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FREMANTLE PRISON WINS COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT

Fremantle Prison has been awarded a \$5,000 federal Community Heritage Grant to fund a Preservation Needs Assessment on its museum collection.

The grant was announced at the National Library of Australia in Canberra on 30 October, 2018.

This year, grants worth \$367,470 were distributed to 60 community groups and organisations from around Australia to assist in the identification and preservation of community owned but nationally significant heritage collections.

The Fremantle Prison Collection is diverse, comprising approximately 12,000 items, including photographs, documents, furnishings, artworks, tools, clothing and textiles, institutional paraphernalia, letters, weapons and archaeological material.

The Collection spans the entirety of the Prison's operational life, from the beginning of construction in 1851 through to 1991 when the Prison was decommissioned and closed.

"The grant will allow us to engage a trained conservator who will assess the state of the collection from a conservation point of view, highlighting specific objects which require attention, future requirements to help preserve objects of differing types and how best to achieve all this", Eleanor Lambert, Assistant Curator said.

"They will also assess the collection storage areas, making recommendations for improvements to better manage and preserve the collection for the future."

CHG is managed by the National Library. It is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Communications and the Arts; the National Archives of Australia; the National Film and Sound Archive; the National Museum of Australia and the National Library.

Fact File

- Fremantle Prison opened as an attraction in 1992 and welcomes approximately 200,000 visitors annually
- In 2010 Fremantle Prison became the only World Heritage listed building in Western Australia
- In February 2018 Fremantle Prison was announced as the winner for Cultural Tourism at the 2017 Australian Tourism Awards
- On 10 November 2018, Fremantle Prison will be inducted into the Cultural Tourism Hall of Fame after securing back-to-back wins in 2015, 2016 and 2017 at the Western Australian Tourism Awards