



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)
- Bendigo Heritage Restoration Fund (BHRF)
- Merri-Bek Heritage Restoration Fund (MBHRF)

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 Transport & Planning (DTP), 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 CMPs, 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.