were stationed at the base, the only one of its kind in Victoria. A total of 33 huts remain, and the base is now being developed into a community hub by the City of Ballarat.



Healesville Railway Water Tower

Yarra Valley Water Inc.

A grant of \$200,000 has been awarded to support the conservation of the water tower and crane at the 1889 Healesville Railway Station. The water tower is a local landmark and urgently requires rust mitigation treatment and structural repairs to ensure that its functionality is not lost. After being inactive for several decades, the works will return the tower and crane to service, allowing the reintroduction of steam trains to the Yarra Valley region, a popular tourist destination.



Century Building

Privately Owned

Melbourne's Century Building will benefit from a grant of \$37,000 on a matched-funds basis. The grant will support the preparation of documentation for required conservation works to the building's unique Wunderlich faience cladding. One of Melbourne's best known buildings, it was constructed in 1939-40 to the designs of prominent Melbourne architect Marcus Barlow. The basement originally contained a cinema, with the space now functioning as a live music venue. A popular shopping arcade is located at ground level, and the upper floors are used as offices and apartments.



St Peter's Eastern Hill

St Peter's Anglican Church Eastern Hill

A grant of \$85,000 has been awarded on a matched-funds basis to fund urgent repairs to the church's slate roof and copper guttering. Melbourne's oldest Anglican church on its original site, the foundation stone for St Peter's Eastern Hill was laid by Governor Charles La Trobe in 1846, and the church was formally opened in 1848. In the same year it was on this site that Melbourne was formally proclaimed a city. The church offers a number of community services, including daily breakfast for the homeless. It is also a popular tourism destination, and is open to the public daily.



Ballarat Town Hall

City of Town Hall

A grant of \$200,000 will support urgent repairs to a portion of the town hall's slate roof and rainwater goods. The works are the first stage in a large-scale project to repair and reactivate the "A Hall", which was added as an extension to the 1860s building in 1912 to provide the town with a community event space. Although the space has recently been opened for special events such as Ballarat Heritage Week, it has largely been closed to the public for several decades. This project will return the A-Hall to regular public access and use.



Former Benalla Migrant Camp
Benalla Rural City Council

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) will be prepared for the Former Benalla Migrant Camp, supported by a grant of \$20,000. Established in September 1949, the Benalla Migrant Camp was part of a large immigration programme launched to increase the Australian population. It operated as a holding centre for migrants and provided accommodation, a kindergarten, school, hall, hospital, shops and a gymnasium. The site's many structures are now used by a wide range of community groups. The preparation of a CMP will help guide future management and maintenance of the site.



Kingston Avenue of Honour
Kingston Friends of the Avenue

A grant of \$60,000 will support urgent arboreal works to the avenue's trees, which were planted almost a century ago. Established in August 1918, the Kingston Avenue of Honour commemorates the men and women from the local area who enlisted for service during World War One. The funded works will involve the removal of insect and disease-infested deadwood from tree crowns, trimming of over-long laterals, and the removal and replacement of trees that have been assessed as being hazardous.



Abercrombie House
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Abercrombie House in Melbourne will undergo urgent interior and exterior stabilisation works through a grant of \$95,000. Included in the 2015 Living Heritage Audit, the place was found to be in very poor condition, and its interior wallpaper finishes are currently facing a very high level of risk. The prefabricated iron cottage was manufactured in England, likely by Morewood and Rogers of London, and exported to the colonies in the 1850s. A rare survivor of its type, the cottage now forms part of the National Trust's Portable Iron Houses site in South Melbourne.



Smythesdale Court House
Golden Plains Shire Council

The Smythesdale Court House will benefit from a grant of \$90,000 to fund urgent exterior and interior conservation works. Built in 1860 by the Public Works Department, the court house is historically significant for its association with the Victorian gold rush. The building is now used for a range of community purposes, including as a book shop during a monthly market, the headquarters of the local historical society, and as an event space for the local primary school. The court house is part of a historic precinct within Smythesdale, which is a popular tourism destination within the area.



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Corpus Christi College

A grant of \$33,000 has been awarded on a matched-funds basis to undertake urgent conservation of "Painting 8", one of the fourteen Stations of the Cross interior wall paintings painted by J Hennessey in c.1900. Four other paintings in the series will receive investigative analysis. Constructed in 1897-99, the building is significant as one of Victoria's first and finest red brick Baroque church designs, and for its rich interior decoration. An important place of worship to many members of Melbourne's Lebanese and Italian communities, the church also frequently hosts a number of public events, including musical performances.



Kilmore Court House

Kilmore Court House Reserve Committee of Management

Kilmore Court House will undergo urgent conservation works, including repairs to the building's slate roof, rain water goods and exterior timber trim, through a grant of \$130,000. Built in 1863, the bluestone court house was designed by JJ Clark and constructed under the supervision of William Wilkinson Wardell as head of the Public Works Department. It was one of the first buildings erected in Victoria's oldest inland town. Today, the court house hosts educational and historical tours, and is the headquarters of several local community groups, including the local historical society.



Theatre Royal Castlemaine

Privately Owned

A grant of \$20,000 has been awarded on a matched-funds to fund a Conservation Management Plan, Condition Report, and further structural and geotechnical investigation of the theatre building. A theatre was first built on the site in 1858, replacing a timber and canvas theatre which had burned down. After many moderations, the theatre was extensively adapted to a Moderne-style cinema in the 1930s. The building continues to operate as a cinema, with a café and bar, and now provides a venue for live music and other events.



Queen Elizabeth Oval Cottage

City of Greater Bendigo

One of Bendigo's oldest buildings will undergo urgent conservation works supported by a grant of \$200,000. Built as a public works office within the large Government camp site in 1858, the Queen Elizabeth Oval Cottage now sits within the popular public space of Rosalind Park. Adjacent to a cricket oval since the late 19th century, the cottage was extended in the 1890s to facilitate a residence for the keeper of the Upper Reserve. The proposed works are the first stage in a major project to conserve and activate this important building for frequent public access and use.



Victorian Artists Society

Victorian Artists Society

A grant of \$25,000 will support the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan, to guide future conservation works. The Victorian Artists Society building was erected in 1892 to the American Romanesque designs of architect Richard Speight. It has continuously functioned as an academy for some of Australia's most prominent painters and sculptors since it was built, and was also the home of Dame Nellie Melba's music conservatorium for more than 30 years. It is open daily for classes and to the wider public during special exhibitions.



Former Shearers Arms Hotel

Geelong Art Society Inc.

A grant of \$20,000 has been awarded to undertake structural and geotechnical investigation of the Former Shearer's Arms Hotel, to inform future remedial works required at the place. Opened in 1847, it is one of the oldest buildings in Victoria and is a rare surviving example of a pre-gold rush public house. The building is now owned and occupied by the Geelong Art Society Inc, and operates as an art gallery, and venue for art classes and workshops. The funded project will guide future management of the place and ensure its ongoing viability as a public resource.

For more information on the Living Heritage Grants Program, please call **03 9938 6851** or email living.heritage@delwp.vic.gov.au

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