Small investments with big impacts
ICA SLMT Meeting
Rome 22 September 2022
David Taylor, Assistant Director Access Services
Agenda

1. About Public Record Office Victoria
2. Local History Grants Program
3. Victorian Community History Awards
We Saw the Queen
In 1980, children from Maribyrnong Primary School went to the airport to greet the Queen. This is their scrapbook of the outing.

PROV VPRS 9381/P1, unit 4
2020-21
Visitors: 8,000
Online visits: 900,000
Physical collection value: $300M
Staff: 57 (51 FTE)
Budget: A$11M
Local History Grants Program

Project funding to preserve and share Victorian history by community-based organisations:

• interested in telling the stories from their own communities
• working to preserve their collections, and
• increasing opportunities for the public to engage with the past.
Community benefits of funded projects

- Community and tourism education
- Help groups to fulfil their role as custodians of historic knowledge
- Provide opportunities for organisations to recruit, train and retain volunteers and support skills acquisition
- Build organisational capacity in knowledge, skills and productivity, and
- Result in the preservation of local history from groups under-represented in official histories.
Community Grants Preserving Victoria’s Rich History

“These grants aid the protection of Victoria’s unique local history, supporting groups to showcase and share the voices, works and places of significance that have shaped our lives and the lives of those who came before us.”

Minister for Government Services
The Hon Danny Pearson MP

The Minister with Bob McMaster from the Nagambie Historical Society July 2022
Local History Grants Program

- A$350,000 each year
- Limit of A$15,000 for any individual project
- Projects can take up to three years to complete
- Around 250 applications each round
- On average around 50 projects are fully or partly funded each year
- Salesforce platform

Photo from Scene Book 1, The Desert Song, His Majesty's Theatre Melbourne 15 Sept 1928-27 March 1929. Digitised by Theatre Heritage Australia through a 2015 LGHP grant
Project judging criteria

• Preserves, records and/or increases access to history
• Clear:
  ✓ aims and objectives
  ✓ well-defined delivery strategies
  ✓ end-product
• Demonstrates the relationship between the organisation and project outcome

• Strong support and/or involvement from the local community
• Clear and realistic costings
• Community benefit and ongoing value
• Communicates to a broader audience, and
• Provides value for money and is well executed.
Victorian Community History Awards

2019 Award Winners
Award categories

- Victorian Premier's History Award ($5000)
- Collaborative Community History Award ($2000)
- Local History Project Award ($2000)
- History Publication Award ($2000)
- Small History Publication Award ($1500)
- Community Diversity Award ($1500)
Award categories

- Digital Storytelling Award ($1500)
- Historical Interpretation Award ($1500)
- Oral History Award presented in collaboration with Oral History Victoria ($1500)
- History Article Award ($500)
- NEW IN 2022 is the Small Organisation History Project Award ($1500)
Ablaze
Written and directed by Alec Morgan and Tiriki Onus
Australian Queer Archives

VICTORIAN PRIDE CENTRE, 79-81 FITZROY STREET, ST KILDA

The Australian Queer Archives (AQuA) is an organisation dedicated to collecting, preserving and celebrating Australia’s very queer history. The collection comprises more than 500 metres of shelves with material in a variety of formats, reflecting the history of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans people, intersex people, sistergirls and brotherboys, as well as the diverse communities and sub-cultures which come under the broad term of ‘queer’.

It operates as a community-based, volunteer-operated and not-for-profit organisation. AQuA has cultural, historical and social importance as the largest and most complete collection of Australian LGBTIQ+ historical materials in the world. Originally called the Australian Gay Archives, it changed its name in 1981 to the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives, acknowledging that the term ‘gay’ was no longer understood in the inclusive sense it had been in the 1970s. In December 2020, after a two-year consultation process to adopt a more inclusive name, a special general meeting of members changed the name of the organisation to Australian Queer Archives (AQuA).

The Archives was founded at the 4th National Homosexual Conference in Sydney in 1978 in response to a proposal put forward to the final plenary by Graham Carbery. With material gathered by Carbery and others including Liz Ross, Phil Carwell and Gay Jaynes, the collection was first contained in two filing cabinets at Carbery’s house in Flemington. As the collection grew, it was moved to various other locations, including The Hub in West Melbourne. In 1996 the collection was moved to the Victorian AIDS Council in Claremont Street, South Yarra. In 2021, it moved into the Victorian Pride Centre in St Kilda (see St Kilda Precinct) as a Foundation tenant.

AQuA has always operated with an expansive collection policy in terms of both format and scope. It holds material in more than 30 different formats, including periodicals, ephemera, posters, badges, books, newspaper clippings, personal and organisational papers, and audio-visual recordings. In scope, AQuA aspires to collect and preserve material relating to the lives of all Australian LGBTIQ+ people, in the various ways that they have identified and been known in Australian history.

AQuA’s collection is unique but the way the organisation operates is significant, too. The committee of management and its volunteers concentrate expertise and bring passion to collecting and celebrating the past.

This work brings a significant marginalised population into the national story. AQuA reaches audiences in a way that most collecting institutions can rarely do, including through history walks, exhibitions, publishing, an annual history conference and a presence at community festivals around the country.
Digital Storytelling Award 2021
Award benefits

For winners:
• publicity and acknowledgement for groups and projects
• a monetary prize, and
• expansion of their work

For PROV:
• historians and researchers feel acknowledged and encouraged to continue using our collections and resources
• community connections and ongoing relationships, and
• active support of further projects.
IOC President, Avery Brundage and other Officials in front of flags of the 72 competing nations; 1956 Melbourne Olympics Closing Ceremony.