

## Western Australia awarded nine grants to help save state's heritage

Nine Western Australian 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 \$55 900 to nine community groups and organisations around the state in 2007. The groups include museums, historical societies, and Indigenous, sporting and religious organisations. Each will receive funds to assist in the identification and preservation of community owned but nationally significant heritage collections.

Western Australian highlights include \$14 800 to the Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation for the preservation and digitisation of the Martu Map, which was created in 1987 to establish ownership of the area; and \$3 000 to the Benedictine Community of New Norcia to rehouse its music archive.

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.

**Media contacts: Yvonne Kennedy 02 6262 1353; 0411 753 891; [ykennedy@nla.gov.au](mailto:ykennedy@nla.gov.au)  
Ellen Peterson 02 6262 1571; [epeterson@nla.gov.au](mailto:epeterson@nla.gov.au)**