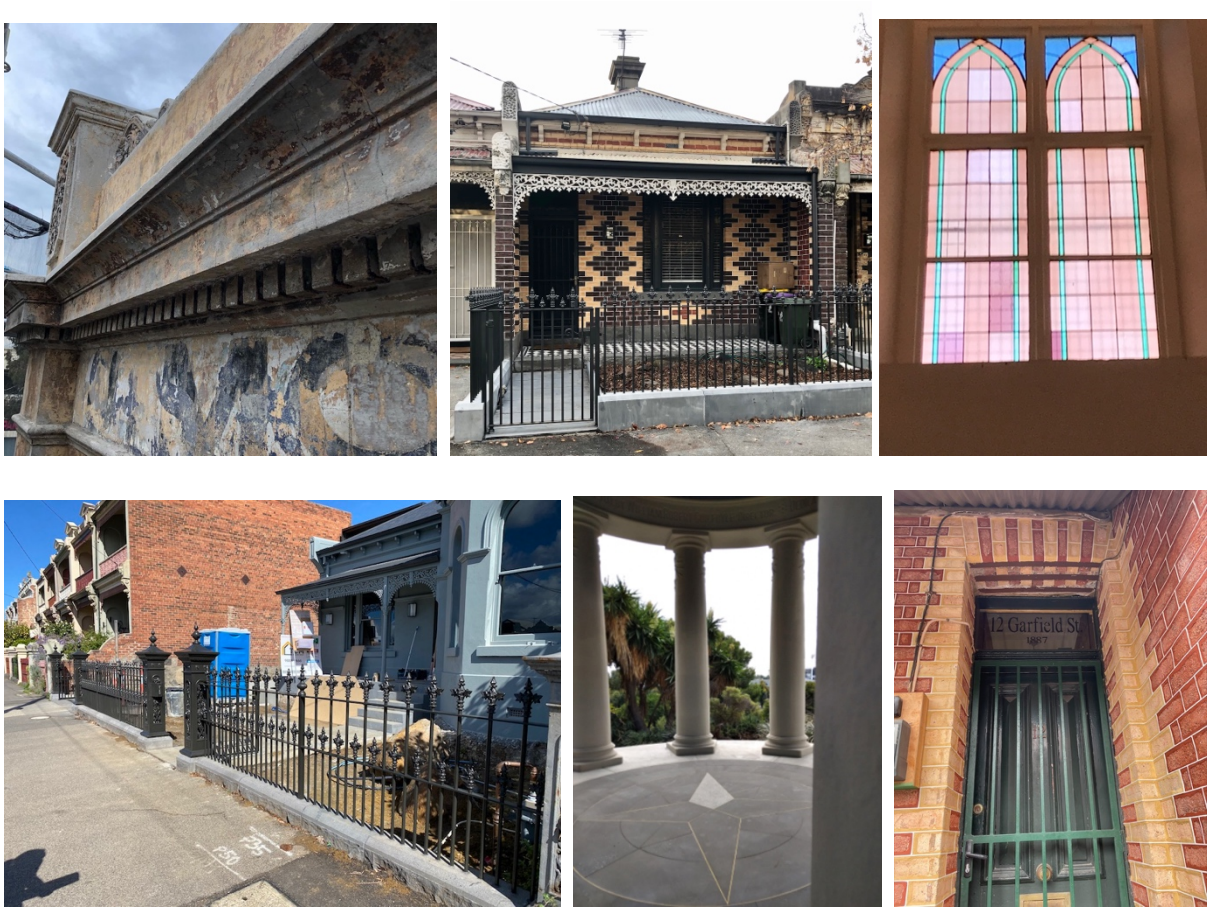




Victoria's Heritage Restoration Fund

2022 Annual Report



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VHRF MEMBERS

VHRF MEMBERS – COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 21/22

NAME	REPRESENTING	EMAIL
Christina Dyson, Chair	National Trust	christinardyson@gmail.com
Simon Ambrose	National Trust	simon.ambrose@nattrust.com.au
Louise Honman	Heritage Council Vic	lhonman@gmail.com
Steven Avery	DELWP, Heritage Victoria	Steven.avery@delwp.vic.gov.au
Annabel Neylon	City of Ballarat	annabelneylon@ballarat.vic.gov.au
Richa Swarup	City of Yarra	Richa.swarup@yarracity.vic.gov.au
Tanya Wolkenberg	City of Melbourne	tanya.wolkenberg@melbourne.vic.gov.au
Marie Sheriff	City of Casey	msheriff@casey.vic.gov.au

A representative of the Municipal Association of Victoria has not been appointed.

Note: Louise Honman ended her term on the Heritage Council at the end of the 21/22 FY so also ended her term on the VHRF Committee

VHRF STAFF

STAFF MEMBERS ADMINISTERING VHRF 21/22

ROLE	NAME	EMAIL
Administrator	Tony Armstrong	tony.armstrong@nattrust.com.au
Conservation Architect	Samantha Westbrooke	samantha.westbrooke@nattrust.com.au
Chief Financial Officer	Philip Martins	philip.martins@nattrust.com.au
Accountant	Madri Silva	madri.silva@nattrust.com.au

PARTICIPATING COUNCILS

City of Melbourne, 4th year on existing Agreement (3 year Agreement extended by 1 year)

City of Yarra, ongoing Agreement since 2018

City of Ballarat, 1 year Agreement

City of Casey, 1 year Agreement

MEETINGS & ATTENDANCE

19 August 2021 - online

Attendance: Christina Dyson (Chair), Simon Ambrose, Louise Honman, Evelina Ericsson (Proxy for Steven Avery), Richa Swarup, Marie Sheriff, Annabel Neylon, Molly Wilson (Proxy for Tanya Wolkenberg)

28 October 2021 (Special Meeting) - online

Attendance: Christina Dyson (Chair), Louise Honman, Amanda Bacon (Proxy for Steven Avery), Richa Swarup, Marie Sheriff, Annabel Neylon, Tanya Wolkenberg

25 November 2021 - online

Attendance: Christina Dyson (Chair), Simon Ambrose, Louise Honman, Evelina Ericsson (Proxy for Steven Avery), Richa Swarup, Marie Sheriff, Annabel Neylon, Tanya Wolkenberg

AGM 25 November 2021 – online

Attendance: Christina Dyson (Chair), Simon Ambrose, Louise Honman, Evelina Ericsson (Proxy for Steven Avery), Richa Swarup, Marie Sheriff, Annabel Neylon, Tanya Wolkenberg

14 April 2022 - online

Attendance: Christina Dyson (Chair), Louise Honman, Evelina Ericsson (Proxy for Steven Avery), Richa Swarup, Marie Sheriff, Susan Fayad (Alternate for Annabel Neylon), Tanya Wolkenberg

PROJECTS RECOMMENDED

19 August 2021

C0003, 6 Prospect Hill Rd Narre Warren \$6,000 for metal roof

B0080, 315 Talbot St Ballarat. \$3,800 for timber sash window

B0081, 6 Queen Victoria St Newington. \$8,000 Galvanised iron roof

M0091, 550 Queensberry St, Nth Melbourne. \$20,000 Façade Conservation works

M0094, 492 Abbotsford St Nth Melbourne. \$5,000 Parapet balustrade reconstruction

M0095, 125 Swanston St Melbourne \$30,000 Pilot project to conserve 5 window bays

Y0098, 427 George St Fitzroy. \$5,000 Lime washing

Y0103, 93 Holtom St Princess Hill. \$12,000 Reinstate parapet decoration

Y0105, 59 Dwyer St Clifton Hill. \$10,000 Reinstate verandah

25 November 2021

B0083. 415 Eureka St Eureka. \$3,000 Verandah restoration

B0084, 512 Mair St Ballarat. \$10,000 Replace windows

M0096, 163 Abbotsford St Nth Melbourne. \$6,000 Reinstate cast iron fence

M0097, 149 Palmerston St Carlton. \$3,000 Tuckpointing

Y0106, 818 Lygon St Carlton Nth. \$2,500. Verandah frieze and front door

Y0107, 55 Grant St Clifton Hill. \$5,000 Mortar repairs/tuckpointing

Y0098, 427 George St Fitzroy. \$5,000 Lime wash walls

14 April 2022

B0085, 407 Grant St Golden Point. \$4,000 repointing brickwork on stables

B0087, 618 Lydiard St Nth, Soldiers Hill. \$4,000 galvanised iron roof

B0091, 415 Eyre St Buninyong. \$4,000 Galvanised iron roof

M0099, 91 McCracken St Kensington. \$3,000 Terracotta Verandah tiles

M0100, 114 Station St Carlton. \$3,000 Wrought iron palisade fence

Y0109, 51 Grant St Clifton Hill. \$8,000. Paint removal, slate cladding, plaster detailing, repair end wall

Y0110 42 Amess St Carlton Nth. \$6,000 Iron palisade fence

PROJECTS COMPLETED

B0070 2 Barkly St Ballarat, Ballarat Synagogue
Interior wall, joinery, ceiling restoration



B0073 110 Lyons St Nth, Ballarat
Reconstruction of original front verandah



B0076 202 Barkly St, Bakery Hill
Replacement of colorbond fence and repair of existing fence



B0077 22 Ripon St Nth, Ballarat
Roof tile restoration and replacement



B0079 510 Bond St Golden Point
Timberwork repairs to front façade and verandah



B0085 407 Grant St Golden Point
Re-pointing stables brickwork



C0002 159 Greaves Rd Narre Warren Sth
Conservation Management Plan



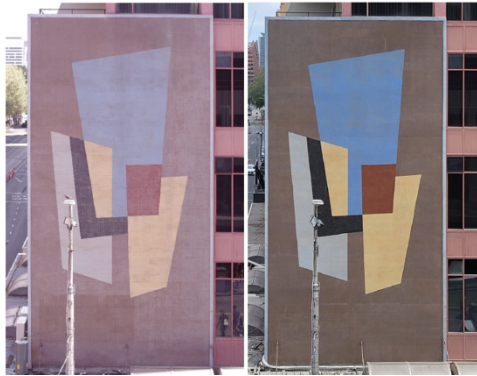
M0086 2A Curran St Nth Melbourne
Re-building brick wall to match existing



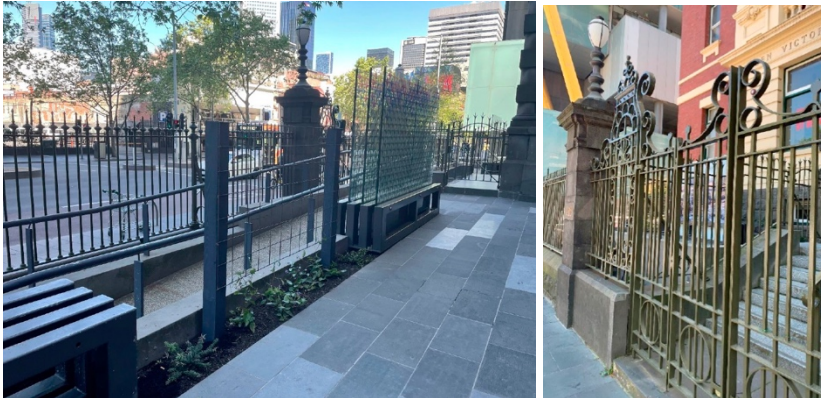
M0089 47 Powlett St East Melbourne
Slate roof reinstatement



ML005 Richard Beck Mural 1 Elizabeth St Melbourne
Conservation works to mosaic mural



ML006 210 Lonsdale St Melbourne, Queen Victoria Womens Centre
Restoration of wrought iron fence and gates and front garden restoration



MI010 492 Queensbury St, Nth Melbourne
Paint removal and render repairs



MI017 Gordon House, 24 Little Bourke St Melbourne
Original sign restoration



ML0022 Temple of the Winds, Royal Botanic Gardens Alexander Ave Sth Yarra
Restoration of the podium floor and steps



Y0081 417 Canning St Carlton Nth
Restoration of the original cast iron fence



Y0087 43 Gordon St Clifton Hill
Paint removal and repointing works



Y0088 56 Grant St Clifton Hill

Re-pointing of facade



Y0089 24 Fergie St Fitzroy Nth

Reinstatement of Victorian style fence



Y0091 All Saints Church 97 King William St Fitzroy Nth

Restoration of leadlight windows – upper east elevation



Y0094 12 Garfield St Fitzroy

Repointing and tuckpointing front façade



STRATEGIC WORK

SPECIAL MEETING 28 OCTOBER 2021

A special meeting of the VHRF Committee was held in October 2021 to enable discussion of the future sustainability of the Fund due to drawing down on funds available to pay the administration fee that was not in line with the fees charged to Councils.

The actions from that meeting were as follows:

Actions

Existing VHRF Councils

- Firm up contributions for the 22/23 FY and update the VHRF about this at the 25 November VHRF meeting, including providing a date for confirmation of contributions for the 22/23 FY.
- Sound out/commence discussions within Councils about ongoing commitment to VHRF fund, increased administration fees, and no less than 2 year commitment to VHRF following 22/23 FY. Provide an update on these discussions at the 25 November VHRF meeting and then report again on this early in the 2022 new year.
- Investigate other Council and external funding programs that could contribute to VHRF project contributions and cover Council's VHRF administration fee. Share any ideas with VHRF Management and the other Councils in the VHRF.
- Consider different targeted project funding models that suit the relevant Council such as a Landmark fund similar to Melbourne City Council, a Commercial Street Program or targeted precinct – this may also identify/open up other funding opportunities.

VHRF Administration

- Contact Moonee Valley City Council to firm up their participation in the VHRF in 22/23 FY and also make them aware of increase in fees for following 22/23 FY.
- Provide an updated VHRF prospectus outlining the benefits of participating in the VHRF, new management fee structure and outlining the management services provided for the fee.
- Investigate and target other potential Councils (Hepburn, Frankston) to join the VHRF in 23/24, encouraging them to talk to their Council and Councillors now in readiness for a budget bid in 22/23 for the 23/24 FY.
- Prepare a draft submission for review by the VHRF Committee to the *Protecting heritage in Victoria* component of the Parliamentary Enquiry to examine the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (submissions due end of Jan 2022).

All

Consider the two fee structures outlined above and at our next VHRF meeting (25 November) discuss this further with the aim of making a final decision on the proposed fee structure beyond 22/23 FY. VHRF Management will need this for discussions with other potential Councils.

UPDATED VHRF PROSPECTUS FOR COUNCILS

As a result of the recommendations from the meeting 28 October 2021 the following revised Prospectus was prepared.

Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund

Who We Are

Victoria's Heritage Restoration Fund (VHRF), established in 2013 is a Committee of Management providing a program of restoration grants to local government Councils for heritage places in private or public ownership. The values of the VHRF are as follows:

- To be a leader in innovative heritage investment
- To facilitate heritage-led investment into historic townships
- To ensure best-practice heritage conservation work

VHRF was formerly known as the Melbourne Heritage Restoration Fund, established by the City of Melbourne and the Victorian Government in 1988 to assist owners of heritage places within the City of Melbourne to conserve and restore their buildings for the enjoyment of the wider community.

The VHRF currently offers grants to restore eligible heritage places from four funds:

- Melbourne Heritage Restoration Fund (MHRF)
- Yarra Heritage Restoration Fund (YHRF)
- Ballarat Heritage Restoration Fund (BHRF)
- Casey Heritage Restoration Fund (CHRF)

The VHRF is currently looking for Councils to join the Fund.

Our Structure

VHRF operations and funds are overseen by a Committee of Management comprising representatives of the participating Councils, the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP), the Heritage Council of Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

VHRF is administered by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and their services include secretariat support to VHRF, financial administration of all funds under control, expert assessment and advice on all grant applications, grant administration services and VHRF website maintenance. Administration has been undertaken for VHRF (previously MHRF) by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) since 2010.

Funding Model

Each Council provides an annual amount of between \$40,000 and \$200,000 to put towards grants within their municipality plus a nominal fee towards VHRF administration.

The administration fee charged starts at a base rate of \$10,000 fee for up to \$50,000 for grants, \$15,000 admin fee for between \$50,000 and \$120,000 grants funding and \$20,000 fee for between \$120,000 and \$200,000 grants funding.

What the VHRF Offers

The VHRF provides the following:

- The majority of administration costs.
- Centralised, streamlined and proven grant administration services including an online application process and a serviced website.
- The VHRF would administer two rounds of funding each year including review and reporting on applications, expert heritage advice and site visits.
- VHRF administration includes an experienced grants administrator and a heritage architect who assesses all applications.
- The service/program for each individual Council can be tailored to their needs ie. Focus on funding restoration works that are seen as a priority or having most impact. Some Councils will be commercial streetscapes, access to heritage places, specialist conservation consultant reports and CMPSSs, verandah reinstatement, landmark sites etc.
- Involvement by and feedback to Councils can also be tailored to individual needs.
- On behalf of Councils, VHRF will seek ongoing funding to subsidise the funding program so it can contribute not only to sustainable ongoing administration but contribution to grant monies into the future.
- A position on the VHRF Committee if you are a participating Council in the Fund.

Is your Council interested?

If your Council has interest in establishing a heritage grants program to be managed by the VHRF or would like to transfer management of an existing heritage grants program to the VHRF please contact VHRF Grants Administrator Tony Armstrong at the National Trust on 9656 9870 or e-mail Tony at tony.armstrong@nattrust.com.au

or

If you would like to know more about the VHRF you can also contact Tony Armstrong (details above) or visit the VHRF website at www.vhrf.org.au which also includes images of projects completed under the program.

POTENTIAL NEW COUNCIL PARTNERSHIPS

Three new potential Council partnerships were pursued during the 21/22 FY for 22/23 FY

Moonee Valley City Council

A number of meetings were held with Edward Crossland, strategic planner at Moonee Valley (and Councillor for Yarra City Council) to provide information and support for a bid that was put to Moonee Valley Council for joining 12

the VHRF in the 22/23 FY. The planning team went to Council with a bid at the start of 2022 looking at a figure of \$40,000 with an admin fee of \$10,000 (based on previous discussions). The bid to Council was unsuccessful.

Frankston City Council

Frankston City Council went out to tender for administration services for their Heritage Restoration Fund for the 22/23 FY. VHRF Administration have approached the Council about the potential administration of their fund by the VHRF for the 23/24 FY and discussions are ongoing at this stage. This fund only has one round of applications.

Bendigo City Council

Promising discussions were held with Bendigo City Council up to the end of the 21/22 FY with regard to the VHRF administering an existing fund run by the Council in the 22/23 FY. Nothing came to fruition at the end of the 21/22 FY due to a change in planning management towards the end of the FY. VHRF Administration will continue to pursue Bendigo City Council for potential partnership in the 23/24 FY.

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

A submission was prepared and submitted as part of the Inquiry into the Protections within the Victorian Planning Framework as provided below:

31 January 2022

Inquiry into the Protections within the Victorian Planning Framework Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund Submission

The following submission responds to Item 4, Part f of the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry.

Victoria's local heritage places contribute to the identity and quality of our cities, suburbs, towns and regions. The social and broad community benefits of cultural heritage are well recognised (see UNESCO World Heritage Convention and Sustainable Development Policy 2015). Local Councils play a crucial role in heritage protection that goes beyond implementing the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*; they also provide support (information and advice) and financial incentives for property owners to care for their heritage places, which in turn helps to foster positive perceptions towards heritage in the community. In particular financial incentives for the care of heritage places provide a tangible and necessary demonstration that heritage is valued by local government and communities and contributes to greater support for heritage protection by property owners.

Victoria's Heritage Restoration Fund (VHRF), established in 2013, is a Committee of Management providing a program of restoration grants to local government Councils for heritage places in private or public ownership. It is one of the few grant giving bodies providing funding to private property owners of locally significant places, focused on increasing social amenity through streetscape improvement.

Over the last three years the VHRF has partnered with four Councils - Melbourne City Council, Yarra City Council, Ballarat City Council and Casey City Council to deliver their grants programs for restoration projects to places included in the Heritage Overlay. A total of \$720,00 in grants funding has been awarded to over 60 projects, contributing to over \$2.5 million worth of conservation works to heritage properties across Victoria. These projects have had positive economic and social impacts for communities, creating employment for skilled tradespeople, and contributing to local economies.

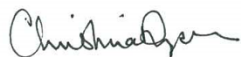
The funds are overseen by a Committee of Management comprising representatives of the four participating Councils, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), the Victorian Heritage Council Victoria, the MAV and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). VHRF was formerly known as the Melbourne Heritage Restoration Fund, which has been successfully operating in Melbourne for the past 25 years, and was developed in 1988 and originally subsidised by the State Government.

While a number of individual Councils independently operate heritage funding programs, the VHRF, which currently administers the fund for a four Councils offers cost savings for administration (as these are shared across a number of Councils), transparency and consistency with decision making and independent assessment away from individual Council politics.

The ongoing sustainability of the VHRF however is dependent on annual budget bids made by the individual participating Councils each year. This leads to a hand to mouth existence that can sometimes impact on the positive momentum that is being gained by the fund each year. Programs such as the VHRF would benefit from

support from State and/or Federal Government for ongoing administration costs and potentially project funding so they have more security going into each year and can continue providing the positive heritage stories in the local community that in turn help the property owners and community realise the benefits of heritage protection and regulation.

Using the current model, and with ongoing support for administration of the fund from State and/or Federal government, there is the potential to expand the reach of the VHRF, providing a consistent approach to heritage assistance funding across Victoria and forming a program that sits alongside the heritage planning controls into the future.



Dr Christina Dyson
VHRF Committee Chair



Samantha Westbrooke
VHRF Conservation Architect