

NSW awarded 27 grants to help save state's heritage

Twenty-seven NSW groups will receive grants to help preserve the state's heritage following the announcement of the 2007 Community Heritage Grants.

The successful and popular program is providing grants worth \$126 105 to 27 community groups and organisations around the state in 2007. The groups include museums, libraries, historical societies, art galleries, migrant and religious organisations. Each will receive funds to assist in the identification and preservation of community owned but nationally significant heritage collections.

Highlights include \$6 100 to the Australian Country Music Foundation to preserve its collection; \$8 140 to the Mid-North Coast Maritime Museum Association; and \$13 100 to the National Art School, the nation's oldest. There is also an award of \$7 150 to the Norfolk Island Museum for a preservation needs assessment of its unique artefacts.

Recipients attend a three-day intensive preservation and collection management workshop held at the National Library, the National Archives of Australia, the National Museum of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra.

National Library Director-General Jan Fullerton said the program, which began in 1994, had surpassed expectations. "It has been taken up by groups throughout Australia, ensuring the longevity of nationally significant collections and that the collections stay in the community where they belong.

"The diversity of the collections chronicle our Australian lives – past and present – including transport, sport, science, industry, Indigenous, education, crafts, migration and religion. They also reflect geographic diversity with collection locations ranging from our capital cities to tiny, isolated villages.

"Over the years hundreds of people involved in nationally significant collections throughout Australia have been given the opportunity to come to Canberra, enhance their skills through the expertise of the national institutions, and to then take their new knowledge back to their community to ensure the collections are preserved and managed while remaining in a meaningful context."

The grant money is used for significance assessments, preservation needs assessments, conservation treatments, preservation training, digitisation, and purchasing quality storage materials or environmental monitoring equipment.

The Community Heritage Grants Program is managed by the National Library. It is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, the National Archives of Australia, the Australian Film Commission, the National Museum of Australia and the National Library.

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