



*Image courtesy of Kew Historical Society Inc CHG2023/007N*

## 2023 CHG FINAL PROJECT REPORTS

The information has been provided by recipients of 2023 Round Community Heritage Grants

COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANTS

# Table of Contents

## Significance Assessments

VIC - Kew Historical Society Incorporated - CHG2023/007N.....	1
QLD - Cloncurry & District Historical & Museum Society Inc - CHG2023/020N .....	1
NSW - Bathurst District Historical Society Inc - CHG2023/031N .....	2
VIC - Buda Castlemaine Inc. - CHG2023/001R.....	3
VIC - Jewish Library of Australia Limited - CHG2023/003N .....	3
NSW - Hawkesbury Library Service - CHG2023/008N .....	4
VIC - Australian Red Cross - CHG2023/015N .....	5
NSW - Sea Heritage Foundation Pty Limited - CHG2023/027N.....	6
VIC - Ethnic Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria Ltd (3ZZZ) - CHG2023/034N .....	6
NSW - City of Canada Bay Council - CHG2023/037N.....	7
NSW - Royal Flying Doctor Service SE Section Broken Hill - CHG2023/062N .....	7
NSW - Adaminaby Snowy Scheme Collection Inc. - CHG2023/064N .....	8
VIC - Ballarat Mechanics' Institute - CHG2023/065N .....	9
NSW - Forbes Historical Society - CHG2023/067N .....	10
NSW - Goulburn Mulwaree Council - CHG2023/070N .....	10
NSW - Assyrian Australian Association - CHG2023/080N .....	11
VIC - Ukrainian Museum of Australia - CHG2023/088N .....	12
<b>Preservation Needs Assessments.....</b>	<b>13</b>
NSW - The Broken Hill Historical Society Inc. - CHG2023/098N.....	13
SA - National Railway Museum - CHG2023/005R.....	13
VIC - Benalla Art Gallery - CHG2023/011R .....	14
QLD - Queensland Maritime Museum Association - CHG2023/012R .....	14
QLD - Queensland Braille Writing Association (known as Braille House) - CHG2023/022R.....	16
QLD - Hinkler Hall of Aviation - Bundaberg Regional Council - CHG2023/039R.....	17
NT - Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation - CHG2023/046R.....	18
TAS - Woolmers Foundation Inc. - CHG2023/050N.....	18
ACT - The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. - CHG2023/052R .....	20
VIC - Castlemaine Art Museum - CHG2023/054R.....	20
NSW - Society of Australian Genealogists - CHG2023/059R .....	21
SA - Flinders University Palaeontology Research Group - CHG2023/061R .....	22
VIC - Lions Club of Lake Boga T/A The Flying Boat Museum - CHG2023/068N .....	23
<b>Collection Management and Conservation Activities.....</b>	<b>25</b>
NSW - Braidwood & District Historical Society - CHG2023/049R.....	25
ACT - Fire Brigade Historical Society of the ACT - CHG2023/055R .....	25
ACT - Australian Academy Of Science - CHG2023/004R.....	26
NSW - National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) - CHG2023/007R .....	27

QLD - Outback Gondwana Foundation Limited - CHG2023/013R.....	28
VIC - Trafalgar Holden Museum - CHG2023/014R .....	28
VIC - City of Boroondara - CHG2023/016R .....	29
SA - Lutheran Archives - CHG2023/019R.....	30
NSW - Blacktown City Council - CHG2023/026R .....	31
VIC - Emerald and District Museum, Cardinia Shire Council - CHG2023/030N .....	31
NSW - Australian Jewish Historical Society - CHG2023/034R .....	32
ACT - Manning Clark House Incorporated - CHG2023/035R .....	32
QLD - Cherbourg Historical Cultural Community Precinct - CHG2023/038N .....	33
ACT - Australian National Museum of Education - CHG2023/038R .....	34
NSW - National Trust of Australia - CHG2023/042R.....	35
QLD - The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd - CHG2023/045R .....	35
NSW - Australian Railway Historical Society NSW Division - CHG2023/047R .....	36
QLD - The Royal Historical Society of Queensland - CHG2023/058R .....	37
VIC - Duldig Studio & Sculpture Garden - CHG2023/060R .....	37
<b>Training .....</b>	<b>39</b>
WA - Northcliffe Pioneer Museum Inc - CHG2023/004T.....	39
WA - Northam Army Camp Heritage Association Inc - CHG2023/003T .....	39
QLD - Museum and Gallery Services Queensland Ltd - CHG2023/009T.....	40
VIC - Australian Racing Museum - CHG2023/010T.....	41

Community Heritage Grants is an Australian Government partnership between the Office for the Arts; and four national collection institutions – the National Archives of Australia; the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia; the National Museum of Australia and the National Library of Australia (who manages the program on behalf of all partners).



## Significance Assessments

### VIC - Kew Historical Society Incorporated - CHG2023/007N

*The Kew Historical Society Incorporated received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of the Henty Family Collection.*

Founded in 1958, the Kew Historical Society (KHS) is committed to preserving the history and heritage of Kew and its environs. They have an active membership, which meets monthly, and working groups that manage their collection and undertake research. Each year, they publish four newsletters, hold two public lectures, and mount exhibitions at the Kew Court House. They are members of the Brighton Historical Society of Australia, Royal Historical Society of Victoria and Australian Museums and Galleries Association and have a relationship with Public Record Office Victoria as a Class-B Place of Deposit for Government Records.

The team at KHS worked with consultant Dr Laura Jovic to assess every costume and costume accessory in the Henty Family Costume Collection, which had been donated in 2023 by the descendants of Francis and Mary Ann Henty. Working with Laura, an acknowledged expert in colonial costume, built capacity in the team in terms of knowledge of specific collection content. Following the significance assessment, there are also plans for Dr Jovic to present her findings to the community of the City of Boroondara in May 2025, at which representatives of major cultural organisations will be present.

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### QLD - Cloncurry & District Historical & Museum Society Inc - CHG2023/020N

*The Cloncurry & District Historical & Museum Society Inc received \$8,660 for a Significance Assessment of the Conclurry and District Historical and Museum Society Archives.*

The Cloncurry & District Historical & Museum Society is the repository for locally generated archives, while providing accurate historical information to local people, local government and to the many visitors to this vibrant Outback town.

The assessment, undertaken by Judith Nissen of Nissen Associates, has lifted the profile and visibility of the Society's work and the importance of the archives to the community by providing a better understanding of the collection's significance from both a national and international perspective, and of the continuing need for archival preservation.

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## Significance Assessments

### NSW - Bathurst District Historical Society Inc - CHG2023/031N

*The Bathurst District Historical Society Inc received \$6,807 for a Significance Assessment of its Textile Collection.*

The Bathurst District Historical Society was formed in 1947 by a group of citizens who wanted to preserve Bathurst's history and heritage. Seventy-five years later this interest and enthusiasm continues with over 200 members and volunteers. The Society opens the Museum and Bookshop to the public four days a week. The Society has a large collection of objects, photographs, and archives relevant to establishing the Bathurst settlement and the surrounding areas. Their archivists and researchers share these resources by assisting with research on the history of houses and buildings in the local area, and the people who have lived there.

The expected outcome of this project was to highlight the significance of the Society's textile collection. This has been achieved with the final report, prepared by Roslyn Russell, stating, "The textile collection of Bathurst District Historical Society is of historical significance for its association with nationally significant individuals ...". The document continues, "The collection is also significant for its role in documenting the contribution of women to the history of Australia's first inland settlement ...".



The Society has received donations for over seventy-five years of many textile pieces, which include convict linen smocks, colonial dresses, coats, mantles and hats, military uniforms from past conflicts, undergarments, baby and children's wear, doilies, table runners, pillowcases, shoes, and boots. The Textile Curators have been endeavoring to highlight the importance of items in the collection by holding exhibitions. The Statement of Significance acknowledges that the Society holds many significant items and that the conservation and preservation of these items is very important. This project is an important part of the process to ensure the collection can be cared for and shared with the community into the future.

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## Significance Assessments

### VIC - Buda Castlemaine Inc. - CHG2023/001R

*The Buda Castlemaine Inc. received \$7,053 for a Significance Assessment of Buda Historic Home and Garden Collection.*

Buda Castlemaine is a house museum set within 1.2 hectares of garden, and situated in the Victorian Goldfields town of Castlemaine. The house contains belongings from two generations of the Leviny family, its residents from 1863 - 1981. The property is owned by the Trustees of the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum and has been managed by a separate body, Buda Incorporated, since 1986. The house and garden are open to the public each day of the year except Good Friday and Christmas Day and is supported by four staff and over 85 volunteers.

The Significance Assessment, undertaken by Lauretta Zilles, was thorough, informative and professional, and has produced a substantial body of work. Buda's Significance Assessment provides an excellent reference for shaping future policies and collection interpretation; it provides a strong basis from which to lobby for a Preservation Needs Assessment and further resources including infrastructure for collection storage and; it demonstrates

why specific items in the Buda collection are of historical and social importance. Another important aspect of this Significance Assessment is the collation of knowledge from various key stakeholders, including staff and volunteers. This is important given the age of the organisation and the need to work towards succession planning. A degree of organisational and collection-specific knowledge is inevitably retained through the individual memories of those working with collections, and this project has provided Buda a much needed avenue for recording such information for future reference.

Contact: Sarah Frazer, House Curator, Buda Historic Home and Garden  
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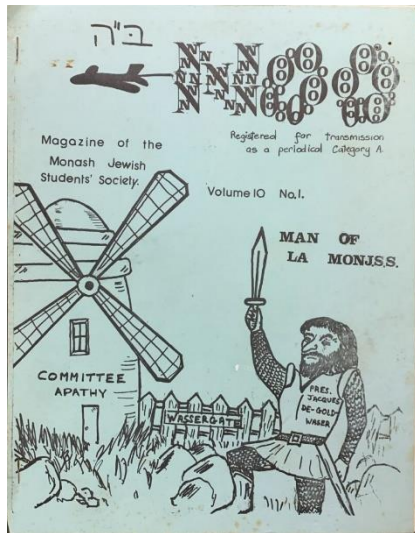
### VIC - Jewish Library of Australia Limited - CHG2023/003N

*The Jewish Library of Australia Limited received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of Community Ephemera Collection*

The Jewish Library of Australia Limited (LJLA) is a library that serves a multitude of community purposes. They house over 44,000 books in English, Hebrew and Yiddish alongside priceless historical artefacts dating back more than a century. The library goes beyond being a repository of knowledge, routinely hosting events featuring academics, authors, writers, educators and more. With a steadfast commitment to pluralism and non-

## Significance Assessments

partisanship, they offer a diverse spectrum of programs catering to the entire community. From children's events to book clubs, author talks, lectures, writing workshops and more, the library has solidified a reputation as a home for cultural enrichment and community engagement.



The Significance Assessment, undertaken by Susan Faine and Emma Russell, has been vital in broadening the understanding of the collection and has helped to build better long-term collection strategies and internal methodology for proper acquisition.

A vibrant network of cultural institutions has been built around the project, including the Melbourne Holocaust Museum, the Jewish Museum of Australia, the Australian Jewish Historical Society Communal Archive, and the State Libraries of Victoria and New South Wales. This network has provided support, guidance and connections to vital resources in this space. There has also been significant buy-in from the LJLA's volunteer base, with many wanting to join the project.

By announcing the project publicly, the LJLA has been inundated with support, including a marked increase in the number of rare item donations to the library. Many of the donations and stories received are now included on their website.

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### NSW - Hawkesbury Library Service - CHG2023/008N

*The Hawkesbury Library Service received \$6,404 for a Significance Assessment of the Local Studies Collection, Hawkesbury Library Service.*

Hawkesbury Library Service is located in Windsor NSW, with a branch in Richmond. The original inhabitants were the Darug and Darkinjung people. European settlement commenced in 1794 on the fertile floodplains of the Hawkesbury River system. The Local Government Area covers nearly 3000 sq km with the two main centres, Windsor and Richmond. The Hawkesbury is a semi-rural area with a fascinating mix of history, culture, townships, mountains, national parks and farmland.

The recently completed Significance Assessment report, carried out by Roslyn Russell, will help to prioritise material in the collection needing attention, and to lobby for more resources. Roslyn was very efficient and, as she had also prepared the Significance Assessment for Hawkesbury Regional Museum, knowledgeable about the area.

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## Significance Assessments

### VIC - Australian Red Cross - CHG2023/015N

*The Australian Red Cross received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of the Australian Red Cross Heritage Archives Film Collection.*

Australian Red Cross (ARC) is a humanitarian organisation whose core objectives are to bring people and communities together in times of need, and support community using community strengths. ARC was established at the outbreak of war in 1914, and by 1945 it was the largest charitable organisation in Australia.

The ARC Heritage Archives' purpose is to preserve, document, and share the history of the Australian Red Cross for the benefit of both organisational and community identity. The Heritage Archives was established in the 1990s, and has run under the management of one to two part-time professional archivists with assistance from dozens of volunteers.



This project, and its resulting Significance Assessment, enabled ARC to markedly build knowledge about the ARC Heritage Archives audio-visual collection, specifically the film and audio reel collection, and its significance within Australian heritage. The project has allowed the identification of five film reels and over 20 audio reels that are potentially unique to the collection and are of high priority for digitisation.

The project has also allowed ARC Heritage Archives to build strong

connections with the individuals and businesses that they worked with - notably Megan Cardamone of Circa Museum Services, and Callum Ross-Thomson from Memory Lab digitisation service. ARC Heritage Archives looks forward to opportunities to work with both of these individuals again on future projects as they have demonstrated great understanding of their needs as an archive, as well as the place of Australian Red Cross in Australian history.

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## Significance Assessments

### NSW - Sea Heritage Foundation Pty Limited - CHG2023/027N

*The Sea Heritage Foundation Pty Limited received \$6,280 for a Significance Assessment of the MV Cape Don Archive.*

The Sea Heritage Foundation Pty Ltd is a not-for-profit incorporated Charity which was founded to carry out the refurbishment and conservation of the historic lighthouse supply, and navigational aids maintenance Ship, the *MV Cape Don*, and to thereby preserve an important part of Australia's shipbuilding and maritime history.

Through this project, consultant Christine Yeats has produced an independent heritage Significance Assessment, which will allow greater recognition of the *MV Cape Don* Archive as nationally significant.

This report will assist with applying for future grants and funding, and has also provided the next steps to be undertaken to preserve the important artefacts and ephemera in the collection.

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### VIC - Ethnic Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria Ltd (3ZZZ) - CHG2023/034N

*The Ethnic Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria Ltd received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of the 3ZZZ Collection.*

Ethnic Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria Ltd (3ZZZ) has been operating since 1989, giving voice to ethnic communities broadcasting in their own languages on 92.3 FM and DAB+ in Melbourne, and 3zzz.com.au worldwide. 3ZZZ is Australia's largest multilingual community station represented by over 50 community groups, 60 languages, 120 programs, 500 volunteers, 3,000 members and 400,000 listeners. 3ZZZ is for community, by community and about community.

All 3ZZZ broadcasters are volunteers, elected by members of their community as trusted spokespeople. Their broadcasters provide a vital link to language, culture, news, information, and entertainment not available on any other media service.

In partnership with Jen Rose and Well Spoken Words, and through consultation with 3ZZZ volunteers, the project successfully undertook and completed a Significance Assessment.

Contact: Jane Gazzo, Manager  
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## Significance Assessments

### NSW - City of Canada Bay Council - CHG2023/037N

*The City of Canada Bay Council received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of Canada Bay Local Studies Collection.*

The City of Canada Bay is a suburban council, approximately 6 kilometres from the Sydney CBD. It is located between the southern bank of the Parramatta River and Parramatta Road. There is an estimated population of 91,385 living in 17 suburbs. Canada Bay was formed in 2000 from the former council areas of Drummoyne and Concord.

This project gave insights into the value of the Local Studies collection. The methodology employed was *Significance 2.0*, which is the industry standard for assessing the significance of cultural items and collections.

The assessment, performed by Iain Stuart, highlighted areas where the collection needs changes to better represent past and present communities. In particular, the report recommends more collecting in the area of Indigenous history and the Italian community of the Five Dock area. Whilst there are substantial holdings in these areas, they have not been consolidated and given a unique access point.

The comparative analysis in the report compares the Canada Bay Local Studies Collection to the nearby collections in Strathfield, Burwood, and Ryde. Whilst the Canada Bay collection is similar in scope to these collections, it is clearly much more accessible due to digitisation work.

Highly significant parts of the collection were identified, in particular the Janet Thicknesse collection, which is considered to be a rare collection for its insights into swimming culture. The interpretative value of the collection was also emphasised.

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### NSW - Royal Flying Doctor Service SE Section Broken Hill - CHG2023/062N

*The Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern Section Broken Hill received \$8,114 for a Significance Assessment of RFDS Broken Hill Collection.*

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), established in 1928, has a uniquely Australian story, which is an important chapter in the history of healthcare and communications in Australia. The RFDS (South Eastern Section) archive collection is significant and contains items that are of state, national and international importance. The Significance Assessment, undertaken by Dr Fiona Starr, provides RFDS with the opportunity to review its collection of historic, social, and scientific articles, which reinforce the enormous contribution the Flying Doctor Service has made to aviation, communication, medical care, and education in Australia. Today RFDS continues to deliver the finest care to the furthest corner within Australia.

Learning of techniques for storage, presentation, and preservation of artefacts, improved document storage, treatment, and filing. With subsequent relocation of all archive boxes to a new designated area for better preservation climate; a review of key archived documents for use in exhibition and content development; commencement of key digitisation; a renewed

## Significance Assessments

sense of urgency for staff allocation (via Grant application) to enable file review, deaccessioning, cataloguing, and collection management to industry standard and; evidence to lobby for increased resources to better manage the collection.

The Significance Assessment has also provided a list of recommendations and next steps for the safekeeping of RFDS' archives and artefacts and has assisted with networking within the local cultural heritage sector.

This Significance Assessment provides a guide on the extended path of seeking further funding, to engage dedicated staff to review the whole archive collection and record it, as well as guiding on collection management as new items come into the collection, continuing the preservation of RFDS rich national history and retaining connections to current services.

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### NSW - Adaminaby Snowy Scheme Collection Inc. - CHG2023/064N

*The Adaminaby Snowy Scheme Collection Inc. received \$6,260 for a Significance Assessment of the Adaminaby Snowy Scheme Museum Collection.*

The association of the Adaminaby Snowy Scheme Collection Inc. has developed and now manages the Snowy Scheme Museum in Adaminaby NSW. The Snowy Scheme Museum celebrates the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme, constructed between 1949 and 1974, when thousands of workers from all over Australia and Europe came together to create "one of the seven engineering wonders of the world". The Snowy Scheme is a testimony to the skills and endeavours of its workers as well as the birthplace of a uniquely multicultural Australia. The Museum's historically significant collection continues to grow and be admired by thousands of visitors annually.



The Snowy Scheme Museum was opened in 2011, and a Significance Assessment of the initial collection was undertaken at that time. The Snowy Scheme collection, which began in 2002, contains over 6,000 individual and grouped items, including large machinery, unique vehicles, laboratory and field equipment, artworks, badges and workwear, scientific instruments, domestic items, artworks and documentary heritage items including engineering drawings, maps and plans, reports and

manuals, audiotapes, and archival material. These items collectively represent the investigation, design, construction, and operation phases of the Snowy Scheme; the work of Snowy Mountains Authority staff and large and small contractors; and the domestic lives of workers and their families.

## Significance Assessments

The project has achieved the completion of a second Significance Assessment, (by Roslyn Russell) 13 years after the completion of the initial Significance Assessment, and has confirmed that the Snowy Scheme Museum is of national historical significance for its comprehensive coverage of the investigation, design, and construction of the nation-building Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme from 1949 - 1974.

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### VIC - Ballarat Mechanics' Institute - CHG2023/065N

*The Ballarat Mechanics' Institute received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of the Ballarat Mechanics Institute Collection.*

Established in 1859, and independently run, the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute is a prestigious heritage building with unique heritage collections and stories to match. Ballarat Mechanics' Institute (BMI), sitting proudly under the watchful eye of Minerva in central Ballarat, has welcomed a diverse group of people through its doors, from the founding fathers, to miners and others seeking knowledge through education. Following a magnificent restoration in 2013, the BMI continues its significant role in Ballarat's rich cultural heritage.

The project clarified the contents of the collection and its significance in the current climate. BMI now have a better understanding of the way forward in terms of programming, conservation, and leverage of this valuable resource. Building and collection storage conditions were also examined and many useful suggestions made. Further suggestions around potential networks within the cultural heritage sector and with other collecting groups and providers were also referenced and the connection with the assessor, Megan Cardamone, will be very useful.

The Ballarat Mechanics' Institute now has increased capacity to lobby for new resources through enhanced knowledge and accuracy around the collection. The challenge for the organisation currently, is to maximise exposure to the collection through programming, connecting relevant and interested organisations and individuals, and this assessment has provided a more complete understanding of the significance of the collection, to ensure lasting and effectual interest from Government and community alike.

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## Significance Assessments

### NSW - Forbes Historical Society - CHG2023/067N

*The Forbes Historical Society received \$6,670 for a Significance Assessment of the Paul and Hettie Wenz Collection.*

Forbes Historical Society's museum is run by volunteers in the country town of Forbes, NSW.

The project employed heritage consultant Suzanne Bravery to complete a Significance Assessment of the Paul and Hettie Wenz Collection of books, photographs, documents, and artefacts. Paul Wenz, was a prominent French Australian writer in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, who together with his wife, Hettie, owned and managed the Nanima Station in the Forbes district. The consultant confirmed that this Collection was strongly significant to local peoples and of some national and international significance to scholars and academics, to French-Australian communities, and to literary communities in both Australia and France. Forbes Shire Council (the owner of the Collection) and Forbes Historical Society can now use the report to seek further funding to interpret, conserve, and promote the Collection.



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### NSW - Goulburn Mulwaree Council - CHG2023/070N

*The Goulburn Mulwaree Council received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of the Rocky Hill War Memorial Museum Collection.*

Goulburn Mulwaree Council, formed in 2004, is an amalgamation of Goulburn City and parts of the former Mulwaree Shire. The area is a part of the Southern Tablelands, located between Sydney and Canberra with a population of over 30,000 people. The Council is responsible for the ongoing operation of community facilities and a number of museums and historic sites such as the Rocky Hill War Memorial Museum.

The successful completion of this project has built upon a previous Significance Assessment of part of the collection, to consider the remainder of the collection of more than 3,500 objects. The new comprehensive assessment of the entire collection now provides the Rocky Hill War Memorial Museum with a sound basis for future conservation priorities, informs digitisation projects, and the development of future interpretation, exhibitions, and public programming. This funding has enabled the Museum to raise the profile of the remainder of the collection by formally identifying the significance of the objects that they care for and identifying their links to the tangible and intangible stories of the men and women from Goulburn and surrounding districts who have served Australia in war.

## Significance Assessments

Museum consultant, Roslyn Russell was great to work with and the staff and volunteers developed an effective working relationship. Roslyn was impressed with the holding of the museum's collection and has been recommending people within her culture heritage networks to visit. The report she produced is of a very high standard and provides more knowledge of collection content to build community profile and visibility. The report will also assist museums staff to lobby for increased resources.

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### NSW - Assyrian Australian Association - CHG2023/080N

*The Assyrian Australian Association received \$5,658 for a Significance Assessment of the Ashurbanipal Library of the Assyrian Australian Association.*

Established in 1969, the Assyrian Australian Association (AAA) played an important role with Assyrian immigrants in the Fairfield area and played an integral role in helping the Assyrian community flourish. Community, culture, and education are at the core of their values, and reflected throughout their various initiatives: the Diglat language school, Fairfield Community Resource Centre, Echoes of Nineveh Radio program, the Nimrod Simono Scholarship, and the Ashurbanipal Library. The AAA's objectives are to strengthen the Assyrian community's identity, while at the same time assisting new Assyrian migrants to settle and integrate into Australian society.

This project supported a Significance Assessment and recommendations for the Ashurbanipal Library Collection, prepared by consultant Christine Yeats. The Significance Assessment was a valuable exercise. The consultant was able to provide an independent assessment of the collection and articulate why the collection was significant based on standard themes of significance. Recommendations by the consultant, Christine Yeats will help the association lobby for increased resources to further improve the collection management processes and increase the awareness of the collection among the Assyrian community, libraries, and archives.

This report highlighted areas of improvement within the collection and key recommendations to further enhance and preserve the collection. As part of the process, the AAA had the opportunity to increase knowledge and awareness of the ways in which the collection relates to themes of national significance, and to identify further items of particular value within the holdings.

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## Significance Assessments

### VIC - Ukrainian Museum of Australia - CHG2023/088N

*The Ukrainian Museum of Australia received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of the Ukrainian Museum of Australia.*

The Ukrainian Museum of Australia is the largest repository of Ukrainian related artefacts in Australia; with items ranging from the 16th century to the present. The collection comprises over 10,000 objects, including embroideries, costumes, woodwork, ceramics, paintings, pysanky, icons, religious artefacts, books, stamps, photographs, jewellery, leatherwork, klymys, musical instruments, historical photographs, and documents.

The grant enabled the Ukrainian Museum of Australia to carry out a Significance Assessment on their collection. This will help in lobbying for increased resources. The report, undertaken by Emma Russell, helped to collate the collection into a single document to present for future funding applications, and to articulate things of value within the collection. Overall, this was a worthwhile exercise.



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## Preservation Needs Assessments

### NSW - The Broken Hill Historical Society Inc. - CHG2023/098N

*The Broken Hill Historical Society Inc. received \$10,104 for The Next Big Step: Preservation Needs Assessment of the Broken Hill's Silverton Gaol and Synagogue Museum Collections.*

The Broken Hill Historical Society Inc. was formed in 1965 and is responsible for four museums and collections in the Broken Hill area. Their mission is to preserve the material history of the region, collect memorabilia with historical relevance, and interpret artefacts for display. Their museums include the Silverton Gaol, Silverton School, the Synagogue, and Mosque Museums. The collections illustrate unique aspects of the history of Broken Hill, Silverton and the surrounding district. They tell dynamic stories about the remote NSW towns, along with the communities they supported.

The assessment, undertaken by conservator Tegan Anthes, was undertaken with a view to making the included collections available for future generations to view and enjoy. The report highlighted areas of concern and many strategies and recommendations to overcome them.

The ongoing plan is to ensure that these forward actions are achievable and realistic, noting the limited capacity of the Society's volunteer base. The expected outcomes include clear and concise guidelines on the collection's preservation needs, increased understanding amongst volunteers about the collection's significance, and the importance of saving these items for future generations.

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### SA - National Railway Museum - CHG2023/005R

*The National Railway Museum received \$5,500 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the National Railway Museum.*

The National Railway Museum is a not-for-profit community museum that preserves and presents the history of railways in South Australia and Australia, more broadly, to the public.

The Preservation Needs Assessment, undertaken by ArtLab Australia, gave insight into areas of collection preservation that needed to improve and clearly indicated the areas in which the national Railway Museum was doing well. This gave the volunteers a sense of pride, and has provided an incentive to continue improving storage standards.



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## Preservation Needs Assessment

### VIC - Benalla Art Gallery - CHG2023/011R

*The Benalla Art Gallery received \$5,900 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Benalla Art Gallery Collection.*

Housed in an iconic modernist building and set among beautiful botanical gardens, the Benalla Art Gallery offers an unforgettable experience of art. Since its beginnings, the Benalla Art Gallery has become one of Australia's premier regional art galleries. The Gallery program is delivered across four main pillars of activity: Exhibitions, Engagement, Education, and Collection. The Gallery attracts in excess of 70,000 exhibition visitors each year. The Gallery presents an important art education program for students across North East Victoria. The Benalla Art Gallery Collection spans three centuries of Australian art, and is recognised as having artistic, historic, and community significance.

This project resulted in the development of a detailed Preservation Needs Assessment of the Benalla Art Gallery Collection, exhibition and storage areas. Benalla Art Gallery engaged Grimwade Conservation Services to lead the Preservation Needs Assessment, which was undertaken by Vanessa Kowalski through a process of desktop research in consultation with Benalla Art Gallery staff, and a two-day site inspection.

The completion of the Preservation Needs Assessment will provide the basis for a detailed Collection Management Plan, and therefore inform future preservation actions. The Gallery is currently working towards expanding exhibition and storage space (Stage 1 construction anticipated to commence shortly), and conducting a PNA during this planning phase will ensure that current storage and conservation limitations are rectified in development plans, and holistic and ongoing care of the Collection is consistent throughout this development.

Finally, the completion of a Preservation Needs Assessment is a valuable communication tool internally, through the Benalla Art Gallery Foundation, and for other possible funding streams to ensure the appropriate allocation of resources - including qualified Collections staff - to enable the protection of this vital cultural asset in perpetuity.

Contact: Eric Nash, Director, Benalla Art Gallery  
Phone: (03) 5760 2679  
Email: eric.nash@benalla.vic.gov.au

### QLD - Queensland Maritime Museum Association - CHG2023/012R

*The Queensland Maritime Museum Association received \$5,000 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of Queensland Maritime Museum's Artefacts and Artworks Storage Rooms.*

Since 1971, Queensland Maritime Museum Association (QMMA) has preserved and displayed its extensive historically significant maritime collection to the public at Queensland Maritime Museum (QMM) at South Bank Brisbane. It is open to the public Wednesdays-Sundays and has up to 10,000 intra-, interstate and international tourists visit annually. As one of Australia's largest maritime museums, the collection spans 3 centuries, comprises approximately 60,000 objects, including the largest lighthouse collection in Australia, and 60 vessels. QMMA also conducts maritime research, walking tours of South Brisbane, school and group tours and, hosts events, commemorative services and functions and offers venue hire for events.

## Preservation Needs Assessment

From October 2023 to February 2024, QMMA, in partnership with the University of Queensland (UQ), undertook a "rescue assessment/audit" of the Artefacts and Artworks Storerooms. Approximately 46 artefact spreadsheets were consolidated into one standardised Excel spreadsheet; a 'semi-permanent' registration number was put on each artefact in place of swing tags (that were often missing); individual hardcopy folders were created for each artefact; as well as a digital folder with images and documents and; records were sorted into chronological order in preparation for migrating data into a database.

QMMA volunteers and UQ students unboxed artefacts and disposed of acidic boxes and acidic paper. Duplicates and non-compliant artefacts were then subject to deaccessioning in compliance with the QMM Collection Management Plan.

The Artefacts and Artworks rooms were refurbished, fumigated, cleaned, and refitted with metal storage shelving, which replaced unsealed plywood and timber shelving. This has greatly improved access to the collections in these rooms and provided preventative care to reduce active deterioration from acid conditions.

Textiles Conservator, Louise McCullagh, PMAICCM, undertook the Preservation Needs Assessment of the Artefacts and Artworks Storage Rooms in February 2024.

Contact: Sally May, Director/Curator  
Phone: (07) 3844 5361  
Email: [info@maritimemuseum.com.au](mailto:info@maritimemuseum.com.au)



## Preservation Needs Assessment

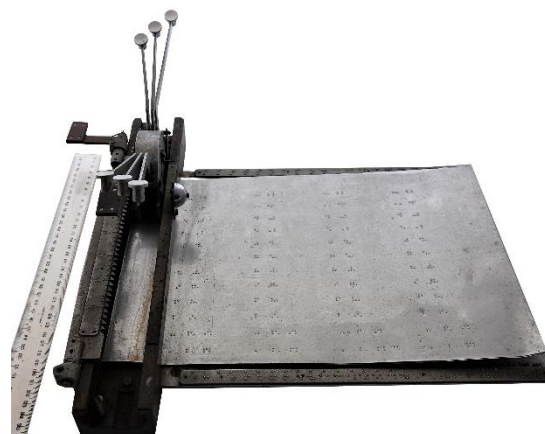
### QLD - Queensland Braille Writing Association (known as Braille House) - CHG2023/022R

*The Queensland Braille Writing Association (known as Braille House) received \$5,500 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Queensland Braille Writing Association (Braille House) Collection.*

Braille House is a free lending library and transcribing organisation that transforms text materials into alternate tactile formats, including braille, ebraille, maps and other accessible formats such as large print. Since 1897, Braille House has focused on providing access to braille for everyone, to empower people of all ages who are blind or have low vision, through literacy. For 127 years, Braille House has been producing and providing high quality transcription and braille production.

The Preservation Needs Assessment was undertaken by conservator, Christine Ianna. Project achievements and outcomes are unfolding, and already, or are likely to include:

- a comprehensive statement to assist with collection preservation management and future funding applications;
- affirmation that the newly appointed Librarian (with qualifications and interest in library management and archiving) will complement the Preservation Needs Assessment Report;
- recommendations for short, medium, and longer term actions to preserve the collection;
- ideas for housing, storing and displaying the collection;
- training and development ideas for staff and volunteers;
- affirmation that the new Library Management System, currently being installed, will provide the appropriate platform for future development of a database of collection items, as well as object files;
- planning for a process to improve tracking of the collection, the development and endorsement of necessary Policies and Procedures, a conservation management plan, as relevant to current and future facilities;
- increased potential to attract researchers and loans to other organisations;
- greater awareness and recognition of vision impaired people, and their empowerment through literacy and the need to preserve significant items that tell this story.



Contact: Margo Carwardine, Executive Assistant and Special Projects Coordinator  
Phone: 0418 740 164  
Email: [margo@qbwa.org.au](mailto:margo@qbwa.org.au)

## Preservation Needs Assessment

### QLD - Hinkler Hall of Aviation - Bundaberg Regional Council - CHG2023/039R

*The Hinkler Hall of Aviation - Bundaberg Regional Council received \$6,900 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Hinkler Hall of Aviation Memorabilia Trust Collection.*

The Hinkler Hall of Aviation (HHA) has collections and artefacts showcasing Bert Hinkler's life and achievements in the field of pioneering aviation. The Hinkler Hall of Aviation is a museum dedicated to pioneer solo aviator Bert Hinkler and is unique with presentations, both interactive and static, celebrating his solo long distant world record-breaking flights which gained him worldwide recognition. Visitation also includes viewing Bert Hinkler's home, "Mon Repos", which was built in 1925 in Southampton, England and then relocated brick by brick to the Bundaberg Botanic Gardens between 1983 and 1984.



This project enabled Hinkler Hall of Aviation to engage the services of conservator Christine Ianna. Whilst Christine was familiar with the collection at HHA, it allowed her the time to re-visit the collection and identify areas in need of additional care and attention. The key recommendations from the PNA report re-iterated those from the Significance Assessment in 2023 and related to preservation and collection management for short, medium and long term goals. It is wonderful to have formed a close network with experts in this field and to be able to draw from their knowledge. HHA has built strong connections with the cultural sector and like minded people in the GLAM sector. Inviting Christine into the HHA workplace has generated a sense of pride amongst the staff and volunteers and raised awareness of the importance of preserving and caring for the collection.

Contact: Kym-Maree Murphy  
Phone: 0419 215 721  
Email: [kym-maree.murphy@bundaberg.qld.gov.au](mailto:kym-maree.murphy@bundaberg.qld.gov.au)

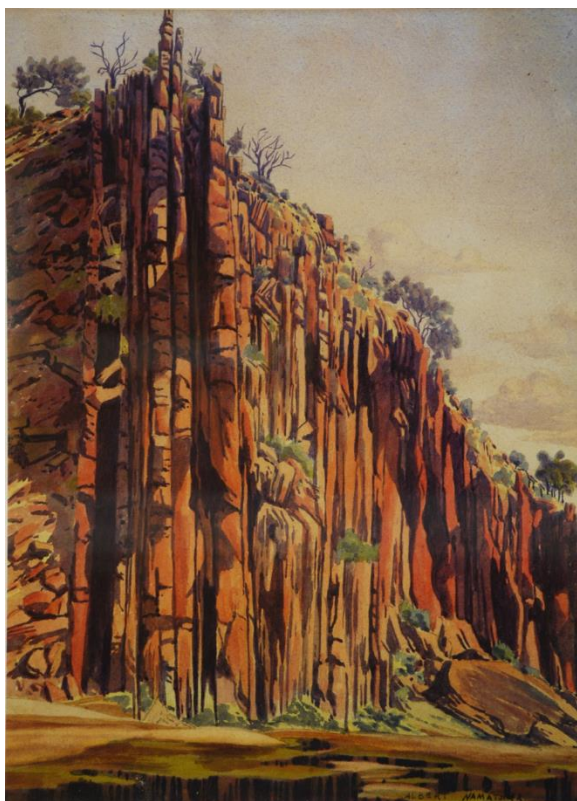
## Preservation Needs Assessment

### NT - Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation - CHG2023/046R

*The Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation received \$8,189 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Ngurratjuta Art Collection.*

Originally incorporated to receive and distribute royalties to communities affected by the Mereenie and Palm Valley oil and gas pipelines, Ngurratjuta has, over the past nearly 40 years, acquired, developed and divested businesses and properties. Through investments, and service delivery under contracts, Ngurratjuta reinvests into community development.

Ngurratjuta has, and continues to, invest in a significant portfolio of art by Indigenous Central Australian Artists, ensuring these artworks are returned to, or stay, in Central Australia, and remain accessible and safeguarded for generations to come.



Ngurratjuta engaged Artlab Australia to undertake a Preservation Needs Assessment (PNA). This assessment focussed on the storage and environment in which the Ngurratjuta collection is housed, with the outcome being a list of prioritised recommendations as to how Ngurratjuta can ensure the works are maintained and preserved. The PNA highlighted key areas for improvement in physical treatment, storage and environmental considerations, as well as policies and procedures to help implement appropriate safeguards.

The PNA identified some key artworks in need of intervention to help control deterioration and repair damage, with recommendations for priority work to be undertaken to the works.

Finally, the PNA outlined training recommendations to help upskill Ngurratjuta's curator to enable Ngurratjuta to take proactive steps to preservation and conservation of the whole collection in future.

Contact: Amy Driver, General Manager, Corporate  
Phone: (08) 8951 1911  
Email: amy.driver@ngur.com.au

### TAS - Woolmers Foundation Inc. - CHG2023/050N

*The Woolmers Foundation Inc. received \$5,928 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of Woolmers Estate Convict and Colonial Collections.*

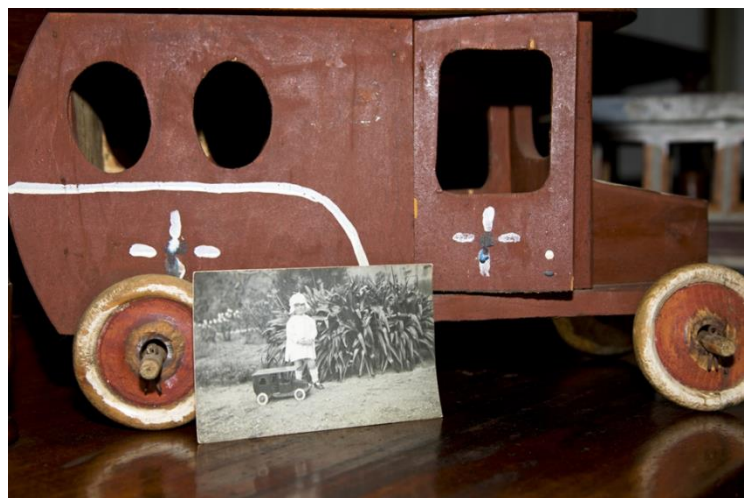
Woolmers Estate is an historical property situated south of Longford, Northern Tasmania. It is one of eleven Australian convict sites awarded World Heritage status by UNESCO in 2010. The property was founded in 1817 and owned by six successive generations of

## Preservation Needs Assessment

Thomas Archers. Upon the death of the last Thomas Archer, who died without heirs, the property and contents were bequeathed to the non-profit organisation, Woolmers Foundation Inc. It has been open to the public since 1996. In addition, the National Rose Garden, a modern creation, was established in 2000 and situated on the site of the original apple orchard.

The Preservation Needs Assessment report, prepared by Applied Conservation Science Pty Ltd, has been used to inform an update to the Collections Policy and an application for assistance from the Tasmanian Roving Curators, and has resulted in a greater knowledge and commitment among staff and volunteers to improve collection management practices. The conservators identified boxes of live ammunition dating to the Boer War, an immediate fire and legal compliance risk that has been addressed.

The report estimates that ‘around 50% of the objects are unlikely to be viable assets within 20 years at the current rate of deterioration’ and that the ‘absence of resource, at a basic level, was concerning given the status of the site and responsibilities it has under international treaties.’ These findings will increase Woolmers Estate’s capacity to lobby for increased resources from both the Tasmanian and Australian Governments.



The report will be used to apply for specific funding for different aspects of collections management and conservation from various groups, including future Community Heritage Grants, Copland Foundation Grants, Australian Heritage Grants or other Commonwealth funding. This project also increased Woolmers’ networks within the cultural heritage sector, establishing a relationship with two local conservators, and a collections manager, which may be leveraged in the future.

Contact: Wendy Mitchell, CEO  
Phone: 0408 281 056  
Email: [wendy.mitchell@woolmers.com.au](mailto:wendy.mitchell@woolmers.com.au)

## Preservation Needs Assessment

### ACT - The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. - CHG2023/052R

*The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc received \$5,500 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Father Brian Maher Collection.*

The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc is a voluntary organisation that provides resources and support for people researching their family history. Their Library holds several manuscript collections that are of significance to the heritage of the ACT and the Limestone plains.

The Preservation Needs Assessment, undertaken by Kim Morris, was a valuable exercise for the organisation. The evaluation of the preservation status of the collections and their environment has improved knowledge of how best to preserve the collection in the long, short and medium term. The report will provide useful information to lobby for increased resources towards conserving the collection, and connections into the preservation/conservation community.



Contact: Cheryl Bollard, Treasurer  
Phone: 0407 008 626  
Email: treasurer@familyhistoryact.org.au

### VIC - Castlemaine Art Museum - CHG2023/054R

*The Castlemaine Art Museum received \$5,500 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Art Collection.*

Located on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, Castlemaine Art Museum (CAM) is a leading regional institution in the sphere of bold curation, bringing art and objects from the past and present into multi-layered conversations, creating a dynamic, inclusive platform for First Nations and contemporary voices, community connections, reflections, and ideas.

Founded in 1913 through community subscription and located within a heritage-listed art deco building since 1931, CAM houses a nationally significant and unique collection of Australian artworks, including important First Nations cultural material from across Australia, and a collection of historical artefacts reflecting the early history of the region.

Vanessa Kowalski (Grimwade Conservation Services) completed a Preservation Needs Assessment (PNA) of CAM's Art Collection. The PNA evaluated the art collection, the

## Preservation Needs Assessment

exhibition and storage areas of CAM, and the suitability of the current facilities and processes to meet the preservation needs of the collection and the delivery of programs.

The assessment was informed by direct inspection at CAM, in conjunction with internal and external reports provided by Management, relating to the collection, exhibition and storage environments, building and climate conditions, and policies and procedures. It was further supported by consultation with CAM staff and volunteers, including the Honorary Conservator and Honorary Curator, who hold specified knowledge on discrete aspects of the collection.

The PNA concluded that the collection is in good condition overall. It noted that in order to provide the most effective means of ongoing preservation, a large-scale rehousing project is required for paintings and framed works on paper. Due to the heritage of the building, the PNA identified most exhibition and storage spaces do not meet the environmental standards for storage of heritage material, along with risks posed by pests, dust, and lack of insurance.

The PNA will guide future conservation and storage activities with short-term, medium-term, and long-term recommendations and ongoing tasks provided.

Contact: Sarina Meuleman, General Manager, Castlemaine Art Museum  
Phone: (03) 5472 2292  
Email: sarina.meuleman@castlemaineartmuseum.org.au

## NSW - Society of Australian Genealogists - CHG2023/059R

*The Society of Australian Genealogists received \$5,500 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Society of Australian Genealogists Archives.*

The Society of Australian Genealogists was formed in 1932 and is the oldest family history society in Australia and has around 4,000 members throughout the world. Among many activities, the Society of Australian Genealogists manages library and archive collections and runs an extensive program of lectures, workshops, tours, and group meetings relating to genealogy and family history which are open to everyone. Their principal object is the advancement of genealogical education, and this is reflected in both their education program and collections.

Tegan Anthes undertook the Preservation Needs Assessment, and she was thorough, exact, professional, and thoughtful as she conducted the assessment. Tegan visited the collection storage site multiple times, and was incredibly helpful when one of her visits coincided with a flooding incident on site.

The resulting PNA report Tegan produced provides an extremely clear and detailed outline of the building and collection storage conditions, and lays out an achievable plan to manage the future conservation of materials. Of particular use is the prioritised conservation tasks, which will be used for immediate preservation actions.

Contact: Alexandra Mountain, Archives Manager  
Phone: 0476 663 209  
Email: archives@sag.org.au



# Preservation Needs Assessment

## SA - Flinders University Palaeontology Research Group - CHG2023/061R

*The Flinders University Palaeontology Research Group received \$6,700 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Flinders University Palaeontology Collection.*

Flinders Palaeontology is Australia's largest centre for palaeontological research. Flinders University offers the only named degree in Palaeontology in the country, and is committed to promoting palaeontology, encouraging scientific collaboration, and engaging the public with their research and collections through the Flinders University Palaeontology Society, the James Moore Memorial Prize, lectures, displays, events, and outreach in South Australia and interstate. They also have one of the highest media profiles of any group based at Flinders University.

Erina McCann, from Tiaki Objects Conservation, completed a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Flinders University Vertebrate Collection (FUVC). The PNA has increased understanding of the condition of objects held in the collections, what needs to be done to ensure their preservation into the future, and how to achieve this.



In addition, the PNA report outlines recommendations for collection management systems and policies, collection storage, disaster preparedness, hazardous substances, creation of an interpretation policy and exhibition/education plan, training and upskilling of collection personnel and users, and digitisation of the collection. The PNA also contains a comprehensive assessment and condition report for a sample of over 100 individual objects, and recommendations for their conservation and storage. This provides a basis upon which to assess all collection objects and determine what needs to be done to preserve them into the future.

## Preservation Needs Assessment

The PNA will be invaluable in supporting the capacity to lobby for resources necessary to implement the recommendations outlined within.

Contact: Gavin Prideaux, Director, Flinders University Vertebrate Collection

Phone: (08) 8201 2305

Email: gavin.prideaux@flinders.edu.au

### **VIC - Lions Club of Lake Boga T/A The Flying Boat Museum - CHG2023/068N**

*The Lions Club of Lake Boga T/A The Flying Boat Museum received \$4,524 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Flying Boat Museum Collection.*

The Lake Boga Lions Club restored a Catalina in the 1980s, to commemorate World War II service men and women that served at the No 1 Flying Boat Repair Depot. The Flying Boat Museum is situated on the site of the No 1 Flying Boat Repair Depot which operated from 1942 - 1947. Today, The Flying Boat Museum is home to the Catalina A24-30 which is the centrepiece of the collection, it also houses an original Communication Bunker set up in a similar way to operation during WWII, the museum collection now consists of over one thousand artefacts.

The project enabled The Lake Boga Lions Club Flying Boat Museum the opportunity to engage expert conservators, Andrew and Victoria Pearce, from Endangered Heritage Pty Ltd, to complete an assessment and provide a report, with recommendations for the preservation of the collection. Andrew and Victoria identified a multitude of building, storage, preservation, high and medium risk factors, knowledge and training issues, cultural heritage gaps, areas of increasing community relationships, and potential areas of development.

The Committee of Management are methodically working through the recommendations of the report and are committed to implementing the changes and procedures, and investing in the preservation of the collection to protect the Catalina and artefacts for the community today and future generations.

The project enables The Lake Boga Lions Club Flying Boat Museum to be able to lobby for increased resources, and have already made progress, as the Swan Hill Council has applied for funding for repairs and restoration works for the Communication Bunker.

The project has illuminated a large number of very concerning issues with our collection, this has prompted immediate changes within the management of our Flying Boat Museum collection. The Committee of Management are committed to continue working through all recommendations as soon as practical.

## Preservation Needs Assessment



Contact: Markeeta Blair, Museum Manager  
Phone: 0484 750 252  
Email: [manager@flyingboat.org.au](mailto:manager@flyingboat.org.au)

## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

### NSW - Braidwood & District Historical Society - CHG2023/049R

*The Braidwood & District Historical Society received \$13,448 for a Collection Conservation Project.*

The Braidwood & District Historical Society encourages research and enjoyment of their collection. They produce a quarterly Newsletter, organise specialised exhibitions, historical tours around the district, give historical talks to schools and organisations, and hold Annual Dinners. They are about to commence building a Heritage Centre, to extend the museum, which will contain workshop spaces for various old craft skills, increased display space for the collection, a coffee shop, accommodation, and a large community space, which could also be used for events, which is currently lacking in Braidwood. Staffing this building will give extra employment opportunities to the local community.

The conservation work done on designated objects within the collection gives the community assurance that their precious donated objects are greatly valued and cared for within the museum. The re-installation of the objects has educated the volunteers on how to properly and appropriately display objects. The local newspaper will run an article on the work that has been accomplished and invite residents to see the improvements. The completion of this project will allow the Braidwood & District Historical Society to apply for further funding for vital restorative work to other endangered parts of their collection. The conservation work done also allows objects to be lent to other museums for particular displays.

The conservators from Art & Archival were efficient, communicative, and very easy to work with. The report issued was most informative, and on time.

Contact: Annette Briggs, Secretary  
Phone: 0412 767 862  
Email: pabriggs999@gmail.com

### ACT - Fire Brigade Historical Society of the ACT - CHG2023/055R

*The Fire Brigade Historical Society of the ACT received \$2,080 for a Collection Management Software Subscription.*

The Fire Brigade Historical Society of the ACT was established in 1978. The entirely volunteer-run Society operates the Canberra Fire Museum within the old Forrest Fire Station. The Society's collection of more than 15,000 objects includes items significant to the history of Australian firefighting, and fire engines that served Canberra in every decade since 1913. The heritage collection and building, having served with its firefighters as the capital grew, is an important presence in their lives, future aspirations, and the continuing ethos of ACT Fire & Rescue.

The Collection Management System was purchased in February 2024 – a five-year silver subscription to eHive. The two new laptop computers purchased by the Society using donations has supported data entry over the last 6 months, allowing the speed and efficiency of data entry to increase. Volunteers have relied on the *Small Museums Cataloguing* guide as well as the eHive help material, and their own knowledge to prepare for a bulk upload of data. Test imports and field mapping are complete, including decision-making surrounding

## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

fields that will be made available to the public for viewing. The preservation and cataloguing of all textiles has been completed, which is a huge milestone for the Society. Importantly, the provenance of more than 400 uniforms has been recorded, the significance of the uniforms noted, their condition recorded, and conservation treatment tracked.

Once bulk upload is completed, eHive will be transformative for the Society in two ways: the ability to share the collection online will allow the highly engaged and knowledgeable, but dispersed, community of retired ACT firefighters to contribute new knowledge to the collection, and increasing the Fire Brigade Historical Society's capacity to engage early career museum-trained volunteers in ongoing collection management projects.

Contact: Penelope Grist, Secretary  
Phone: 0412 599 488  
Email: penelope.grist@gmail.com

### ACT - Australian Academy Of Science - CHG2023/004R

*The Australian Academy Of Science received \$9,245 for a Fenner Archives Digitisation, Preservation and Access Project.*

The Australian Academy of Science provides independent scientific advice, promotes international engagement, builds public awareness of science, and supports excellence in Australian Science. The Academy is a not-for-profit organisation of individuals elected to Fellowship for their outstanding contributions to science.



The Academy is home to the Basser Library and Fenner Archives, whose objective is to collect material documenting the history of science in Australia and to promote related research. The Academy Library and Archive are located in the Shine Dome. The archive is comprised of 230 collections donated by numerous Academy Fellows, other prominent scientists, scientific organisations and learned societies.

The Joseph Lade Pawsey, Mt Stromlo Observatory, and Walter Geoffrey Duffield collections have been fully digitised and are available to the public via Trove. This has improved public access to these manuscript collections, as well as providing a preservation copy of the documents.

This project has enabled the Australian Academy of Science to further collaborate with the National Library and Trove. It has strengthened network connections between both institutions with staff members having regular correspondence and contact during this project.

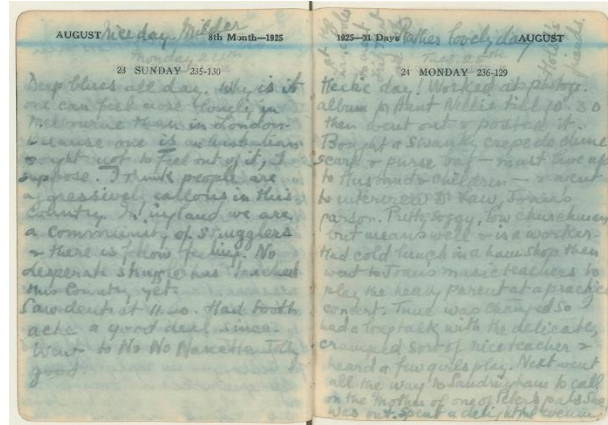
Another important outcome is public access has been improved. The content is available both on Trove, and through the Academy website. This means that online access to the Fenner Archives has been increased, and its reach to new audiences further improved as a

# Collection Management and Conservation Activities

Trove partner. The related Academy articles will also help spotlight the archival material and increase understanding of its content.

Funding for conservation materials has also provided the capacity to further improve document storage conditions in both the library and storage area. The materials will enable the Fenner Archives to continue to address recommendations made by the 2022 PNA.

Contact: Bethany Holland, Archivist  
Phone: 0431 184 910  
Email: bethany.holland@science.org.au

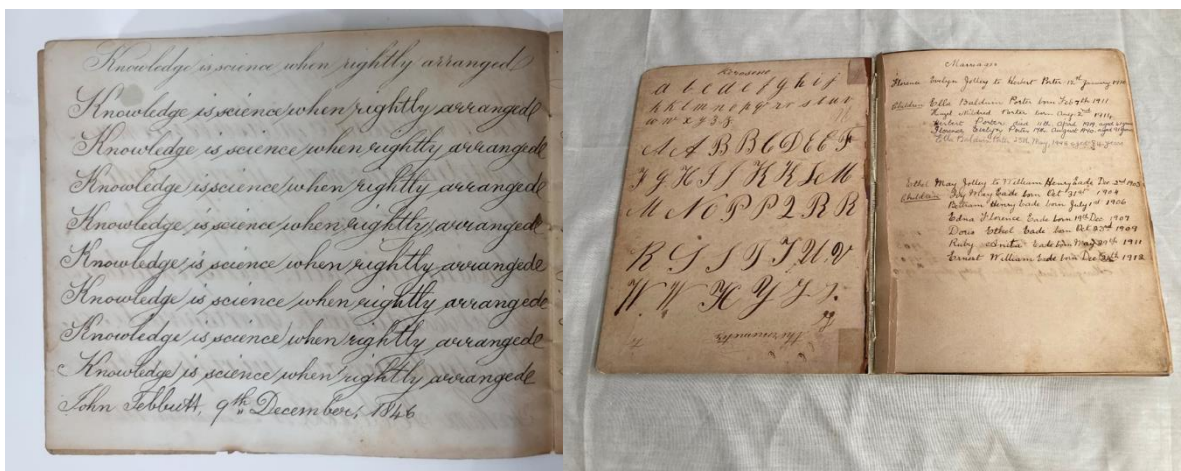


## NSW - National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) - CHG2023/007R

The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) received \$18,182 for Miss Porter's House Conservation and Collection Management Activities.

The National Trust of Australia NSW is the oldest and largest conservation organisation in Australia. Founded in 1945 by Annie Forsyth Wyatt, the Trust has over 22,000 members, 2,000 volunteers and is the custodian of over 30 properties. Miss Porter's House is a free standing Edwardian terrace, lived in by the Porter family from the time of the house's construction in 1909 until it was bequeathed to the Trust on the death of Hazel Porter in 1997. It is one of the National Trust's regional properties and is the only Trust property in Newcastle.

Thirteen volunteers attended a one day workshop on disaster planning and response conducted by conservator Tegan Anthes. This included theoretical discussions and hands on activities.



As a result: relevant documentation about disaster recovery and response has been reviewed; updates for all volunteers as part of ongoing training and support have been scheduled; a conservator has been paid to conserve an antique armchair, celluloid cards, photographs, baskets and a number of documents including scrapbooks and drawing books; storage and conservation items have been purchased to provide ongoing and suitable

## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

conditions for vulnerable parts of the collection, and; replicas have been made of documents, including note books and school workbooks. This will enable the originals to be preserved and stored while the replicas can be on display. The conservation of documents is particularly important as the collection is listed on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register for Documentary Heritage.

Contact: Nick Corbett, General Manager Properties

Phone: (02) 9258 0123

Email: ncorbett@nationaltrust.com.au

### QLD - Outback Gondwana Foundation Limited - CHG2023/013R

*The Outback Gondwana Foundation Limited received \$18,040 for an Upgrade of the Collection Management System for the Eromanga Natural History Museum.*

The Eromanga Natural History Museum is home to one of Australia's most diverse geoscience and natural history collections. This includes the remains of Australia's largest dinosaur, *Australotitan cooperensis*, more commonly known as Cooper. The museum collects, curates and preserves many rare and intrinsic collection items from the upper Lake Eyre and Cooper Basins. Their mission is to provide opportunities for education and collection access to all members of regional communities and the general public.

The project was delivered in line with the project milestones, and the Collection Management System, Emu was installed in December. Staff and volunteers have now been using the system for three months and cataloguing specimens accordingly.



Contact: Corey Richards, General Manager Operations

Phone: 0439 870 008

Email: Corey.richards@enhm.com.au

### VIC - Trafalgar Holden Museum - CHG2023/014R

*The Trafalgar Holden Museum received \$17,045 for Environmental Conditions Enhancements.*

Trafalgar Holden Museum is a community-based museum run solely by volunteers. Its purpose is to tell the whole story of the Holden name, from its commencement in 1859 until the 2019 closure of the manufacturing business of the iconic GMH motor car. The collection reflects the museum's purpose with collection objects ranging from the 1850s to the present time.

## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

The museum's Preservation Needs Assessment identified, amongst other things, the need to reduce the amount of natural light and dust entering the building through external windows. The project resulted in the covering of 17 large windows, which will significantly enhance the conservation of almost the entirety of the museum's collection on display by: reducing dust coming into building; reducing environmental fluctuations; sealing the building envelope and; reducing the amount of natural light entering the building.

From an aesthetic perspective, it is proposed to cover the front of the building with a mural depicting the history of the Holden brand.



Contact: Mick Bourke, Grants Manager  
Phone: 0409 512 672  
Email: [mjbourke@dcsi.net.au](mailto:mjbourke@dcsi.net.au)

### VIC - City of Boroondara - CHG2023/016R

*The City of Boroondara received \$3,140 for Enhanced storage of the Town Hall Gallery Collection store rooms and Conservation Treatment of Collection items.*

The City of Boroondara (Melbourne, VIC) was formed in 1994 from the amalgamation of the Cities of Kew, Camberwell and Hawthorn. The Hawthorn Town Hall (redeveloped in 1994



and renamed Hawthorn Arts Centre) has been home to the Town Hall Gallery since 2003. Combining artworks, historical, and civic memorabilia from Kew, Hawthorn and Camberwell, the Town Hall Gallery Collection aims to nurture a sense of community and shared history, and enhance public spaces and community wellbeing.

The 2023 Community Heritage Grants Application sought funding to purchase new shelving units for the Town Hall Gallery Collection "Stables" storeroom to improve storage conditions for items directly on the floor, as recommended in the Preservation Needs Assessment 2021. Commando Storage Solutions recommended longspan shelving units that are both wide and long, to accommodate all unprotected, oversized objects stored on the floor, including maps, plaques and furniture. These shelving units were installed and the



## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

collection items have been relocated from the floor to the shelving units. This has improved building and collection storage conditions, as well as the preservation and access to collection material. The contractor Commando Storage Systems was great to work with and delivered exactly what was agreed upon.

Contact: Jackie Gatt, Senior Coordinator Community and Cultural Programming  
Phone: (03) 9278 4770  
Email: jackie.gatt@boroondara.vic.gov.au



### SA - Lutheran Archives - CHG2023/019R

*The Lutheran Archives received \$18,182 for Digitisation of Parish, Congregation and Mission Registers.*

Lutheran Archives is the repository for the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ). The archive holds records produced or used by departments, agencies, state districts, congregations, and people within the church. Formats include manuscripts, AV, photographs, artefacts, and published works. Material ranges from prior to Lutheran migration in 1838 to now, and covers a wide geographic area - New Zealand, India, New Guinea, America, Germany, and Prussia: places where the church has ministered or drawn its pastorate. The Lutheran Archives is open to the public, who can access the collection onsite or remotely via digital means.

There have been multiple significant outcomes from this project:

- an audit and accurate listing of holdings of registers in the collection (including the discovery of registers that had not previously been listed).
- digitisation, which has ensured the preservation of the original registers: eg some original registers were being used by researchers as the only access copy; all digitised registers have been rehoused into acid-free archival enclosures and stored away from the main part of the collection as not required for regular access.
- the creation of accurate access copies, both physical print copies and digital copies, with standardised naming conventions that accurately reflect the congregation or parish that created the records. Digital copies and indexes, will be provided to the creating bodies once the entire process, has been completed. The discovery of content not previously indexed; with a team of five volunteers now indexing these records. And the increased ability to provide digital content to researchers.

While not all registers in the collection could be digitised within the grant funding, Lutheran Archives were able to absorb the digitisation of the remainder into normal operating procedures.

Contact: Rachel Kuchel, Director and Archivist  
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Email: rachel.kuchel@lca.org.au

## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

### NSW - Blacktown City Council - CHG2023/026R

*The Blacktown City Council received \$18,132 for Garage Graphix Collection Management and Conservation activities.*

Blacktown City Council is the largest Local Government in NSW with 420,000 people and 54 suburbs. Blacktown Arts is a division of Blacktown City Council.

Blacktown City Council holds Dharug and First Nations Elders, artists, and communities at the heart of everything they do, and are committed to exploring innovative, culturally-diverse work that reflects Blacktown and Western Sydney. They support artistic innovation, and provide curated creative experiences across First Nations programs, visual arts, performance, festivals and events, residencies, and more. They manage and present Blacktown City's art collections, present dynamic public art across the region, and lead cultural strategy for Blacktown City.

Throughout the duration of the project Blacktown City Council was able to complete and achieve many outcomes, including;

- thorough pest treatment conducted prior to relocation;
- expert assessment, by Tegan Anthes, of collection conditions and the implementation of a detailed cataloguing and rehousing process;
- the implementation of best practices in collection care through professional training and advice;
- training workshops which have equipped staff with essential skills and expertise in handling, cleaning, storage, cataloguing and documenting archival materials;
- storage and preservation of the collection in appropriate conditions and; significantly enhanced physical and online access to the archives.

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Email: paul.howard@blacktown.nsw.gov.au

### VIC - Emerald and District Museum, Cardinia Shire Council - CHG2023/030N

*The Emerald and District Museum, Cardinia Shire Council received \$7,087 for Digitisation of the Nobelius Ledgers and Catalogues.*

The Emerald Museum was first established as a formal collecting entity in 1969. The Museum showcases the history of the former Gembrook/C.A. Nobelius & Sons Nursery, as well as Emerald and surrounding districts. The Museum and Nobelius Heritage Park are Council-owned and maintained, administered by a volunteer Community Asset Committee under Deed of Delegation from Cardinia Shire Council. This Committee has primary authority over collection management, administering a Council-allocated budget, and overseeing a volunteer workforce. In conjunction with the Committee, a part-time Museum Officer is employed by Cardinia Shire Council to lend professional expertise and develop current management practices.

The Digitisation Project enabled 27 historic ledgers and catalogues from the late 1800s through to the mid-Twentieth Century to be preserved with high quality photographic scans. The ledgers and catalogues cover records of items for sale and sales records for the Gembrook Nurseries, which was, during this period, the biggest commercial nursery in the

## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

Southern Hemisphere. Many of the items are handwritten, bulky and fragile, so the project will enable research into these items to occur in the future without the damage that may be occasioned by even the most careful handling. The scans will be made available to potential researchers through the Trove website when records are created in Victorian Collections to facilitate this. It is hoped that these initiatives will increase knowledge of the unique and significant items held in the collection. Undertaking the project has also enabled the volunteer team at the Museum to develop their knowledge of handling and preservation-focused packaging of delicate paper-based items.

Contact: Pauline Murphy, President  
Phone: 0427 678 244  
Email: enquiries@emeraldmuseum.org.au

### NSW - Australian Jewish Historical Society - CHG2023/034R

*The Australian Jewish Historical Society received \$8,865 for the Digitisation of Audio Reels and Audio Cassettes.*

The Australian Jewish Historical Society was established in 1938 in response to the realisation that, twenty years after the end of World War I, there was a declining awareness of Australian Jewish History, in general, and the roles of preeminent Australian Jews such as Sir John Monash.

This project saw the digitisation of 223 3mm x 366mm 7" reel (178mm) audio cassettes from a radio programme run by Australian Union of Jewish Students in the 1980s called "You Don't Have to be Jewish". Each programme centred on a topic relating to Australian Jewry such as the history and current features of the Australian Jewish Community; as well as interviews with prominent figures in the community etc. thus ensuring the preservation of a primary and original series of records.

It also resulted in the digitisation of 74 audio reels from the Sydney Jewish Museum Institutional Archives, comprising lectures, speeches, interviews of international and national guests, prominent figures in politics, media and communities, and introductions to events, seminars, and discussions on various topics. Original recordings that provide important insights into the Museum's activities and functions, now preserved through digitisation.

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### ACT - Manning Clark House Incorporated - CHG2023/035R

*The Manning Clark House Incorporated received \$13,780 for Preservation of Art and Paper-based works at Manning Clark House.*

Manning Clark House Incorporated (MCHI) is a not-for-profit organisation established by Manning Clark's widow, Dymphna, in 1997, with the objective of maintaining their heritage-listed and architectural award-winning house as a cultural centre. The house has become renowned as hosting programs of events devoted to the exploration of ideas, research and debate about contemporary issues. It also runs regular public tours of the house and

## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

grounds, offers school programs, and participates as a venue for workshops, talks and exhibitions associated with festivals such as the Heritage Festival and 'Canberra Modern'.

This project has conserved and protected one of the most distinctive items in the collection of art works, and prominently featured in the house: a painting by John Perceval (1923-2000), acquired by Manning and Dynmpha Clark in 1965. It has also enabled the conservation and copying of a number of fragile paper-based items that are integral to the home's heritage value. These items include photographs, postcards, posters, and cartoons which reflect both family history and Manning Clark's networks and prominence. The treatment of both the painting and these paper-based objects has enabled the house to continue to function as a public resource, without risking damage to, or further deterioration of, some of its most characteristic, revealing, and engaging elements. The copying of the paper-based objects, including in digitised form, will enable them to be more accessible to a public beyond visitors to the house, and assist the MCHI in promoting the historic and heritage value of the house.

Contact: Nicholas Brown, Chair, MCHI Heritage Subcommittee  
Phone: 0403 177 476  
Email: nicholas.brown@anu.edu.au

### QLD - Cherbourg Historical Cultural Community Precinct - CHG2023/038N

*The Cherbourg Historical Cultural Community Precinct received \$14,086 for Broadening Access to the Ration Shed Collection, Rehousing and Recording.*

The Ration Shed Museum is a not-for-profit Museum, Keeping Place and Art Centre, led by The Cherbourg Historical, Cultural and Community Precinct Group. It is governed by a Board of Cherbourg community members and its aim is to tell the story of Cherbourg to visitors and the world at large. The organisation seeks to create local employment and economic benefits to the community. All profits are re-invested in the growth of the Ration Shed Museum and future projects. After 20 years in operation the Ration Shed Museum is a Keeping Place to house objects, recall stories and be a healing place for community.



The project achieved three planned objectives: creating an additional storage space within the building by repurposing a storage /cleaning space, by lining and adding shelving; enabling large objects to be moved from the current archive room to the additional space. The new space will allow some objects that have been on display for 6 years to be safely housed making way for new displays and; the installation of a Collection Management System and training for 4 staff members.

The project enabled the Ration Shed Museum to conduct an assessment of objects in their archive collection, then prioritise and rehouse at risk objects by improving collection storage. A safe storage area was created in an existing area within the Boys' Dorm building. This refurbishment provided space to rehouse larger objects and space to work in the archive room. A storage system was also purchased for this space,

## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

which previously had none. Purchasing archival storage boxes and albums and the implementation of a Mosaic Collection Management System enabled the Ration Shed Museum to begin recording the many photographs and negatives in their collection.

A fourth incredible achievement emerged in that the museum now has the opportunity to curate and exhibit the objects and artefacts we had rehoused and discovered.

Contact: Ration Shed Museum, Manager  
Phone: 0491 149 555  
Email: nicola@rationshed.com.au

### ACT - Australian National Museum of Education - CHG2023/038R

*The Australian National Museum of Education received \$6,840 for Digitisation of the Australian National Museum of Education Ephemera Collection.*

The Australian National Museum of Education's (ANME) mission is to promote an historical understanding of Australian education through the development of their collection, support for research, and collaboration with our network of school museums. The ANME is an integral part of the University of Canberra (UC), sponsored by the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Arts and Design. The ANME provides an onsite repository for research for pre-service and practising teachers and training for students of heritage, conservation and museology. The onsite repository at the University of Canberra holds a collection of historic text books, journals, manuscripts, photographs, artefacts, and ephemera.

The ANME, through the University's Collections Committee, engaged a trained officer to scan 200 ephemera documents. ANME had recently obtained, through donation from a local Rotary Club, an Epson Film & Photo Scanner, to ensure that the items would be scanned to the required standard.

The ANME's accessioning procedures have been upgraded to ensure that the collection database meets the standard required for easy uploading into any Collection Management System. The use of eHive is currently under review.

A training resource has been developed based on this work, for the ongoing use of ANME volunteers: staff and students. This will serve as the reference for Work Integrated Learning undertaken by UC's Faculty of Arts and Design students.

The following selected ephemera items from the ANME collection have been digitised:

Mowbray House Collection; Schools of the Air; Historic School Yearbooks (Covers Only); Vintage School Yearbooks (Covers Only); Indigenous Education documents; NSW Department of Education Intermediate Certificate; ACT Computer Education documents; A selection of Examination Papers (Secondary and Tertiary) (1920 - 1965); Correspondence from Buckingham Palace to Ainslie Infants School 1970; and a collection of schools' histories.

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## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

### NSW - National Trust of Australia - CHG2023/042R

*The National Trust of Australia received \$9,267 for Conservation and Preservation of the Bedervale Collection.*

The National Trust of Australia is the oldest and largest independent conservation organisation in Australia. The movement was established in New South Wales in 1945 by Annie Wyatt and raised community consciousness of widespread destruction of the built and natural heritage in Sydney. The movement quickly spread across Australia with the other States establishing National Trust offices throughout the following decades. Each State and Territory National Trust is a fully autonomous entity in its own right responsible for managing its own affairs.



There were five events delivered as part of this project, which ranged from a workshop on the theory and practice of conservation (for 15 attendees), a seminar for 40 plus people, to a hands-on intensive 3 days of brush vacuuming the collection of 18th and 19th century books involving 6 volunteers. A final session on Assessing Significance of Collection objects presented by Roslyn Russell provided a framework for the ongoing work to be done managing the cleaning and conservation of the collection.

The skills development was varied and comprehensive. Practical outcomes include the cleaning of approximately one thousand 18th and 19th century books, and the engagement of local and sector communities, supporting increased awareness of the importance of the Bedervale Collection and Homestead, and its future needs. The final workshop

on assessing significance for collection objects was especially useful with the understandings of the principles behind the decision making surrounding why objects are kept and cared for.

An ongoing program has been established with a commitment to produce a newsletter to advise participants of the work achieved, and information about the next tasks and projects, and a core of enthusiastic volunteers have committed to a monthly program of cleaning and research on the collection at Bedervale.

Contact: Rebecca Pinchin, Collection Manager, National Trust of Australia (NSW)  
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Email: rpinchin@nationaltrust.com.au

### QLD - The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd - CHG2023/045R

*The The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd received \$6,555 for Conservation and Collection Management Activities.*

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ) is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1885, with the object of promoting and stimulating the study of geography.

## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

RGSQ offers a vibrant program of activities and projects including: monthly public lectures on topics of local, national and global significance; day trips and longer treks both within Australia and overseas; support for academic research, fieldwork, publications and scientific expeditions; support for geographical education, in particular through the Australian Geography Competition; special interest member groups in specific fields of geography and; advocacy for the value of geography across the whole community.

The project resulted in effective conservation work, as described in the application, on eight old and rare books from the RGSQ library. The conservation work was conducted by LE Conservation. RGSQ was completely satisfied with the results of the conservation, including the report provided by LE Conservation. LE Conservation has been a pleasure to deal with and RGSQ would be happy to work with the same company again.



Contact: Robert Cook, Chair, Collections Committee  
Phone: 0408 787 026  
Email: rob.a.cook@gmail.com

### NSW - Australian Railway Historical Society NSW Division - CHG2023/047R

*The Australian Railway Historical Society NSW Division received \$11,950 for an ARHS Archive Storage Project.*

The Australian Railway Historical Society (ARHS) is a non-profit organisation, which was established in 1933. The ARHS aims to to promote the association of persons interested in the history of Australian railways, maintain a relevant archive, produce books and periodicals and to arrange rail tours. Two members meetings are held monthly. The extensive archive is maintained by volunteers and access is available online or by arrangement. A research service is provided for industry. ARHS runs a bookshop with railway related new and secondhand books and a cafe for members and the public.

The project significantly expanded the shelf storage for archive material, bringing a number of positive outcomes. In particular, the project has provided an opportunity to move records into standard archive boxes and, in the process, to sort, review and catalogue material previously held in unlabelled cardboard boxes. Since the cataloguing process includes preparing electronic records for uploading to the online database, the process has facilitated progressively providing public access to the archive online. Concurrently, the sorting and cataloguing has increased detailed knowledge of the material that is held, and provided an opportunity to identify duplicated records and material that is outside the scope of the archive. A couple of unexpected positive outcomes are that the knowledge and skill base of volunteers involved in sorting, boxing and cataloguing has been enhanced along with their commitment. The other unexpected outcome is that the overall management of the archive has been uplifted as a result of the focus on the organisation of the material moving into the new shelving.

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## Collection Management and Conservation Activities

### QLD - The Royal Historical Society of Queensland - CHG2023/058R

*The Royal Historical Society of Queensland received \$17,820 for Collection Storage and Environmental Control.*

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland is a member-based, not-for-profit organisation established in 1913. With volunteers, including heritage and museum specialists and a broad cross-section of community members with generalist skills, they serve members, researchers, students, tourists and the general public through research services, exhibitions, events and educational programs. The sole paid position is that of the part-time manager. The collection is second only in Queensland to that of the John Oxley Library. The Society maintains an expanding collection of historical material including print works, photographs, paintings, maps, and other artefacts.

This project continued the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Preservation Needs Assessment (2023), specifically relating to climate control and storage: window tinting, archival storage boxes and other archival protection materials.

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### VIC - Duldig Studio & Sculpture Garden - CHG2023/060R

*The Duldig Studio & Sculpture Garden received \$1,460 for Conservation of items from the Singapore Collection.*

The Duldig Studio is a not-for-profit house museum which interprets and makes publicly accessible a heritage place, in-situ collection, and archive of the life and works of Karl Duldig and Slawa Horowitz-Duldig. They deliver public programs including tours, talks, seminars, and workshops which interpret the themes of the Duldig Museum, Studio and Sculpture Garden.

Conservation of a significant work within the Singapore collection was undertaken. The work is currently on display in the Duldig Studio heritage rooms. The Singapore collection vividly tells the story of the migration of the Duldig family, the development of Karl's art practice, and the larger story of the plight of Jewish refugees during the Second World War. The Singapore period is growing in significance for researchers and Duldig Studio & Sculpture Garden have welcomed a professor from Hong Kong researching displaced artists, as well as an Art Historian and academic from Singapore. They have also built a relationship with the Hong Kong Holocaust Memorial - with the Founder presenting (via Zoom) a talk on the Singapore period. They have also welcomed Ambassadors from the Chinese Embassy in Melbourne and continue to deliver tours in Mandarin.



## Collection Management and Conservation Activities



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## Training

### WA - Northcliffe Pioneer Museum Inc - CHG2023/004T

*The Northcliffe Pioneer Museum Inc received \$1,964 for Mosaic Training for New Volunteers.*

Northcliffe Pioneer Museum is a small community museum dedicated to preserving the history of the last post-World War One group settlement scheme in Western Australia, and the town that was built to provide services. They are an entirely volunteer run organisation.

Volunteers from both the Northcliffe Pioneer Museum and the Pemberton Historical Society were involved in the Mosaic Collection Management System training session. Four new volunteers received Mosaic training and two existing volunteers had their training refreshed. Training was primarily an introduction, but was extended to focus on further aspects of the database that they next intend to utilise. The participants commented that the session was very good.

Contact: Beverly Thiele, Secretary  
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Email: thielebeverly9@gmail.com

### WA - Northam Army Camp Heritage Association Inc - CHG2023/003T

*The Northam Army Camp Heritage Association (NACHA) received \$6,548 to deliver a training workshop for the Mosaic Collection Management System.*

Northam Army Camp Heritage Association Inc (NACHA) was formed in 1997 to preserve, protect and promote the heritage of Northam Army Camp and Holden Camp in Northam. The heritage of Northam Army Camp includes military, Prisoners Of War and Displaced Persons.

Following World War II, 30,000 Displaced Persons went through the Northam Army Camp and Holden Camp. These included people from the Baltic Countries and Europe.

The Mosaic Training Workshops, which were attended by five committed volunteers, have contributed to skills development, increased knowledge of the collection, stronger networks, and increased opportunities for collaboration and skill sharing.



Volunteers who attended included members with limited computer knowledge. The training took this into consideration and was very hands on. Those with more experience were able to move ahead or were partnered with less experienced members to share their experience.

## Training

Invitations were sent to other organisations and museums in the region. The Curator at York Museum attended on all three days as did members from Northam and Districts Historical Society Inc.

The training provided means that skills can be shared between organisations. NACHA now has an opportunity to work with the WA State Museum to provide more professional displays in both the physical and virtual space.

Contact: Genoefa Budas, Chair  
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### **QLD - Museum and Gallery Services Queensland Ltd - CHG2023/009T**

*The Museum and Gallery Services Queensland Ltd received \$13,720 for a Collections Skills Development Workshop Program.*

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) is the peak professional body for Queensland's public museum and gallery sector. Its purpose is to advance, support and provide services to foster understanding, knowledge and excellence in museums, galleries and keeping places. The company strives to ensure a future where museums, galleries and keeping places are relevant, accessible and valued by their communities.

M&G QLD delivered three impactful skills development workshops during the 2024 Conference, *Belonging*, held in Toowoomba from October 9-11. The workshops focused on essential topics including: 'First Nations collections and community museums', presented by Olivia Robinson, a proud Bidjara woman and respected museum consultant; 'Capturing your collection, an overview of collection object photography', presented by Michael O'Neill, Manager Collection Imaging, Te Papa Tongarewa, New Zealand, and; 'Preservation of paper-based collections', presented by Lydia Egunnike, Paper and Photograph Conservator at LE Conservation Services.

These workshops were promoted to the sector, including community and volunteer-run organisations, throughout Queensland, and attracted participants from a wide range of areas such as Brisbane, Brookfield, Bundaberg, Caloundra, Cherbourg, Cleveland, Clifton, Injune, Mackay, Mapoon, Moranbah, Ipswich, Toowoomba and Tully. The workshops enhanced participants' skills and fostered networking opportunities, enabling connections that support ongoing learning and collaboration.

By aligning the Collections Skills Development Workshop Program with M&G QLD's 2024 Conference, Museums & Galleries Queensland amplified their outreach and impact, ensuring a broader distribution of knowledge and practical skills.

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## Training

### VIC - Australian Racing Museum - CHG2023/010T

*The Australian Racing Museum received \$3,768 for a Disaster Response and Recovery Workshop.*

The Australian Racing Museum (ARM) is a Museum Accreditation Program accredited museum, founded in 1974 and dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Australia's thoroughbred racing heritage and culture. Their collection of over 40,000 objects spans from the earliest days of colonisation to the present day, and includes items relating to Australian champions; training and equine welfare and; the fashion and millinery that epitomises the Fashions on the Field competition and glamour of race day.

The collection is proudly displayed within the Horse Racing Gallery at the Australian Sports Museum, Melbourne Cricket Ground, and is also available online via <https://collection.racingmuseum.com.au>.

The project brought together established and emerging professionals from the local heritage sector, to undertake theoretical and practical disaster preparation and response training.



Thirteen participants from ARM (4), Racing Victoria (1), Victoria Racing Club (2), Royal Agricultural Society (1), Netball Australia (1), Grimwade Conservation (2 student interns), and Deakin University Museum Studies students (2) were privileged to work with two Australian Museum and Galleries Association's On-Demand trainers.

Erina McCann and Sherryn Vardy (AMAGA Victoria) brought an absolute wealth of practical, politically astute, culturally aware and professional conservation knowledge to the workshop. The participants themselves came from heritage, sports administration and professional organisational risk management roles, so brought a breadth of perspective in discussions, and led to the anticipated networking and relationship building opportunities.

By scouring non collection objects, op shops and private stashes, the range of materials included in the hands-on session replicated those in all our collections and ensured relevance for participants. Multiple participants have fed back that their learnings were immediately applicable, and resulted in significant improvement in their ability to lobby for their collections, and collection risk management/disaster preparedness.

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