



COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANTS 2024 ROUND FINAL PROJECT REPORTS

The information has been provided by recipients of 2024 Community Heritage Grants

Table of Contents

Significance Assessments.....	1
WA – East Metropolitan Health Service – CHG2024/001N	1
VIC – Australian Aircraft Restoration Group – CHG2024/003N	2
SA - Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia Archives - CHG2024/004N	2
SA – National Aboriginal Cultural Institute – CHG2024/010N.....	3
VIC – Robin Boyd Foundation – CHG2024/011N	5
NSW – HNE Health Libraries – CHG2024/012N.....	6
NSW – Singleton Public Library – CHG2024/015N	7
VIC – Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand – CHG2024/029N	7
SA – National Trust of SA Willunga Branch - CHG2024/030N	9
VIC – Murchison RSL Sub Branch – CHG2024/032N.....	10
VIC – Ballarat Libraries – CHG2024/035N	11
WA – Albany's Historic Whaling Station – CHG2024/039N.....	12
VIC – Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch INC – CHG2024/040N	13
NSW – The Fort Street Foundation – CHG2024/043N	14
QLD – Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council – CHG2024/044N.....	15
VIC – Mansfield Historical Society Inc – CHG2024/047N	16
NSW – National Trust of Australia (NSW): Saumarez Homestead – CHG2024/053N	16
WA – Edward de Courcy Clarke Earth Science Museum – CHG2024/061N	17
SA – Port Adelaide United Workers Club – CHG2024/054N	18
NSW – Wallangang Aboriginal Corporation and Randwick City Council – CHG2024/059N	18
NSW - The Concordians Inc - CHG2024/062N	19
Preservation Needs Assessments	20
VIC – National Trust of Australia (Victoria): Mulberry Hill - CHG2024/006R.....	20
NSW – Kangaroo Valley Historical Society – CHG2024/019N	21
NSW – Assyrian Australian Association - CHG2024/022R	21
VIC – Ethnic Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria Limited – CHG2024/023R.....	22
WA – Northam Army Camp Heritage Association Inc – CHG2024/029R.....	23
VIC – Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute – CHG2024/035R	24
NSW – Nutcote Trust Pty. Ltd – CHG2024/038N.....	26
NSW – Broken Hill City Art Gallery – CHG2024/038R	27
TAS – Mawson's Huts Foundation – CHG2024/043R	28
QLD – Ninth Battalions Association Inc – CHG2024/046R	28
SA – Archives Office, Anglican Diocese of Adelaide – CHG2024/050R.....	29
Collection Management and Conservation Activities.....	31
NSW – Cowra Japanese Garden and Culture Centre – CHG2024/003R	31

NSW – National Trust of Australia (NSW): Miss Porter's House – CHG2024/005R	32
TAS – Maritime Museum of Tasmania Inc – CHG2024/006N.....	32
TAS – The Royal Society of Tasmania – CHG2024/008R	33
SA – Flinders University Museum of Art – CHG2024/013R	35
NSW – Shoalhaven Historical Society Inc – CHG2024/014R	35
NSW – Georges River Council – CHG2024/030R	36
NSW – Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative Limited – CHG2024/031R	37
NT – Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation – CHG2024/032R	38
QLD – Queensland Braille House – CHG1024/039R	39
VIC – Australian Queer Archives Inc – CHG2024/040R	40
NSW – National Trust of Australia (NSW): Bedervale Homestead – CHG2024/045R	40
QLD – Eromanga Natural History Museum – CHG2024/051R.....	41
VIC – Duldig Studio – CHG2024/052R	41
VIC – Carmelite Memorial Library of Spirituality and Mariology – CHG2024/054R.....	42
NSW – Society of Australian Genealogists – CHG2024/055R.....	43
VIC – Kew Historical Society Incorporated – CHG2024/047R.....	44
NSW – Braidwood & District Historical Society – CHG2024/048R	44
QLD – Buderim Historical Society Inc – CHG2024/051N	45
Training	47
NSW – Lithgow City Council Libraries – CHG2024/007T	47

Community Heritage Grants is an Australian Government partnership between the Office for the Arts; and four national collecting 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).



**NATIONAL FILM
AND SOUND ARCHIVE
OF AUSTRALIA**



Significance Assessments

WA – East Metropolitan Health Service – CHG2024/001N

The Royal Perth Hospital Museum received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of the Royal Perth Hospital Museum collection.

Significance assessor: Dr Joanna Sasson



The Royal Perth Hospital Museum (RPH) preserves and shares the history of Western Australia's longest serving hospital.

The museum was established in 1979 and has built an important heritage collection that reflects the history of the hospital operations. Through the collection, the museum reveals the journey from a

desperately underfunded colonial hospital to a leading trauma and teaching hospital. They explore significant stories, people, and developments in services and facilities, and celebrate advances in health care initiated at RPH. The museum and collection are housed in the RPH Heritage Precinct, Perth CBD and is open to the public.

Participation in a significance assessment has:

- helped staff learn about their collection from the independent perspective of a highly regarded historian
- increased appreciation and understanding of the value of the collection
- taught them the process of assessing a collection's significance
- provided short, medium and long-term key recommendations to guide future direction and contribute to long term planning and priorities for new exhibitions
- suggested new perspectives for themes and narratives including interpretation that represents the larger hospital ecosystem
- supported the curator's skill development and her confidence in leading future projects
- provided mentorship to the curator which flows onto the volunteers
- increased capacity to lobby for greater resources including additional staffing
- provided the Museum Advisory Committee and volunteers with better understanding and appreciation of the collection, and the ability to communicate this to visitors
- helped them to better care for the collection and understand our interpretation and conservation priorities.
- increased pride, commitment, and responsibility for caring for the collection from staff and volunteers.

The report will serve them well into the future and contribute to sustainability. The relationship with the consultant Dr Joanna Sassoon was collaborative, enjoyable and productive.

Significance Assessments

Contact: Sarah Toohey, Museum Curator
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VIC – Australian Aircraft Restoration Group – CHG2024/003N

The Moorabbin Air Museum received \$5,570 for an updated Significance Assessment for Museum Archive.

Significance assessor: Emma Russell (History at Work)

Founded in 1962 and run almost entirely by volunteers, the Museum holds the largest and most complete collection of Australian built aircraft and engines (some being the oldest surviving or sole examples) and the biggest aviation archive collection in the Southern Hemisphere. Membership is currently 750 and annual visitation exceeds 50,000. Their goal is to preserve, display and educate the history of Australian aviation.

The Museum's last SA was conducted in 2007, followed by a PNA. However the Museum has since grown its archival collection significantly, including the recent estate donation of one person's life collection which amassed over 23 tonnes of books, reference material and photos - the single most important collection the Museum has received. There has been large scale donations from Boeing of technical materials, manuals and drawings, along with custodianship of the Boeing CAC collection of some 500,000 microfiche. A group of dedicated volunteers are cataloguing and uploading to the Victorian Collections site, with 15,000+ items to date.

The updated Significance Assessment was completed by their consultant Emma Russell from History at Work and the Museum now has clear guidance on the significance of the collection and steps forward for preservation and making it available.

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SA - Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia Archives - CHG2024/004N

The Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia Archives received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia Archives.

Significance assessor: Kevin Jones

The RA&HS Archives mission is to preserve the history of the Society, Royal Adelaide Show, Adelaide Showgrounds, and the Royal Adelaide Wine Show through the retention and collection of records and items produced by, and about, these organisations and events.

The aim is to promote the highly significant role the RA&HS has played, and continues to play, in South Australian culture, society, agriculture, and industry since 1839, by making the archives and museum accessible to RA&HS staff, RA&HS members, affiliated organisations, academic researchers, and the public wishing to learn about these events, organisations, and the people therein.

Significance Assessments

Kevin Jones' significance assessment report unequivocally illustrates the national significance of the collection and the value of promoting and protecting the valuable heritage collection. Archival staff will share the findings with the stakeholders of the RA&HS of South Australia to:

- raise awareness of their collection
- promote the significance and value of their heritage collection
- lobby for greater resources for their heritage collection
- move towards greater preservation management of the heritage collection
- underpin future grant opportunities

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SA – National Aboriginal Cultural Institute – CHG2024/010N

The National Aboriginal Cultural Institute received \$5,500 for the Significance Assessment of the Tandanya Visual Art Collection.

Significance assessors: Alice Beale and Julia Garnaut (History Trust of South Australia)



Eel Trap, Yvonne Koolmatrie, Tandanya Art Collection.

Tandanya, established in 1989 on Kaurna Country in Adelaide, is Australia's oldest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander multi-arts centre. First Nations owned and led; Tandanya is dedicated to supporting, presenting and promoting First Nations arts and cultures. As a nationally and internationally recognised cultural institution, Tandanya brings communities together through exhibitions, performances and events that foster understanding, respect and connection. Grounded in cultural protocols and artistic excellence, it provides a vital platform for storytelling, creative practice and cultural exchange, contributing to reconciliation and nation-building.

Significance Assessments

The Tandanya Visual Art Collection Assessment project delivered significant outcomes that strengthened the organisation's capacity to care for, understand, and activate its collection. Through the process, staff developed skills in collection management and documentation standards, building internal capability to support ongoing collection care. The assessment identified key condition issues and preservation priorities, establishing a foundation for future conservation planning.

Access to the collection has improved, with approximately 25% digitised to date, and the development of an in-house collections database progressing following a successful test phase. The project has also deepened organisational knowledge of the collection's scope and cultural significance, while identifying gaps requiring further research and documentation.

Importantly, the assessment highlighted the urgent need for fit-for-purpose storage solutions, with costings now developed to support future funding applications. The project strengthened relationships with the History Trust of South Australia and enhanced Tandanya's capacity to advocate for increased resourcing, underpinned by a clear evidence base.

Tandanya established a highly effective working relationship with consultants Alice Beale and Julia Garnaut (History Trust of South Australia), whose expertise and commitment resulted in a rigorous and valuable report that will guide future collection development and care.

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Significance Assessments

VIC – Robin Boyd Foundation – CHG2024/011N

The Robin Boyd Foundation received \$5,500 for a Walsh Street Archive Significance Assessment.

Significance assessor: Melinda Mockridge (Lauriston Heritage)



The Robin Boyd Foundation is the custodian of the legacy of Australian modernist architect, author, critic, and public educator Robin Boyd and the iconic Walsh Street house he designed, built and inhabited.

The RBF now has a contextual study of the Walsh Street Archive. The Significance Assessment helps its members better understand the Archive's historical, aesthetic, social and research significance and its provenance, rarity, interpretative capacity, condition, and completeness. Their significance assessment will assist them to make decisions regarding the ongoing care and conservation of the archive.

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Significance Assessments

NSW – HNE Health Libraries – CHG2024/012N

The HNE Health Libraries received \$6,300 for a Significance Assessment of HNE Health Libraries Historical Collection.

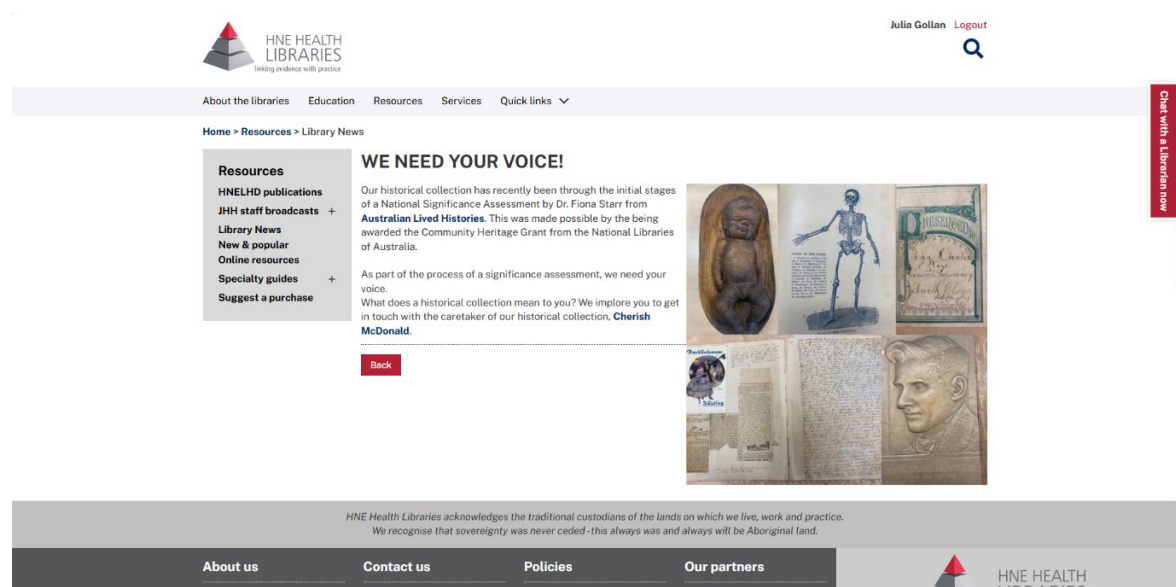
Significance Assessor: Dr Fiona Starr (Australian Lived Histories)

HNE Health Libraries specialises in providing medical and health science information to Hunter New England Local Health District staff. The vision of HNE Health Libraries is to establish a comprehensive network of health library services that provides the best available evidence to inform clinical and corporate decisions, research, innovation, education, and training throughout HNELHD.

HNE Health Libraries operates from two branches, one at Waratah within the Calvary Mater Hospital and the other within the Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital. Additionally, a library office is situated within the Hunter Innovation Living Laboratory at John Hunter Hospital, emphasising the interconnectedness between the library and the health network it supports.

An external consultant Dr Fiona Starr, Australian Lived Histories completed a significance assessment on the HNE Health Libraries' historical collection. The project highlighted collection management issues including the need to verify provenance and discuss testimony, and build reliable records.

Despite some challenges they found that it provided many wonderful learning opportunities. Staff found the the useful and positive project findings very rewarding and brought the team quite a swell of pride and emotion. It has renewed their determination to proceed with future project to their fullest extent.



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Significance Assessments

NSW – Singleton Public Library – CHG2024/015N

Singleton Public Library received \$5,710 for a Singleton Library Historical Map and Area Significance Assessment.

Significance assessor: Laraine Nelson (Nelson Heritage Consulting)

Singleton Library was opened in 1961 and has been in its current premises for 20 years. The library holds a collection of over 45,000 items. This collection reflects the needs of the community, targeting collection development that is community needs driven. With coal mining a major employment industry in the area, Singleton has a large population of young families. There is also a strong historical community who are committed to acquiring and preserving their history. The historical collection includes collections from Council, public institutions, private companies, individuals and indigenous resources in both physical and digital formats.



Minembah Estate - Auction poster

The library holds a collection of area planning maps and required the expertise of a professional to determine if the collection was significant and if so, the level of that significance. They now have an excellent significance report that allows them to proceed with further management of the collection and take on the recommendations provided by their consultant.

The following recommendations were provided by Nelson Heritage Consulting:

- maps should be catalogued in accordance with standard map cataloguing.
- consideration should be given to digitising items identified as of high significance.
- advice should be sought from a conservator as to the most appropriate method of preservation and storage.

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VIC – Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand – CHG2024/029N

The Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of the Good Shepherd Archives.

Significance assessor: History at Work project team

Good Shepherd ANZ is a community-focused organisation dedicated to fostering economic and social wellbeing across Australia and New Zealand. Building on a legacy that began with the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, founded in France in 1835, Good Shepherd ANZ continues their mission of compassion, justice, and empowerment. The organisation works for justice through financial inclusion, safety, and support services. Since 1863, Good Shepherd Sisters,

Significance Assessments

staff and program partners have worked across Australia and New Zealand to support women, girls and families to be safe, well, strong and connected.



This project, undertaken by History at Work, provided the Good Shepherd ANZ with:

- an independent overview of the historical significance of the Good Shepherd archival collection that can guide the current and future strategic priorities regarding preservation decisions, associated resourcing and potential community exhibition of select materials.
- an excellent shared dialogue and potential for further future engagement with the History At Work staff who were sensitive to the necessary scoping parameters given the confidential nature of records held within the archival collection.
- information and insights that may be useful in future collaborations with values aligned community organisations in order to deepen community understanding of the wider history of institutional care in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand
- encouragement to increase (where appropriate and in compliance with privacy legislation), access to approved elements of the archival collection for academics, students, researchers, archives and museums, and other religious congregations.
- encouragement to make carefully considered parts of the archival collection available to the public through a digital collection management system, and consider innovative options to create engaging, online exhibitions drawing on materials from the collection.

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Significance Assessments

SA – National Trust of SA Willunga Branch - CHG2024/030N

The National Trust of SA Willunga Branch received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of Willunga Branch collections.

Significance assessor: Kevin Jones

The mission of National Trust of South Australia (NTSA) is "Champion the preservation of South Australia's natural, built and cultural heritage for current and future generations". The NTSA Willunga Branch manage three museums and continually work to upgrade exhibitions to ensure that they are informative and engaging. They also provide a schools' program, heritage walks, an excellent research room and outreach into the community through a website, an online local history and heritage encyclopedia, and an active presence on Facebook and Instagram.

The award of the Community Heritage Grant and the subsequent significance assessment presented the welcome acknowledgement of the national significance of parts of their collection. Volunteers were able to celebrate the news of this grant on social media, enhancing their reputation. Their consultant, Kevin Jones, also confirmed the national significance of parts of their collection including a few objects where they had previously failed to recognize their significance. This exercise has been very useful in inspiring volunteers to market their museum via object related web and social media posts.

Their consultant also enhanced their understanding of the objects which enriched their interpretation. His report has helped them to set priorities in the Disaster Management plan and results of the assessment report will assist in strengthening future grant applications.

All the team members who interacted with the assessor, Kevin, reported that they found him friendly, open and knowledgeable. He communicated clearly and was honest about his findings.

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Significance Assessments

VIC – Murchison RSL Sub Branch – CHG2024/032N

The Murchison RSL Sub Branch received \$6,380 for a Significance assessment of the Prisoner of War Camp 13 Murchison murals.

Significance assessor: Dr Megan Cardamone (Circa Museum Services)

The Murchison RSL Sub Branch is a small sub branch of the RSL Veterans Association. This small group represents and supports veterans in the area, especially supporting Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, Legacy and community related history. The area has a proud military history with many locals involved in theatres of war, and also involvement in the very large number of prisoners of war (POW) interned at local POW camps during the Second World War.

The Significance Assessment by Dr Cardamone, produced an historically critical evaluation and review of a full set of Second World War murals painted by German engineer and amateur artist, Hans-Wolter von Gruenewaldt, whilst interned at Camp 13 in Murchison. The set of murals is priceless, based on historical importance and rarity.

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Significance Assessments

VIC – Ballarat Libraries – CHG2024/035N

Ballarat Libraries received \$6,715 for a Significance Assessment of The City of Ballarat Libraries' Rare Book Collection.

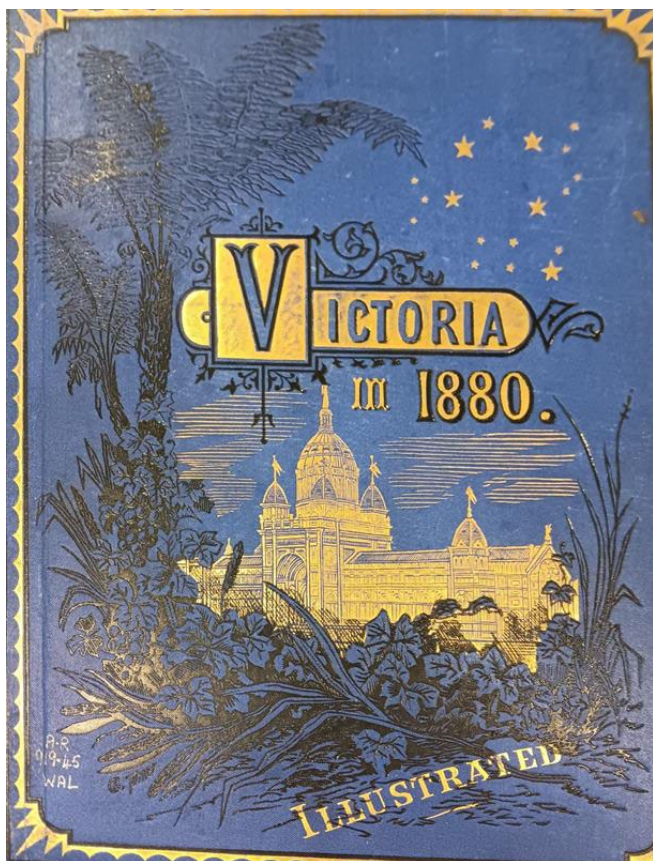
Significance assessor: Emma Russell (History at Work)

City of Ballarat Libraries manages three library branches as well as an outreach service and a research hub located within Eureka Centre museum. The service provides a range of diverse, contemporary public library services and programs. The service supports a rapidly growing community in regional Victoria and supports a broader network of public libraries across the Central Highlands area. Ballarat public libraries have a long history, dating back to the Gold Rush era. Many volumes from this time have survived and can be found in our rare book collection today.

This project has allowed staff to understand and contextualise their rare book collection. Through expert assessment, the consultants provided a basis for comparison with similar collections in similar institutions and confirmed their conclusions on the significance and uniqueness of this rare book collection. This project has given a path for future actions and clear direction looking forward in the

areas of conservation, preservation and access - including opportunities to engage the community with the collection through exhibitions and programming.

The assessment recommends the development of several guiding documents to help the libraries in better managing the collection, and assist with the development of a clear definition of what constitutes a rare book in their collection context. They were pleased with the consultant History at Work's Emma Russell, who brought experience and expertise to the project while at the same time allowing them to clearly define what they hoped the project would achieve. Staff are now better positioned to advocate for this collection and to lobby for increased resourcing - as they are equipped with the expert assessment of what is required to both safeguard this collection for the future, and to make it accessible and celebrated in our community.



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Significance Assessments

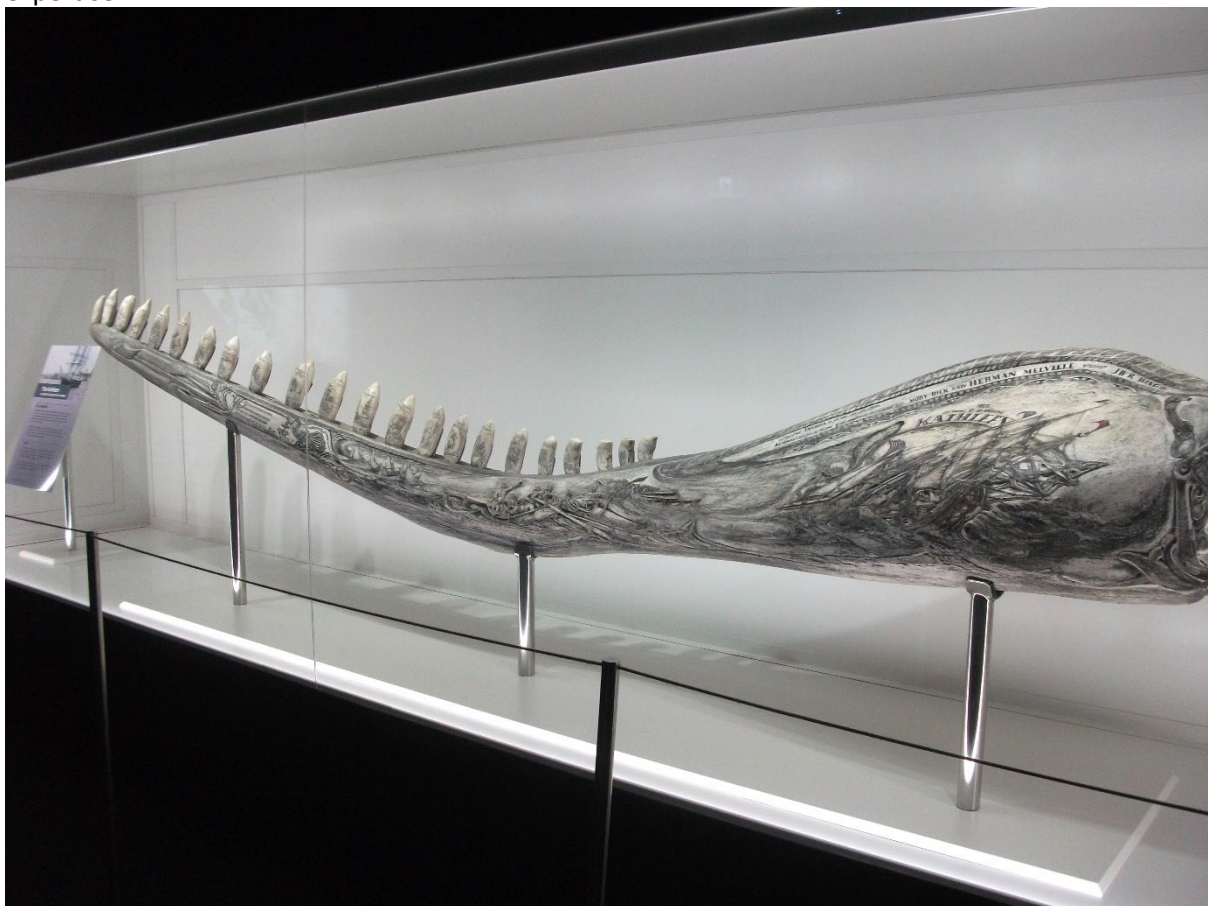
WA – Albany's Historic Whaling Station – CHG2024/039N

The Albany's Historic Whaling Station received \$8,542 for a Significance Assessment of Albany's Historic Whaling Station Collection.

Significance assessor: Kris Bizzaca

The Cheynes Beach Whaling Company operated from 1952 until 1978. In 1980, the site was transformed into a museum, now known as Albany's Historic Whaling Station (AHWS). AHWS offers a unique maritime museum experience and stands as a premier heritage tourist attraction in the region. As custodians of Australia's whaling legacy, they bring Albany's whaling history to life, offering visitors immersive experiences and learning opportunities through engaging with the authentic infrastructure and artefacts, including an original whale chasing vessel. Their programs encompass heritage conservation, exhibition development, collections management, tours, “meet a former whaler” program, regional arts events, and school holiday activities.

The project successfully achieved its aims of evaluating the historical, cultural and social significance of their collection. Staff now have a clearer understanding of the collection's value, its key themes and stories, and preservation priorities. This new knowledge has already informed these priorities, with recommendations guiding future conservation and improved storage conditions. The project has paved the way for a much-needed preservation needs assessment, which will guide practical strategies for stabilising and caring for some of the more complex items requiring specialist expertise.



The project also delivered broader organisational benefits: upskilling of archives staff in preservation methods; strengthened awareness of national standards for collection care; deeper knowledge of the breadth and depth of the collection; new networks and professional relationships; stronger

Significance Assessments

commitment from executive management; and increased capacity to apply for targeted conservation funding. This positions us to more effectively safeguard our unique maritime heritage.

The assessor's expertise (Kris Bizzaca) supported a collaborative process that encourages learning, open discussion and practical decision-making. Although there will be some small delays in the project, Discovery Bay is very satisfied with the working relationship and final report, which provides a strong framework for future planning, action and resource advocacy.

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VIC – Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch INC – CHG2024/040N

The Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc received \$5,600 for a Significance Assessment of the Bendigo Military Museum collection

Significance assessor: Dr Megan Cardamone (Circa Museum Services)



The Bendigo Military Museum, housed in the iconic heritage-listed Soldiers Memorial Institute, preserves and shares the military heritage of Bendigo and its surrounding region. It showcases personal stories, artefacts, and memorabilia from the Boer War to contemporary peacekeeping operations, highlighting the experiences of local servicemen and women. A key regional institution, the museum fosters community engagement, remembrance, and education. Recent initiatives, including

a significance assessment and new interpretive displays, have strengthened its role as a vibrant, accessible place of learning and commemoration. The museum is operated by dedicated staff and volunteers, under the umbrella of the Bendigo District RSL.

The Bendigo Military Museum's Significance Assessment (undertaken by Dr Megan Cardamone) achieved important outcomes across multiple areas:

- developed the skills of staff and volunteers by providing hands-on experience in object research, significance analysis, and condition reporting. Staff and volunteer commitment was reinforced through their active involvement and a growing sense of ownership.
- preservation of the collection was enhanced through better understanding of conservation priorities, enabling more informed decisions about storage and handling, and building conditions were assessed, providing a strong foundation for future upgrades.
- knowledge of the collection deepened considerably, with new connections identified between objects and broader historical narratives, with detailed object histories and significance ratings now available to guide interpretation both in the museum and online.

Significance Assessments

- findings in the Significance Assessment have provided the groundwork for future projects, with the assessment enhancing their capacity to advocate for increased resources by producing a professional, independent report to support grant applications and planning.
- lastly, the project strengthened networks within the cultural heritage sector by engaging professional consultants and aligning practices with national standards, and we enjoyed an excellent relationship with their consultant, who was highly responsive, producing a thorough, insightful report that will guide their collection management for years to come.

Contact: Lena Morrison-van Velsen, Curator of the Bendigo Military Museum

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NSW – The Fort Street Foundation – CHG2024/043N

Fort Street Foundation received \$5,500 for a significance assessment of the archives

Significance Assessor: Christine Yeats

The Fort Street Foundation is a registered charity and financially supports public school students and initiatives including the development of the Fort Street Archives. The original Fort Street Model School was established in 1849 in Petersham, NSW following the passage of the *National Education Board Act 1848*. As one of the oldest schools in Australia, the Fort Street Archives comprise a significant collection of original records, dating from the late nineteenth century. The archives collection consists of 60 linear metres of documents (volumes and loose papers), photographs and photograph albums, printed material and museum objects (blazer pockets and pennants). There are twenty archive boxes drawers of research files relating to nationally significant past students (including Sir John Kerr, Margaret Preston, Douglas Mawson, Doc Evatt and Justice Michael Kirby) and the history of the school. There are also numerous framed artworks and photographs hung in the Preston Gallery and throughout the school.

The Foundation worked closely with Christine Yeats, who brought a wealth of knowledge and insight to the Fort Street Archives collection that many of the team has never considered. The significance assessment enabled members to build their understanding of which archival material was at risk and required urgent conservation work, gain professional advice to improve collection storage areas and critically use the report to lobby for increased resources.

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Significance Assessments

QLD – Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council – CHG2024/044N

Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council received \$10,022 for a Woorabinda Cultural Heritage Collection Project.

Significance assessor: Sophie Price (Queensland Museum Development Officer Network)

The Woorabinda Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) is a library funded by the State Library of Queensland through a Service Level Agreement with the Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council.

Woorabinda is in Central Queensland, south-west of Rockhampton and south of Duarina. It is on the traditional lands of the Wadja and Gunghalu Peoples.

Woorabinda residents speak English with some speaking both English and an Aboriginal language. There are approximately 52 clans represented in Woorabinda, with a number of language groups from across Queensland.

Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) staff are employed by Council. IKC staff provide the community with access to collections, information and resources.

Outcomes of project:

- Sophie Price from Queensland Museum Development Officer Network, conducted a Significance Assessment on the collection
- skills development: the project has been undertaken with people who specialize in this field. Additional training is needed for staff to manage the collections.
- preservation of the collections are in good condition, though future care of them is needed for prosperity.
- access: collection items are available on request. The online collection is being developed by digitising all original material and will take time to complete.
- knowledge of content is built around current collection, memories of Elders in Woorabinda and Aunty Diane Hill's contribution that deserves recognition.
- the rapport with other IKCs, SLQ and the QM, enables their collection to be an example of what we can do showcasing First Nations history in Australia and provide further opportunities for additional collaborations and exhibitions.
- staff can now develop a Preservation Needs Plan for the collection.
- storage is basic but staff have purchased archival storage boxes and tissue interleaves for immediate remediation and will need specialized equipment and training for proper protection.
- they have begun cataloguing the collection in preparation of acquiring a Collection Management System.
- Council has capacity to lobby for more resources and staff if needed.

Contact: Douglas Graham, Indigenous Knowledge Centre Coordinator

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Significance Assessments

VIC – Mansfield Historical Society Inc – CHG2024/047N

Mansfield Historical Society Inc received \$6,400 for a Significance Assessment of the History of the Forestry Industry in Victoria.

Significance assessor: Emma Giessmann (Histories in Colour)



The Mansfield Historical Society (MHS) has been in existence for more than 50 years for the aim of preservation and promotion of the history of Mansfield and surrounding districts. The Society's collections contain a wealth of information about the history of Mansfield and the surrounding district including genealogical information, microfiche documents, photo, memorabilia, maps and an extensive clothing collection.

A new Mansfield Historical Museum building, now completed externally, commenced construction in March 2024 and is in the process of being fitted out for display and exhibition.

This project helped in bringing together two collections of material (plus additional material in an archive) relating to the Forestry Industry in Victoria in the past 100-plus years, into a single collection, part of which will be able to be presented in a public display. The collections consist of documentary material such as maps,

record books and photographs mainly in hard copy form, as well as various artefacts such as old work tools, axes, early chainsaws and clothing.

The whole collection, when combined, is able to be stored appropriately in the storage facilities in the new Museum building to be operated by the Mansfield Historical Society. The significance assessment was conducted by Emma Giessmann.

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NSW – National Trust of Australia (NSW): Saumarez Homestead – CHG2024/053N

National Trust of Australia NSW received \$6,680 for a Saumarez Homestead Collection Significance Assessment.

Significance assessment: Roslyn Russell (Roslyn Russell Museum Services)

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is the oldest and largest independent conservation organisation in Australia. Established in 1945 the movement quickly spread across Australia with the other states establishing Trust offices throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Each State and Territory National Trust is fully autonomous entity in its own right responsible for managing its own affairs.

Significance Assessments

Saumarez Homestead is a large Edwardian mansion located near Armidale and provides an unique collection of Australian colonial furniture and decorative arts relating to successive generations of the White family, who lived in the house for over 100 years.

The CHG grant supported the Significance Assessment of the Saumarez Collection, undertaken by Roslyn Russell.

This report provided additional knowledge of the collection, and supported engagement with the local community and public sector. It is a critical step in the process of identifying what is special about a collection and how to prioritise future management activities.

Contact: Rebecca Pinchin, Collection Manager

Phone: (02) 6772 3616

Email: rpinchin@nationaltrust.com.au

WA – Edward de Courcy Clarke Earth Science Museum – CHG2024/061N

Edward de Courcy Clarke Earth Science Museum received \$7,975 for a Significance Assessment of the E. de C. Clarke Museum's Earth Science Research Collection.

Significance assessor: Erina McCann (Tiaki Objects Conservation)

The Edward de Courcy Clarke (EdCC) Earth Science Collection, housed within the University of Western Australia's School of Earth Sciences, represents over a century of geological education, fieldwork, research, and public engagement. The EdCC Collection comprises more than 183,000 registered specimens and a substantial number of unregistered materials, including rocks, minerals, fossils, meteorites, petrographic slides, teaching sets, archival photographs, theses, and field notebooks. The collection reflects the deep geological history of Western Australia and the legacy of key figures such as Edward de Courcy Clarke, Curt Teichert, Basil Balme, and Professor David Haig.

The Community Heritage Grant enabled the Edward de Courcy Clarke Earth Science Museum to commission its first formal significance assessment, conducted by Erina McCann in 2025. The project has greatly strengthened their understanding of the collection's national and international importance, clearly articulating its historic, scientific, and social value. It has also identified urgent preservation needs and provided a strategic framework to guide future collection care, cataloguing, digitisation, and storage improvements.

Through this process, staff and volunteers have gained new skills in heritage assessment and collection management, while the report itself has improved institutional knowledge of the breadth and depth of the collection. The findings raised the profile of the museum within the University and broader heritage sector, enabling stronger advocacy for resources and increased visibility. Importantly, the assessment confirmed the collection's continuing role in research, education, and outreach, while highlighting risks such as hazardous materials and inadequate storage.

The comprehensive report provides a robust foundation for building partnerships, securing resources, and ensuring the long-term preservation and accessibility of one of Western Australia's most significant Earth Science collections.

Contact: Siri Kellner, Museum Curator

Phone: (08) 6488 2681

Email: earthmuseum-ses@uwa.edu.au

Significance Assessments

SA – Port Adelaide United Workers Club – CHG2024/054N

The Port Adelaide United Workers Club received \$5,500 for a significance assessment of the Semaphore Workers Club Heritage Collection.

Significance assessor: Dr Kathie Muir

The Club is based in the beachside suburb of Semaphore and has strong links with the local community, worker organisations and the peace and union movements. It is a meeting place for different groups, hosts a vibrant music scene and houses an extensive collection of artworks, political posters, paintings and sculptures. It is also home to billiard facilities that date from 1901 and have been continuous use since that time.

While initially there was difficult in recruiting an assessor, the Club volunteers were able to contract Dr Kathie Muir to undertake the significance assessment. The project achieved a full listing of artefacts and photographs of the collection held at the Semaphore Workers Club. This was achieved through the expertise and hard work of Dr Muir but also the ongoing contribution of volunteers. The project enlivened the club and generated much enthusiasm from club members and the public who use the club. It reminded all of the Club's origins, its underlying philosophy and reason for existence. Campaign art works for union/worker rights, equality, LGBTQ, peace, environment across many decades have been identified and itemised. One surprising discovery was the age, provenance and historical and monetary value of the billiard tables, scoring board and other associated items.

The extent of the collection is now documented, a significance assessment completed and the Club is preparing for the next steps to preserve and increase access to the collection.

Contact: Sally Mitchell, President

Phone: 0421 119 349

Email: bennee@live.com.au

NSW – Wallangang Aboriginal Corporation and Randwick City Council – CHG2024/059N

Wallangang Aboriginal Corporation and Randwick City Council received \$9,721.82 for a Timbery Family Collection - Significance Assessment

Significance assessor: Matt Poll (Australian National Maritime Museum)

The La Perouse Museum, located in the historic La Perouse precinct on Sydney's southern headland, is dedicated to exploring the area's rich cultural and natural heritage. Housed in the heritage-listed Cable Station building, the museum tells the story of French navigator Comte de Lapérouse's 1788 expedition, as well as the deep and ongoing connection of the local Aboriginal community to the land and sea. Through exhibitions, collections, and public programs, the museum highlights themes of exploration, encounter, and exchange, celebrating La Perouse as a place where Aboriginal, European, and Asia-Pacific histories intersect and continue to shape the present.

In 2024, the Wallangang Aboriginal Corporation, in partnership with the La Perouse Museum and supported by the Powerhouse Museum, completed key preservation and cataloguing activities for the Timbery Family Collection — a significant archive of cultural artefacts, photographs, manuscripts, and artworks spanning generations. The collection was safely relocated to the La Perouse Museum, where an intensive cataloguing workshop was conducted. With guidance from Indigenous Collections specialists, led by Matt Poll from the Australian National Maritime Museum, a Significance Assessment was completed, confirming the national importance of the collection.

Significance Assessments

The collection was re-housed using museum-grade archival materials and stabilised for long-term storage. These activities have ensured the safeguarding of this unique cultural legacy while maintaining family custodianship and cultural control. The project has also laid the groundwork for future digitisation, public access, and exhibition opportunities, continuing the success of the *Joe Timbery: World Champion Boomerang Thrower* exhibition presented at the La Perouse Museum in 2024.

Contact: Blake Griffiths, Head La Perouse Museum

Phone: (13) 0072 2542

Email: council@randwick.nsw.gov.au

NSW - The Concordians Inc - CHG2024/062N

The Concordians Inc received \$5,500 for a Significance Assessment of the EM Lane Concordians Museum collection.

Significance assessor: Dr Fiona Starr (Australian Lived Histories)

The Concordians is an association of past and present staff of Concord Repatriation General Hospital. Its mission is to embrace and articulate the origins and unique history of the hospital which was built in 1941 as a Military Hospital. The association has carriage of the EM Lane Concordians' Museum.

The significance assessment, undertaken by Fiona Starr has provided the Concordians with better insight and understanding of its museum collection and importantly the significance of many collection items.

In addition the project provided a better knowledge of the importance of proper conditions for storing items and its preservation to halt its deterioration.

This new understanding has motivated volunteers both new and old to review procedures and look forward to additional guidance on caring and managing collection.

Contact: Alice Kang, Secretary

Phone: (04) 1828 2306

Email: theconcordians@outlook.com

Preservation Needs Assessments

VIC – National Trust of Australia (Victoria): Mulberry Hill - CHG2024/006R

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) received \$5,950 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of Mulberry Hill Collection.

Conservator: Grimwade Conservation Services

Since 1956 the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has been actively conserving and protecting Victoria's heritage for future generations to enjoy. The National Trust works collaboratively with the community, building a shared understanding and appreciation of heritage in everyday life. The National Trust is custodian of Melbourne's landmark attractions as well as historic regional properties, landscapes and collections. Offering memorable visitor and innovative educational experiences, the National Trust connects visitors to heritage properties and collections.



Mulberry Hill was the home of Daryl and Joan Lindsay for over 50 years. Joan was an artist and writer whilst Daryl was an artist, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria and founding president of the National Trust. The site preserves original buildings in bush-land surroundings. The house is highly significant as it contains the Lindsays' respective studios: the rooms where Joan's classic Australian novel *Picnic at Hanging Rock* was written and where Daryl's artworks and studies were completed, including subjects such as the Ballets Russes in Australia. The house and contents were gifted to the National Trust and the interiors are original to the Lindsays' occupation.

The Mulberry Hill Preservation Needs Assessment assisted staff and volunteers to care for and interpret the collection. It has provided the National Trust with clear recommendations for conservation works to objects, building maintenance, environmental controls, and pest management. These recommendations have also been broken down into short and long term categories allowing the Trust to prioritise work and applying for funding via grants and philanthropic

Preservation Needs Assessments

donations to do these works. The Trust has a good working relationship with Grimwade Conservation Services and are thrilled with the report. The Preservation Needs Assessment together with the CHG funded Significance Assessment for the Mulberry Hill collection is supporting the Trust to safeguard the collection for future generations and improve care and access to the collection.

Contact: Katie Potter, Collections Manager
Phone: (03) 9656 9809
Email: info@nattrust.com.au

NSW – Kangaroo Valley Historical Society – CHG2024/019N

The Kangaroo Valley Historical Society received \$7,083 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Kangaroo Valley Historic Society Collection.

Conservator: Tegan Anthes (Collect Preserve)

Kangaroo Valley Historical Society was founded 72 years ago and has been supported by many community volunteers over this time. Their collection of thousands of objects, representing the way of life for the region's pioneers, are carefully maintained and conserved and housed in the Kangaroo Valley Pioneer Museum.

The PNA outcomes, conducted by Tegan Anthes, included the following:

- a clearer understanding of which parts of the collection are in poor condition and which objects are most at risk.
- an outline of preservation best practice to support effective collections management and ensure the long-term longevity of the collection.
- identification of improved storage solutions for collection objects.
- recommendations for enhancements to the collections environment.
- development of a rotation plan for displayed objects.
- guidance on appropriate placement of objects within display and storage areas.

Contact: Christine Murphy, Secretary
Phone: (04) 6695 4681
Email: hello@kangaroovalleyhistory.com

NSW – Assyrian Australian Association - CHG2024/022R

Assyrian Australian Association received \$5,500 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Ashurbanipal Library, Sydney.

Conservator: Tegan Anthes (Collect Preserve)

The Ashurbanipal Library, an initiative of the Assyrian Australian Association (AAA), is dedicated to preserving and promoting Assyrian culture and heritage. For over 50 years, the AAA has supported the integration of Assyrian migrants into Australian life while strengthening Assyrian identity. Guided by the pillars of community, culture, and education, the library serves as a cultural heritage hub, fostering knowledge and understanding within both the Assyrian community and broader Australian society.

Preservation Needs Assessments



The project supported a comprehensive report by consultant Tegan Anthes, which identified the preservation needs of the collection and provided detailed recommendations to ensure its long-term care. The report emphasised the significance of the collection and outlined standard preservation guidelines in line with industry best practise. Additionally, the project played an important educational role by informing and training library volunteers on these professional standards, enhancing their capacity to contribute to the ongoing preservation efforts.

Contact: Joe Joseph, Secretary

Phone: (04) 1941 1147

Email: secretary@assyrianaustralian.org.au

VIC – Ethnic Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria Limited – CHG2024/023R

Ethnic Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria Limited received \$5,500 for a Preservation Needs Assessment.

Conservator: Grimwade Conservation Services

The Ethnic Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria Ltd (3ZZZ) has been operating since 1989. 3ZZZ gives voice to ethnic communities, broadcasting in their own languages. 3ZZZ is Australia's largest multilingual community radio station represented by over 60 language/community groups, 120 programs, 400 volunteers, 3,000 members and 400,000 listeners.

3ZZZ's history began in the 1950s with the commencement of the post-World War 2 mass immigration program, as migrants became conscious of their position as permanent residents in

Preservation Needs Assessments

Australia. Movements such as the Migrant Workers Committees, Migrant Education Action and Ethnic Communities Councils and other alliances were forming, seeking democratic reforms on principles of multiculturalism, and the dismantling of the White Australia policy.

In 1973 the Whitlam Government adopted its policy on multiculturalism. At the first Migrant Workers Conference in 1973, attendees demanded the ABC amend its charter to incorporate multiculturalism, and the Federal Government establish and support ethnic broadcasting services, managed by elected members of migrant communities. This led to the establishment of 3ZZ Access Radio under the auspice of the ABC and commenced the rich history of the broadcaster, that continues to this day.

A report on the preservation needs of the multilingual collection of historical materials was conducted by Grimwade Conservation Services. This collection was deemed nationally significant by a previous assessment.

Contact: Elias Diacolabrianos

Phone: (04) 1256 6102

Email: ediacolabrianos@optusnet.com.au

WA – Northam Army Camp Heritage Association Inc – CHG2024/029R

Northam Army Camp Heritage Association Inc received \$5,900 for a Northam Army Camp Heritage Association Inc Preservation Needs Assessment.

Conservator: Stephanie Bailey

Northam Army Camp Heritage Association Inc (NACHA) preserves, protects and promotes the history and heritage of Military, prisoners of war and Displaced Persons/Migrants who have connections with the Northam Army Camp and Holden Camp Northam. They are a not for profit, volunteer run organisation.



Collections are on display at the Old Northam Railway Station Museum and volunteers acknowledged that they need to understand best practice for caring for these collections to help protect the collection.

The project achieved additional benefits with a Preservation Needs Report including volunteers reporting:

- skills development as volunteers were able to talk to consultant Stephanie Bailey about why she was carrying out different tests.
- understanding of the different materials in their collections
- knowledge of collection content and dividing into different categories
- understanding of museum environment and impact on collections housed there.
- information that allows for greater stakeholder relationships.

Preservation Needs Assessments

The local Shire of Northam has also recently renewed the lease for 10 years with a 10 year renewal option. The Shire of Northam is also looking to upgrade a room for research and storage with advice from their PNA report.

Their consultant Stephanie Bailey was a great asset with sharing her knowledge and willingness to answer questions. Members are happy with the report and the additional links given to ensure that they could better understand what was needed to look after their collections.

Contact: Genoefa Budas, Chair

Phone: (04) 2832 2898

Email: genoefa@westnet.com.au

VIC – Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute – CHG2024/035R

Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute received \$6,700 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute Heritage Registered Collection.

Conservator: Grimwade Conservation Services



The Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute has welcomed a diverse group of people through its doors since 1859, from the founding fathers, to miners, tradespeople and others seeking knowledge through education. Prior to Government funded libraries and adult education, the Mechanics' Institute provided people with much-needed access to books, newspapers, periodicals, lectures and scientific demonstrations and provided local communities with a place for social, cultural and recreational gatherings.

Preservation Needs Assessments

Today they have a lending library, historic books and newspaper collections, research facilities and regularly host live music, plays, literary events, talks and community recreation activities including arts and culture festivals.

A previous Preservation Needs Assessment was completed in 2008 and was a very useful document, with many areas of need identified and now completed. Naturally many of the remaining recommendations needed fresh appraisal, due to time and changes in collection management policy, best practice and resources available; many new issues have come to light through this new PNA.

Having recently completed new Significance Assessment with thanks to a previous CHG Grant, members were keen to understand their next steps in caring for their collection and be able to prioritise those actions through the PNA. This has added weight to funding applications or philanthropic support to complete future works.

Their collection is very extensive, has many facets and still needs much conservation work and ongoing care, so this professional and guiding document is essential to assist volunteers to move forward, and to enable a strategic and focussed approach to project identification and management and ultimately to enable their wonderful collection to be more accessible to a much wider audience in a safe way that will see it preserved for future generations.

Contact: Paula Nicholson, Chair/President

Phone: (04) 0954 4294

Email: execmanager@ballaratmi.org.au

Preservation Needs Assessments

NSW – Nutcote Trust Pty. Ltd – CHG2024/038N

The Nutcote Trust Pty. Ltd received \$13,545 for a Preserving May Gibbs' Nutcote Collection project.

Conservator: Tegan Anthes (Collect Preserve)



The Nutcote Trust is dedicated to preserving and sharing the legacy of May Gibbs, one of Australia's most beloved authors and illustrators. It manages Nutcote, May Gibbs' historic home and studio in Sydney, ensuring the property, its gardens, and her collections are maintained for public enjoyment. The Nutcote Museum, operated by the Trust, offers visitors an immersive experience into May's creative world, showcasing original artworks, personal memorabilia, and insights into her life. Through exhibitions, educational programs, and community events, the Trust and Museum celebrate May Gibbs' artistic achievements while inspiring appreciation for Australian literature, art, and cultural heritage.

The Preservation Needs Assessment, by Tegan Anthes, provided clear and practical guidance for preservation planning based on the current condition of the Nutcote collection. To date, the report has been an important resource in the development of new collection policies and has informed restoration works undertaken on items with confirmed provenance to May Gibbs.

A comprehensive data clean of the existing collection Excel spreadsheet has been completed. Duplicate records were identified and removed, and a new standardised numbering system has been introduced. Collection items have been photographed, with images accurately labelled to match records, and resized to maximise digital storage efficiency.

This work has enabled the successful transfer of collection data into the new collections management system, eHive. Records are currently private while public descriptions are being completed. Once published, the Nutcote collection will be searchable alongside May Gibbs collections held by other organisations, creating a single access point for the nation's May Gibbs collections outside the State Library of NSW.

Volunteers have been actively involved throughout the process, building skills and confidence in the professional handling, documentation, and care of collection items.

Contact: Megan Sadler, Manager

Phone: (02) 9953 4453

Email: Nutcote.team@maygibbs.com.au

Preservation Needs Assessments

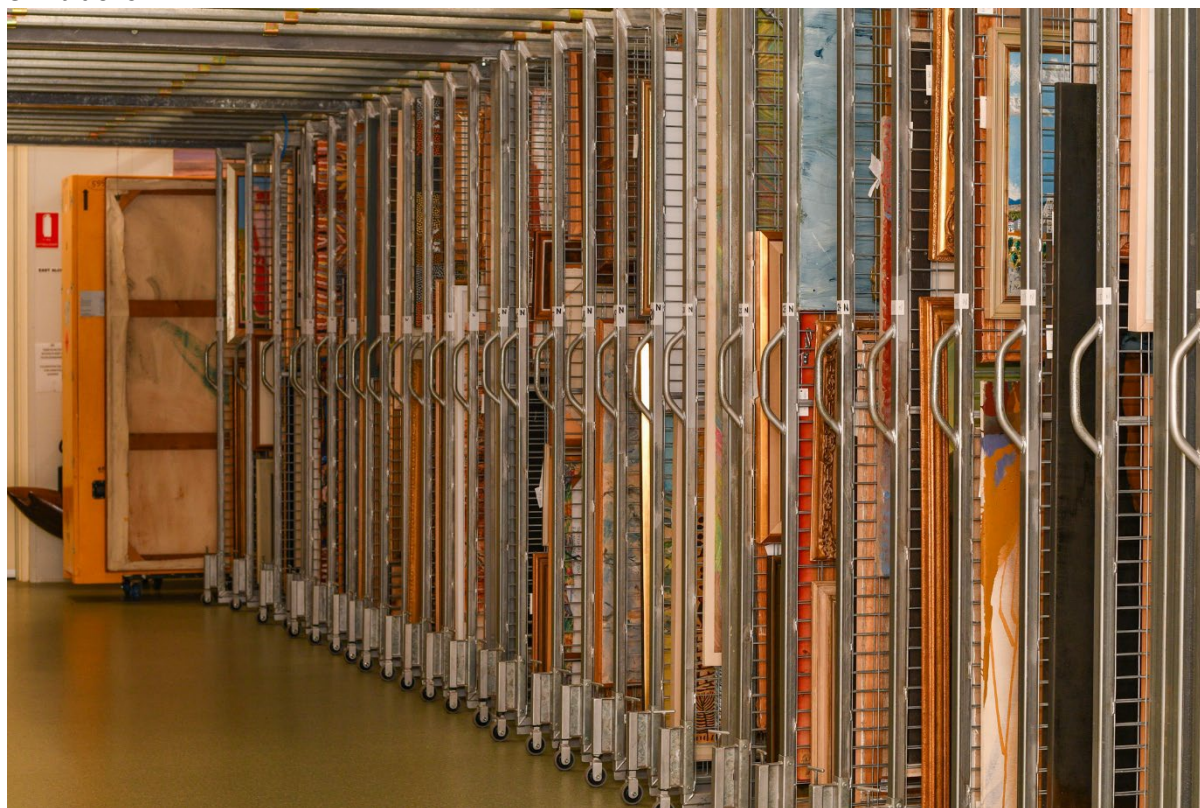
NSW – Broken Hill City Art Gallery – CHG2024/038R

Broken Hill City Art Gallery received \$7,841 for a Preservation Needs Assessment

Conservator: Tegan Anthes (Collect Preserve)

Broken Hill City Art Gallery is the oldest regional art gallery in NSW, having opened in 1904 and relocating in 2004 into the beautifully restored 19th-century Sully's Emporium.

The Gallery showcases a rotating programme of exhibitions spanning 19th-century colonial works, modern and contemporary Australian art, and Indigenous art featuring artists like Margaret Preston, Arthur Boyd and Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri. Local and regional artists are also represented, including work by Sam Byrne, William 'Badger' Bates, Jim Paterson and Pro Hart. The Gallery has a quality program of temporary exhibitions by local, state and national artists along with touring exhibitions.



Undertaking the Preservation Needs Assessment (by consultant Tegan Anthes) has delivered valuable outcomes for the Broken Hill City Art Gallery and its nationally significant collection. The assessment provided a comprehensive overview of the condition of artworks, objects, and storage environments within the heritage-listed Sully's Emporium building. It identified areas of strength in the Gallery's existing practices and outlined specific priorities to improve the long-term care and conservation of the collection.

The PNA has enabled the Gallery to adopt a more strategic approach to preventive conservation, ensuring that environmental conditions, storage, handling, and display practices align with current museum standards. Recommendations have informed the development of updated policies and procedures, strengthened risk management, and supported staff capability in collection care and documentation.

Preservation Needs Assessments

Importantly, the assessment has provided an evidence-based framework for future investment and resource planning. It positions the Broken Hill City Art Gallery to seek targeted funding and partnerships to implement key preservation improvements. The outcomes of the PNA contribute directly to the Gallery's mission to protect and present its collection for the benefit of the Broken Hill community and visitors, ensuring the sustainable preservation of one of New South Wales' oldest and most significant regional art collections.

Contact: Kathy Graham, Gallery and Museum Manager

Phone: (08) 8080 3444

Email: artgallery@brokenhill.nsw.gov.au

TAS – Mawson's Huts Foundation – CHG2024/043R

Mawson's Huts Foundation received \$5,500 for a Mawson's Huts Replica Museum Preservation Needs Assessment.

Conservator: Michelle Berry (Michelle Berry Heritage Preservation)

The Mawson's Huts Foundation is a not-for-profit charity established in 1996 to conserve the historic huts at Cape Denison, East Antarctica, which were used by the 1911–14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) led by Sir Douglas Mawson. In 2013, the Foundation opened the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum to help raise funds for the ongoing conservation program. The museum, just 200 metres from where the AAE departed in 1911, is rated as the No.1 museum in Hobart.

The Preservation Needs Assessment, undertaken by Michelle Berry, provided recommendations to improve the long term preservation of the collection in the Mawson's Huts Replica Museum. This included environmental monitoring which determined that the environment with the museum is within the recommended guidelines.

Other recommendations included the preparation of a disaster plan, the establishment of a pest inspection program, upgrade to lighting to enable to control light levels of object exhibition, training of staff in object handling and pest monitoring and appropriate cleaning methods for collection items.

Contact: Carole Reception, Administration Manager

Phone: (04) 0806 6648

Email: accounts@mawsons-huts.org.au

QLD – Ninth Battalions Association Inc – CHG2024/046R

The Ninth Battalions Association Inc received \$5,500 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the 9th Battalions War Memorial Museum collection.

Conservator: Melanie Fihelly (Filhelly Conservation)

Their organisation:

- collects, documents, preserves and displays historical items related to, and the history of Australian Army Infantry Units identified by the numeral Nine; and
- manages the 9th Battalions War Memorial Museum at Enoggera.

Preservation Needs Assessments

The Association was formed in 1949 from current and former members of Australian Infantry 9th Battalions. The 9th Battalion has a significant history with lineage going back to 1867.

A Preservation Needs Assessment of the 9th Battalions War Memorial Museum collection and its report was conducted Melanie Fihelly.

Contact: Ron Mortensen, Director, 9th Battalions War Memorial Museum

Phone: (04) 3144 0066

Email: member9ba@gmail.com

SA – Archives Office, Anglican Diocese of Adelaide – CHG2024/050R

Archives Office, Anglican Diocese of Adelaide received \$5,500 for a Preservation Needs assessment of the Adelaide Diocesan Archives collection.

Conservator: Artlab Australia

The Anglican church has existed in SA since 1836, with the Diocese of Adelaide created in 1847. Today, the Diocese stretches across the Adelaide Plains, to the Barossa Valley and comprises 56 parishes with thousands of worshipping members. Anglican ministry and social services are delivered in churches, schools, prisons and hospitals. The diocesan archive preserves the permanent records of Anglican church life and contributions to community, townscapes, culture and life in SA and beyond.

Their project achieved completion of a Preservation Needs Assessment by consultants at ArtLab Australia, addressing the needs of the extensive collection. As part of this they prepared information about the collection, its various major components and their current storage conditions.

On the strength of this report the Archives Office hope to lobby for increased resources and undertake the most pressing actions to benefit their collections, preserve them and increase access. This will assist with their collection's visibility within the history / heritage community, the church community and indeed the wider community.

The Archives Office has appreciated the opportunity to build networks with Artlab and enjoyed a happy working relationship with them. Their staff and volunteers were left with a stronger knowledge of our collections and increased commitment to the cause of caring for them.

All in all, staff reported it was a very positive process.

Contact: Sarah Black, Archivist

Phone: (04) 0539 9649

Email: sblack@adelaideanglicans.com

Preservation Needs Assessments

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

NSW – Cowra Japanese Garden and Culture Centre – CHG2024/003R

Cowra Japanese Garden and Culture Centre received \$12,439 for Preservation of Display Items – Shoji Screens and Display Cabinets.



The Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre is a not-for-profit organisation and represents post WWII reconciliation between Japan and Australia. Their Garden is a living symbol of friendship and empathy, encouragement of understanding and peace. The Garden has been described as the home of Japanese Culture in Australia as well as the largest Japanese Garden in the Southern Hemisphere. It also pays respect to the Prisoners of War from the Cowra POW Breakout from 1944.

They also have a vast Japanese Cultural Collection displayed on rotation in our Cultural Centre. Items include ceramics, clothing, sculptures, paintings, scrolls and wartime relics.

Upgrading the display cases has significantly enhanced public access to the collection, enabling the rotation of a greater number of items and improving conditions for displaying cultural artefacts. These advancements allow for extended exhibition periods while ensuring the preservation of the artefacts.

Regular preservation and cleaning are now more efficiently managed by a single staff member, as the cabinets with heavy and fragile doors that previously required multiple personnel have been replaced. Additionally, pest management has been simplified due to the removal of the organic fabric bases beneath displayed items.

Storage conditions have also been optimised, with convenient access to storage compartments located beneath the display units. Furthermore, the installation of LED lighting within the units has elevated the display standards to meet professional and museum-quality benchmarks, aligning with the objectives of our Cultural Centre.

Contact: Kaitlyn Sanford, Administration and Cultural Centre Coordinator

Phone: (02) 6341 2233

Email: admin@cowragarden.com.au

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

NSW – National Trust of Australia (NSW): Miss Porter's House – CHG2024/005R

National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) received \$8,541 for Conservation and Collection Management Activities Miss Porter's House.

The National Trust owns and manages a number of heritage properties, including Miss Porter's House in Newcastle West.

This is an Edwardian terrace house museum, owned and lived in by the Porter family from 1910 until 1997. The house is the only National Trust property in Newcastle and has over 5,000 objects in its collection. This includes documentary heritage items which are listed on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register.

Conservation of the house and its contents has been a major focus particularly in recent years with funding from State and Commonwealth governments.

All three project activities have been completed:

- installation of block out blinds to help control temperature and light. Both these issues were identified as priorities in the Preservation Needs Assessment.
- purchase of a data logger to measure and record environmental conditions in the house and help us determine the best location of objects for their conservation.
- conservation of documents.

The blinds are only open when there are people in the house, the data logger is regularly monitored and results discussed at the management committee meetings and the documents are conserved and appropriately stored and available for display.

Contact: Alison McCann, General Manager Properties North

Phone: (02) 9258 0123

Email: info@nationaltrust.org.au

TAS – Maritime Museum of Tasmania Inc – CHG2024/006N

Maritime Museum of Tasmania Inc received \$1,135 for a Collection Management activity the enhanced archival storage of eighteenth and nineteenth century works on paper.

The Maritime Museum of Tasmania grew from the Shiplovers Society of Tasmania, founded in 1931 to preserve and promote the state's maritime heritage. Established in 1973 and housed since 2000 in the historic Carnegie Library opposite Constitution Dock, the Museum is a volunteer-run charitable organisation supported by Hobart City Council and Arts Tasmania. Its collections form Tasmania's most significant maritime heritage resource. Today, the Museum sustains a lively network of volunteers, researchers and maritime enthusiasts, connecting community and history through exhibitions, programs and collaborations across Tasmania and beyond.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities



The project successfully rehoused some of the Museum's works on paper (ship portraits, maps and related material) into appropriate archival storage. Items that were still in frames were carefully removed, condition-checked, and placed in archival boxes. This work has greatly improved the preservation of the collection and reduced risks associated with handling and poor housing. The project also strengthened the Museum's understanding of the collection's condition and informed priorities for future conservation planning.

Contact: Camille Reynes, Curator

Phone: (03) 6234 1427

Email: office@maritimetas.org

TAS – The Royal Society of Tasmania – CHG2024/008R

The Royal Society of Tasmania received \$6,870 for a Conservation project for the Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection.

The Royal Society of Tasmania was formed in 1843. Their mission is 'the advancement of knowledge'. It is a not for profit organisation, run by a council of volunteers, with one part-time office manager.

The Society has an extensive art collection, mainly works on paper, which is housed at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. It also has a library which is housed at the University of Tasmania. The society produces a peer-reviewed journal 'Papers and Proceedings' annually.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities



The project was part of the society's ongoing conservation of its art collection. They have previously had the collection valued by a Commonwealth accredited valuer. In his report he singled out one artwork that urgently required conservation – Louisa Anne Meredith's watercolour *A Cool Debate*. This artwork is considered her most iconic work, however was in very poor condition, too poor to be displayed. He also considered the artwork was in such poor condition that there was no freelance conservator available to us in Tasmania who was qualified to do the work.

Quotes were sought from three conservators interstate, and International Conservation Services in Sydney was contracted to conserve the artwork. The conservation work has now been completed, the work has been stabilised and can now be shown to the people of Tasmania.

Contact: Anita Hansen, Honorary Curator

Phone: (03) 6165 7014

Email: admin@rst.org.au

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

SA – Flinders University Museum of Art – CHG2024/013R

Flinders University Museum of Art received \$18,182 for a Digitisation of at-risk magnetic media.

Flinders University Museum of Art (FUMA), established in 1978, cares for and develops a collection that has been growing since 1966. Key strengths include Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, European prints, Post-object and documentation art, and Australian political prints and posters, alongside smaller collections of Australian, international and Japanese works. FUMA plays an active role in university life, using its collection to support teaching, research and object-based learning across disciplines. It engages students, staff and researchers in critical discussions about art, culture and history, and provides access through exhibitions, programmes and an online catalogue.

Phase two of FUMA's media digitisation project has been successfully completed, securing the preservation of their most fragile and at-risk holdings. The project prioritised EIAJ open reel video recordings, which were especially vulnerable due to their rarity, fragile consumer-grade format, and the scarcity of playback equipment. Working with DAMsmart, these works have now been digitised to IASA TC-06 standards, creating both high-quality archival masters and accessible viewing copies.

The digitised collection captures significant documentation of Australia's post-object and conceptual art movement, spanning 1966 to 1985. This includes unique works by artists such as Joseph Beuys, David Malangi, Charles Simonds and Tim Burns, whose experimental practices were recorded on early video. Through this project, materials that faced imminent loss have been stabilised and safeguarded, ensuring they remain available for future generations of researchers, artists, and the broader community.

Additional magnetic media and film were also digitised to support current research, demonstrating the collection's value as a resource for postgraduate study. All original carriers have been rehoused in archive-quality storage, while the digital files are securely stored in multiple formats and locations. This outcome strengthens FUMA's ability to provide long-term access to nationally significant media art.

Contact: Lachlan Murray, Collections and Exhibitions Officer

Phone: (08) 8201 2695

Email: museum@flinders.edu.au

NSW – Shoalhaven Historical Society Inc – CHG2024/014R

Shoalhaven Historical Society Inc received \$16,579 for a Conservation Condition Assessment of Elyard Art Collection.

Shoalhaven Historical Society was formed in 1967. In 1980 SHS established a museum in the former police station. SHS actively seeks objects from the public and regularly attends agricultural and horticultural shows, expos and fairs to encourage people to participate in the heritage of the Shoalhaven. They also host numerous visits from school children and groups and provide guest speakers. They undertake research for private and government agencies and publish an extensive array of books and pamphlets, written by our members. They are actively involved in the struggle to retain items, precincts and buildings of heritage significance from "redevelopment".

This project consisted of two parts. Part 1 provided for a Condition Assessment Report of the 62 paintings by Samuel Elyard which are in the collection of Nowra Museum. This assessment was undertaken by conservator Kristel Smits in January 2025. Kristel closely examined each painting using lights and other equipment and provided a Conservation Assessment including: a photograph

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

for each painting; details of dimensions, medium and framing status; a detailed condition report; and detailed recommendations for treatment. This Condition Assessment is proving invaluable as volunteers endeavour to take responsible action to ensure the integrity and longevity of such a large collection of Samuel Elyard works. The conservator has indicated those works most at risk which has enabled us to draw up a priority list for treatment.

Part 2 consisted of two x three hour workshops designed to assist the entirely volunteer workforce in caring for the important Samuel Elyard Collection. The workshops were attended by six enthusiastic volunteers. They learned correct handling procedures for artworks, to identify problems such as incorrect framing, mould issues, problems with stretchers failing, and water damage. Acceptable conservation standard storage was also addressed and they learned to make archival quality folders.



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NSW – Georges River Council – CHG2024/030R

Georges River Council received \$13,230 for conservation training, cleaning and archival rehousing of local studies document- based collections.

Georges River Council (GRC) was proclaimed on 12 May 2016, amalgamating Hurstville City Council and Kogarah City Council. GRC now provides five public libraries in the Georges River Area.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

Both former councils maintained local studies collections that now create the Georges River Libraries Local Studies Collection.

The collection preserves the region's heritage through oral histories, texts, and photographs and is accessible at both Hurstville and Clive James Kogarah Libraries. The museum and library teams maintain and expand the collections, documenting the community's diverse stories, supporting public access to local history and strengthening cultural preservation across the Georges River area. The conservation and archival rehousing project significantly increased the level of preservation of their archive collection material, the detailed knowledge of the collection's content and developed staff practical conservation skills.

Over the past eight months, the project has significantly improved the care, accessibility, and understanding of their archival collection. A total of 1,222 items, including books, photographs, documents, ephemera, glass plate negatives, and small objects, were rehoused using archival-grade materials, enhancing their physical stability and longevity.

Through this project staff also deepened their knowledge of the collection's content, uncovering provenance and historical connections that enrich their understanding of local heritage. As a result, access to the collection has been significantly improved; items are now safely housed, clearly labelled, and easier to retrieve, supporting future handling for research, exhibitions, and community engagement, as well as digitisation opportunities. Additionally, staff created new catalogue records with detailed indexes, making the archive collection searchable for the community for the first time.

Staff developed practical conservation skills through training and hands-on experience (delivered by Tegan Anthes), including cleaning techniques, object handling, and custom housing construction. Team members reported increased confidence in object handling and care, applying best-practice methods and solving complex conservation challenges.

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NSW – Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative Limited – CHG2024/031R

Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative Limited received \$9,500 for establish a new content management system, develop workflows and deliver training for the new system.

Established in 1957, Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative Limited (Tranby) is Australia's first and longest-running independent Indigenous education provider. They are an Aboriginal-controlled, non-profit organisation providing cultural support and value to the local and national Indigenous and non-Indigenous community.

Based in Glebe, NSW, Tranby is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) providing nationally accredited Diploma and Certificate level courses to Indigenous adults. As a community organisation Tranby is an important place of culture and community connection for our Indigenous community.

Tranby has successfully completed the design and implementation of the Mukurtu content management system, now securely hosted within the Digital Dilly Bag—Tranby's sovereign data centre. This milestone ensures that Tranby's digital collections and cultural knowledge are managed in a culturally safe, community-controlled environment, with all data remaining on infrastructure owned and governed by Tranby.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

The Mukurtu platform, purpose-built for Indigenous communities, enables Tranby to manage, share, and protect digital content according to cultural protocols and community preferences. By integrating Mukurtu within the Digital Dilly Bag, Tranby strengthens its commitment to Indigenous data sovereignty, digital self-determination, and the respectful stewardship of cultural heritage.

This implementation positions Tranby as a leader in the use of digital tools for cultural preservation, ensuring that First Nations knowledge remains protected, accessible, and governed by community-defined values.

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NT – Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation – CHG2024/032R

The Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation received \$17,190 for conservation treatments for the Ngurratjuta Collection.

Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation was incorporated in 1985 under the *Aboriginal Corporations Act of 1976*, as an association of communities “affected” by oil/gas operations at Mereenie and Palm Valley. Ngurratjuta provided a mechanism for receipt and distribution of statutory royalties payable to these affected Communities under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.

Ngurratjuta’s purpose was to support independent Aboriginal Communities through building an investment base to protect accumulated royalty funds through investment, whilst stimulating employment opportunities and venture activities, supporting development in Member Communities.

One of Ngurratjuta's key investments has been acquiring art significant to the Ngurratjuta Region.

The CHG grant project this year has achieved a full and thorough condition assessment of 45 Albert Namatjira original watercolours owned by Ngurratjuta.

Through delivering a comprehensive assessment of the works, the consultant Artlab Australia were able to provide detailed and informed recommendations for conservation treatment, with recommendations tailored to fit the specific needs of each work. This substantive review, assessment and recommendation process has enabled Ngurratjuta to fully understand the condition of each of the key works in its collection.

A small amount of conservation treatment has also been delivered under the funds provided.

Aside from the key deliverables under the quote, skills and knowledge of Ngurratjuta's Curator have been developed as a result of working closely with Artlab Australia.

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Collection Management and Conservation Activities

QLD – Queensland Braille House – CHG1024/039R

Braille House received \$7,900 for a Conservation and Collection Management of Braille House Items of Significance.

Since 1897, Braille House has produced high-quality Braille materials. As a lending library and transcription service, they convert text into Braille, eBraille, Moon, large print, audio, and tactile formats. They create accessible resources like menus, health info, maps, emergency plans, and newsletters. Their work supports projects such as the National Bowel Screening Program, Cross River Rail, various government and council initiatives, as well as businesses and individuals. They also offer expert Braille tutoring to people who are blind or vision impaired, their families, and carers. Our services are delivered by a small team and nearly 60 dedicated volunteers.

There were three main objectives to Braille House’s “Collection Rehousing and Storage” project:



- to sort, clean and store the collection, and to purchase archival storage and materials; sorting and cleaning the collection has begun, with archival materials purchased. This is an ongoing project, that will contribute to the long-term protection of the collection. One outcome has been the identification of significant items previously unknown to the organisation.
- training in preventative conservation; a workshop on preventative preservation, run by consultant, Christine Ianna, was held in August 2025, and attended by staff, volunteers and members of the Yeronga Historical Society (to foster relationships with the local community). The workshop covered preservation methods and raised awareness of how these methods can assist with avoiding problems identified in Braille House’s Preservation Assessment.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

- create a Disaster Preparedness Plan; Christine assisted in developing an Interim Collection Management Policy and, from there, an Interim Disaster Preparedness Plan. Both can be temporarily used to guide management of the collection, until the Management Committee can ratify the policies, noting they will need to be further developed.

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VIC – Australian Queer Archives Inc – CHG2024/040R

The Australian Queer Archives Inc received \$17,400 for the Bill West Community Radio Collection Digitisation Project – Part 2.

The Australian Queer Archives (AQuA) is a community-based, volunteer-run, and member-funded not-for-profit organisation, established in 1978. AQuA was initially known as the Australian Gay Archives (1978-1992) then Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives (1992-2020). Since its inception, they have developed the world's largest and most significant archival collection of Australian LGBTIQ+ material. They make the collection accessible to researchers, cultural institutions and all others wanting to learn more about the LGBTIQ+ communities.

AQuA has an active member, volunteer and community profile, regularly working with a range of institutional and event partners across local, national and international forums.

The Bill West Community Radio Collection Digitisation Project – Part 2 digitised the remaining 145 ¼” reels that were not undertaken in the previous CHG activity. Preparatory work included: collection audit; pre-digitisation condition assessment; and digitisation quote selection. Delivery included digitisation of the ¼” reels in two batches through the selected digitisation company, quality checking and backing up files, including Broadcast WAV Preservation Master files, and MP3 Access files. Detailed cataloguing of the contents has commenced, ensuring significantly improved access to the collection. Volunteers are in the process of finalising their purchase of a collection management system (CMS) and are aiming to have the records for their audio collection, including those relating to the Bill West Collection, available online in 2026, and then harvested and accessible on Trove.

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NSW – National Trust of Australia (NSW): Bedervale Homestead – CHG2024/045R

The National Trust of Australia NSW received \$6,883 for a Conservation and Collection Management activities - Bedervale Collection.

The National Trust (NSW) cares for one of the most state significant collections in New South Wales. There are more than 60,000 precious artefacts, artworks, textiles and furniture in our collections, which are being protected for future generations to enjoy.

Bedervale Homestead was designed by leading colonial architect John Verge in 1836 for Captain John Coghill and his family and features a fine collection of colonial furniture and family memorabilia which has survived in its original setting.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

The Collection Care program at Bedervale continues and significant progress has been made with the documentation of the archival collection in the School room and the dry store. The CHG grant provided funds for the purchase of conservation resources which supported a new program to tackle the uncatalogued archival material in the School room and the Dry store.

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QLD – Eromanga Natural History Museum – CHG2024/051R

The Eromanga Natural History Museum received \$5,952 for a Biodiversity and Paleobotanical Collection Storage Purchase Project.

The Eromanga Natural History Museum showcases the fossil and natural history of South West Queensland. It features some of the world's largest dinosaurs, including the Titanosaur "Cooper," and megafauna like the Diprotodon. The museum offers tours, fossil preparation experiences, and onsite accommodation at Cooper's Country Lodge. The museum continues to develop its collections and remain a repository for the surrounding region.

The project resulted in the formal curation of their extensive botanical collection. By purchasing the collection storage required, staff were able to put the already catalogued specimens in temperature controlled conditions and ensure the long-term conservation of the collection.

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VIC – Duldig Studio – CHG2024/052R

Duldig Studio received \$1,799 for preventive conservation of drawings, ephemera and ceramics.

The Duldig Studio is a public house museum, art gallery and sculpture garden located in East Malvern, Melbourne, and the former home and studio of internationally recognised sculptor Karl Duldig (1902-1986) and his wife, artist and inventor Slawa Duldig (1902-1975). The organisation's vision is to be recognised as a pre-eminent Australian artists' house museum that inspires, informs and engages through art and the story of the Duldig family's creative journey. The collection illustrates pre-war European art and culture and tells the story of survival and resilience through migration from Vienna to Singapore to Melbourne.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities



The purchase and use of quality archival materials helped the organisation to make significant improvements in collections management and accessibility. They are now implementing museum-quality storage systems that provide preventative conservation through proper containment, reduced handling, and protection from dust, light, and damage. Enhanced security measures and updated storage

locations improve disaster planning and damage/loss mitigation. The project creates logical storage arrangements and records that facilitate future collection growth and enable safe behind-the-scenes tours for visitors.

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VIC – Carmelite Memorial Library of Spirituality and Mariology – CHG2024/054R

The Carmelite Memorial Library of Spirituality and Mariology received \$7,550 for a Conservation and Collection Management Activities - Carmelite Library Rare Books Collection.

The Carmelite Library is Australia's finest specialised collection in the areas of Christian spirituality and mysticism. The Library belongs to the Australia-East Timor Province of the Carmelite Friars, a Catholic religious order which originated on Mt Carmel in the Holy Land in the late 12th century. The collection began with the arrival of the Carmelites in Melbourne in 1881. Originally a general theological collection, the library now specialises in Carmelitana, Spirituality, and Mariology, and serves students, researchers, and members of the general public. It holds over 50,000 volumes, with approximately 800 comprising the Carmelite Library's rare books collection.

This project has enabled the library to purchase materials so that fragile rare books can be stored appropriately in archival-quality boxes and mylar sleeves, as well as safely displayed. The grant also funded equipment to monitor temperature and humidity conditions, and items to help maintain more stable environmental conditions in the rare book areas. A museum-quality vacuum and other items required for specialised cleaning have been purchased, as well as pest-control products to assist with the eradication of pests like silverfish.

They have also purchased a large wheelie bin and items to stock a disaster recovery kit. This will ensure that in an emergency, they have the resources to respond quickly, minimising potential for damage, and ensuring staff are kept safe while working in potentially unsafe conditions.

Items in the rare books collection will be systematically reviewed by staff, who will improve catalogue records, clean and undertake minor repairs, and store items appropriately. This work is ongoing. At the end of this process, the library will have a definitive list of all rare books, with enhanced catalogue records, which in turn will enhance their discoverability.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

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NSW – Society of Australian Genealogists – CHG2024/055R

The Society of Australian Genealogists received \$4,377 for rehousing and storage of significant materials.

The Society was formed in 1932 and is the oldest family history society in Australia. They are an organisation that welcomes enthusiastic amateurs alongside professional genealogists, sharing a passion for family history. Their principal object is the advancement of genealogical education, and this is reflected in their education program and collections.

The Society is managed by a small staff under the direction of a Board of Directors, and they could not open our doors without a dedicated team of volunteers.

Thanks to the grant they purchased a substantial number of enclosures to rehouse the Society's most valuable archive collections items as recommended in the previous Significance Assessment and Preservation Needs Assessment.

The materials purchased will rehouse items from six different accessions: Quong Tart collection (56 items), Caroline Husband collection (23 items), Crommelin papers (218 items), Leila Private Hospital volumes (2 items), and Pye Music volume (1 item), including bound items such as scrapbooks, diaries and registers, letters, manuscript pages and both small and large photographs.

The grant allowed them to purchase storage materials to rehouse all items mentioned above as well as humidity indicator strips for storage areas and nitrile gloves.

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Collection Management and Conservation Activities

VIC – Kew Historical Society Incorporated – CHG2024/047R

The Kew Historical Society Incorporated received \$19,375 for a Conservation of the Henty Costume Collection.



The Kew Historical Society was founded in 1958 and is one of the oldest continuing historical societies in Melbourne. For over 60 years, the Society has worked with local government and other organisations to stimulate interest in Kew's history and heritage. The Society is affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Australian Museums & Galleries Association. It co-operates with other historical societies and groups across the City of Boroondara through the Boroondara Historical Societies Association.

Conservation of four outfits from the nationally significant Henty Family Costume Collection, identified as urgently in need of conservation and preservation was the main aim of the project.

Ultimately, volunteers were very satisfied with the outcomes, a number of which provided technical challenges for Grimwade Conservation Services. At the final handover meeting to view the conserved costumes, they felt that their input was valued, and as an organisation they learned much about high level textiles conservation techniques.

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NSW – Braidwood & District Historical Society – CHG2024/048R

The Braidwood & District Historical Society received \$3,905 for a Collection Conservation Project.

The museum was built in 1840 by James Larmer, State Surveyor and is listed on the State Heritage Register. The Society bought the building and formed the Historical Society in 1969.

Members encourage research and enjoyment of their collection. They produce a quarterly Newsletter, and short monthly "Dispatch News Sheet", organise specialised exhibitions, historical tours around the district, give historical talks to schools and organisations, and hold Annual Dinners. They are currently extending the museum to become a Heritage Centre, containing workshops for various old craft skills, and a community space which could be used for conferences.

The grant enabled the conservation of the Jeremiah Jones jacket and hat by Kim Morris of Art and Archival at Queanbeyan. The outfit was moth infested, and the hat was found by the conservator to be extremely fragile. The volunteers have acquired more knowledge concerning fragile object handling, and the provenance of the items, such as the personal history of Jeremiah and his participation in the Peninsular Wars.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

This costume was donated by Jeremiah Jones' family. They have now arranged for the family to come to Braidwood for the unveiling of their families' precious objects. The Historical Society have a very good relationship with Kim Morris and his staff.

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QLD – Buderim Historical Society Inc – CHG2024/051N

The Buderim Historical Society Inc received \$16,330 for a Preservation Needs Assessment Implementation, Archival Supplies and Conservation Prioritisation and Mentoring.

Buderim Historical Society Inc (BHS) was formed in 1966 and since 1967 has run a house museum (Pioneer Cottage) in an 1880s house that is state heritage listed.

BHS is supported by the Sunshine Coast Council to enable the museum to open six days per week, attracting around 1,400 visitors per annum. BHS manages a collection of over 3,000 items inclusive of objects and historical documents. This collection is available for public viewing through a link on the BHS website to eHive. In addition, BHS also has a collection of 1,500 images.



The BHS worked with a conservator to deliver the following achievements:

- re-storage of items from the BHS collection, using archival quality materials and the development of custom-made storage boxes and folders
- expanded core of current volunteers and Management Committee that have an enhanced knowledge of collection care and preservation
- professionally described and prioritised list of historically significant objects requiring professional conservation, to enable quotes to be sought from conservators and funding to be sought
- upgraded and/or new skills in cleaning, preservation, storage and safe display, for volunteers directly involved in collection care and curatorial activities
- specific and general display advice that will guide the installation and placement of furniture, objects and new interpretation in each of the museum rooms, following roof replacement in October-November 2025

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

- increased knowledge of available online resources that will support a more professional approach to condition assessment and cleaning/preservation activities that can be completed by volunteers
- a forward workplan of cleaning and preservation activities that can be conducted by volunteers in the collection care team, to action in the coming year
- updated housekeeping and cleaning procedures
- storage advice for the collection that will continue to be implemented as resources allow/are sourced.

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Training

NSW – Lithgow City Council Libraries – CHG2024/007T

Lithgow City Council Libraries received \$5,010 for a preventive conservation of collections, and collection handling and basic paper conservation training.

Lithgow City Council Libraries are a medium-sized library service serving a local government area of just over 20,000 people. The local history collection comprises a large variety of items that tell the story of Lithgow's history and the contribution it has made to the industrial history of the nation. The collection comprises books, photographs, archives, ephemera and objects. It is well utilised by researchers everywhere and is continually growing. Preserving the unique items for the future is the goal of the organisation to ensure it is there for future generations.

The project was based around skills development and a basic knowledge of preservation to ensure that the collections in good condition remain that way. Training was conducted by Tegan Anthes from Collect Preserve over two days in March 2025. Day 1 involved a session on Collections Care and was delivered to 11 participants. Representatives from Lithgow Library, Lithgow Family History Society, Eskbank House Museum, The Glenn Museum and State Mine Museum were in attendance.



Day 2 was primarily aimed at the Lithgow Library collection and the conservation cleaning and handling was demonstrated using these collections. Five library staff primarily involved in the local studies collection and one representative from the State Mine Museum who will be handling and working on similar items were in attendance. The workshops were well delivered by Tegan and all participants over both days reported that they had gained valuable knowledge from the training.

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