

# Living Heritage Grants Program

## Major Building Projects

In 2016-17 the Living Heritage Grants Program will provide funding for the conservation and activation of eleven iconic heritage places in Victoria. The Major Building Grants stream will provide over \$22.2 million over two years to safeguard and reactivate some of Victoria's key heritage resources. The projects selected are places included in the Victorian Heritage Register, and have highly complex conservation needs exceeding traditional grant funding amounts.

The Living Heritage Grants Program is an initiative of the Victoria State Government and will support 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*.



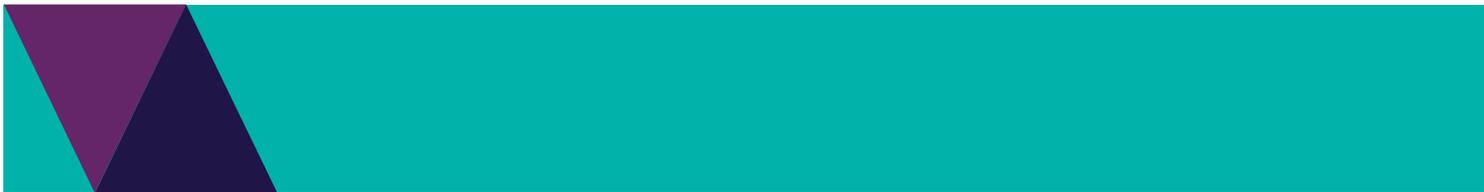
**Trades Hall, Carlton**  
Victorian Trades Hall Council

Melbourne's Trades Hall will benefit from a grant of \$10 million for essential conservation and activation works including, the urgent and high priority roofing works and repairs to the Lygon Street portico. Conservation works will include the specialist restoration works to key interior spaces including the Old Council Chamber, New Ballroom and Bella Union as well as the investigation and protection of decorative finishes within the New Council Chamber. Other works to activate the building will allow for compliant access to all levels of the building including provision for vertical access. Trades Hall is significant for its role in Victorian and Australian political history, and for its associations with working class politics and activism. It is Australia's oldest and largest trades hall built in several stages from 1873-1926. It is a prominent Carlton landmark, and it continues to serve as a hub for union organisation. Trades Hall also hosts a wide variety of tenants and events and the works will allow new spaces to be opened and accessed by the public.



**Abbotsford Convent, Abbotsford**  
Abbotsford Convent Foundation

A grant of \$2.7 million will enable the transformation of the Magdalen Laundries buildings on the Convent site through priority conservation and activation works. The Laundries are the last remaining buildings to be redeveloped for arts, cultural and learning purposes in the Abbotsford Convent multi-arts precinct. The Laundries provided commercial income to the Convent from the 1860s, and were staffed by the girls and women who had been placed in Magdalen Asylum. It is now acknowledged as a site of suffering for the women who were forced to work there, and since the laundries were decommissioned in 1975, the space has remained empty and unused. The grant funding will allow the spaces to be opened to the public and will provide new leasable space for the Convent, as well as multi-functional performance and event space.



**Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat**

Her Majesty's Theatre and City of Ballarat

A grant of \$2 million will fund the urgent roof replacement and drainage works as well as interior render repairs to Her Majesty's Theatre in Ballarat. Built in 1874 as the Academy of Music, the building is a rare surviving example of the theatres erected in the gold rush towns of Ballarat and Bendigo in the nineteenth century, which rivalled those in Australian capital cities. Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat, is thought to be Australia's oldest operating theatre, and is known for its unique interior, with double horse-shoe shaped balconies supported on ornate columns - the last example of this type of theatre design in Victoria. Home of the Royal South Street Eisteddfod and Sun Arias for many years and site of the original Fine Art Gallery, Her Majesty's Theatre has been the centre of the city's arts and cultural life since it opened.



**Returned Soldier's Memorial Hall, Bendigo**

City of Greater Bendigo

A grant of \$1.5 million will support the urgent conservation and restoration works to the Returned Soldier's Memorial Hall in Bendigo. Funded works will include structural repairs, conservation of the building's exterior, and restoration works to windows and doors. The works are part of a broader scope of works to construct a new exhibition space to one side of the memorial building. The memorial hall was opened in 1921 to commemorate all those from Bendigo who served in World War One and particularly to those who died in service. The hall is architecturally significant for its unique external detailing and design, including the uncommon feature of a band rotunda on the roof. The memorial is a Bendigo landmark, and the home of the Soldiers Memorial Institute Military Museum.



**John Kelly's Former House, Beveridge**

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

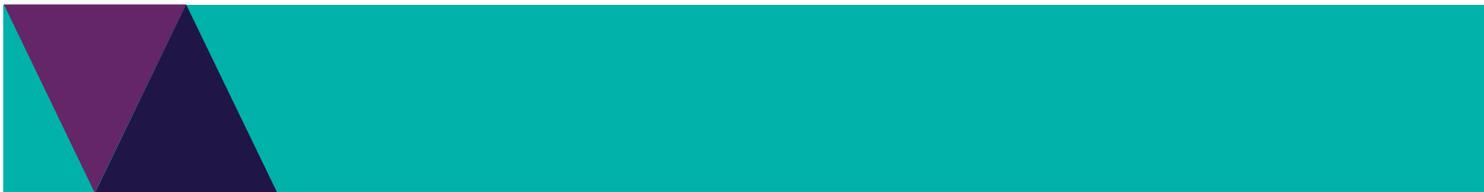
The Kelly House in Beveridge will be stabilised and restored through a grant of \$1 million. Assessed as part of the 2015 Living Heritage Audit, the house was found to be in very poor condition, requiring urgent structural stabilisation works and weatherproofing. The earliest phase of the house was built in 1866 by John Kelly, the father of Ned Kelly, using materials gathered from the surrounding bush. The place is significant as a highly rare example of vernacular timber cottage construction based on Irish principles, and as the childhood home of one of Australia's most iconic and divisive historical figures. The conservation project will include collaboration with key stakeholders to activate the site and facilitate tourism to the growing area.



**Sunnyside Wool Scour, Geelong**

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

A grant of \$1 million will fund the most urgent conservation works at the Wool Scour, including stabilisation and bracing, roof repairs, removal of hazardous materials, and general 'make safe' works. Associated with the region's wool trade since 1853, the site is significant as a rare and highly intact example of a wool scouring establishment with operations dating from as early as the 1850s. Funded works will support activation of the Barwon River site, which may include interpretation and adaptation of spaces for various community uses.



**Former Royal Australian Army Medical Corps Training Depot, Melbourne**

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

A grant of \$1 million will support urgent conservation works to the A'Beckett Street 'Drill Hall'. Built in 1938, the site is architecturally significant for its design which combines several stylistic influences, with colonial revival, art deco, classical and Moderne elements. Historically, the building is representative of Australia's military preparedness prior to the outbreak of the Second World War as international tensions mounted. The Drill Hall is the home of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, and funded works will allow increased usage of a versatile community space.



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

UnitingCare Ballarat

A grant of \$700,000 will fund urgently required conservation works to the Former Reid's Coffee Palace in Ballarat. One of the city's most imposing and iconic landmarks, the building dates from 1886 and is representative of Ballarat's grandeur and opulence during the Gold Rush. Now owned and managed by UnitingCare Ballarat, Reid's Coffee Palace is a key community resource, offering low-cost accommodation and support programs for those facing financial and social hardship.



**Polly Woodside, Melbourne**

National Trust (Victoria)

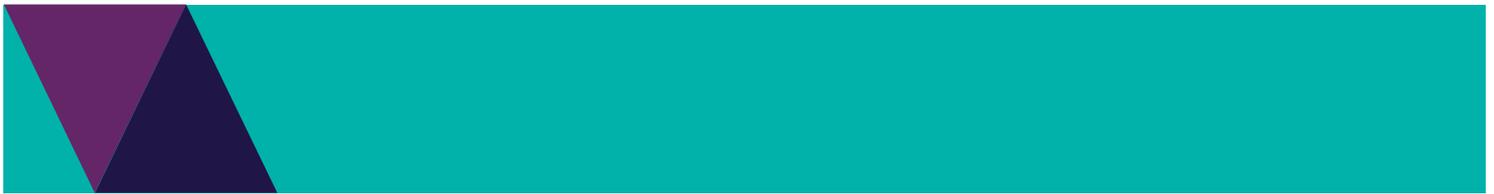
The Polly Woodside will benefit from a grant of \$500,000 for essential repairs to the three timber masts and all riggings. The ship was included in the 2015 Living Heritage Audit and was found to be in poor condition. Built in Belfast in 1885 as a cargo vessel, the Polly Woodside carried wheat, nitrate and coal between England and South America, North America, Africa and Australia. It was later used as a coal hulk in Australia and New Zealand and as a refuelling ship in New Guinea during the Second World War. The National Trust purchased the ship in 1968, and oversaw its large-scale restoration. Since 1978, the Polly Woodside has been open to the public as a floating museum.



**Day's Flour Mill Complex, Murchison**

Parks Victoria

A grant of \$500,000 will support urgently required conservation works at Day's Flour Mill in Murchison. The site was included in the 2015 Living Heritage Audit and was found to be in very poor condition, owing to ongoing vandalism, loss of windows and doors, damage by birds to soft timber joinery, structural stability of the chimneys and salt damage to handmade bricks. The site was owned and run by the Day Family from 1865 until 1986, and is highly intact with a significant collection of machinery and associated artefacts. Now managed by Parks Victoria, the mill site is closed to the public due to safety concerns.



**Camperdown Grandstand, Camperdown**  
Camperdown Grandstand Restoration Committee Inc.

A grant of \$330,000 will fund the final stage of conservation works to the Camperdown Turf Grandstand, allowing the grandstand to be reopened to the public. The grandstand has been closed owing to unsafe conditions, and the final stage of works will include roof bracing, reconstruction of the mounded retaining wall, and repairs and compliance works to the stairways. Built in 1902-1903 and extended in 1913, the structure is an outstanding example of a Federation-era grandstand. It is a highly-valued local landmark, and is the largest of its kind in Victoria.

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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