Wednesday, 23 November, 2016

**Gavin Jennings**

Special Minister of State

**LOCAL HISTORY GRANTS PROGRAM NOW OPEN FOR 2016-17**

Special Minister of State, Gavin Jennings, has today announced $350,000 towards grants for community projects that seek to preserve and share local history for the benefit of all Victorians.

The Local History Grants Program, managed by Public Record Office Victoria, is now accepting applications of up to $15,000.

The program is about putting our dedicated community organisations first, who do such a great job of collecting and preserving Victoria’s fascinating history.

Last year saw seventy-one community groups across Victoria share in the funding for historical projects and publications. These included the digitisation of Victorian records, the development of guided historic walking tours in Cornish Hill and Campbell’s Creek and the restoring of historic costumes from Bendigo.

Victoria’s diverse history is a real drawcard for visitors, with a total of 6.5 million people visiting a museum, gallery, heritage site or monument within our state in 2015-16. This has grown by 18.7 per cent over the last financial year and has been growing at 7.6 per cent over the last five years.

You can submit your application online via www.prov.vic.gov.au.

Applications close at 5pm on 31 January 2017.

**Quote attributable to Special Minister of State Gavin Jennings**

*“Community projects that capture Victoria’s diverse history are important to help inform us about our development as a society, culture and people.”*

*“With these grants, we are ensuring our state’s history is protected for future generations.”*

*“This is also about putting people first, given the importance of our historical past in attracting visitors to our museums, galleries and other historic sites and boosting local jobs.”*

**Quotes attributable to Public Record Office Director and Keeper of Public Records Justine Heazlewood**

*“Thanks to last year’s local history grant funding, we have been able to support a great number of community projects across a range of areas.”*

*“With this year’s grants program, we look forward to again helping Victorian community groups tell our diverse history, much of which may otherwise have gone untold without this support.”*