



Royal Australian  
Historical Society

## RAHS 2026 Local History Grant Program

### Guidelines

The Local History Grant Program is a Create NSW funded program, administered by the RAHS on behalf of the NSW Government. This program was formerly known as the Cultural Grants.

Projects should be relevant to understanding the history of New South Wales and its people and places. Grants of up to \$6,000 ex GST support the work of historical research and publications undertaken by local historical societies and similar bodies across New South Wales. Please ensure that the project has the support of your organisation before submitting an application. Projects should generally be able to be completed by December 2027. We aim to notify the successful applicants by September 2026.

**Applications open on 28 April 2026 at 10 am and close on 23 June 2026 at midnight.**

### Information for all applicants

It is essential to answer all questions. Incomplete applications cannot be assessed. Applications will be accepted from community bodies not affiliated with the RAHS. However, you will need to include:

- Evidence that the applicant society is incorporated or is auspiced by a relevant incorporated body (e.g., by a letter of support from that body)
- The applicant organisation's Objects, Constitution or Rules
- An explanation of how the organisation will make the work accessible to and of benefit to the public at large

Applying to the grant program in 2026 will be directly through the RAHS website: [www.rahs.org.au/local-history-grants-program/](http://www.rahs.org.au/local-history-grants-program/). There you will find the guidelines and application form in Word and PDF versions. Please email your application with relevant attachments to [grants@rahs.org.au](mailto:grants@rahs.org.au)

**We will not be using SmartyGrants for applications in the 2026 round.**

## Eligibility

This program aims to encourage involvement in and completion of historical projects that are of significance to the community.

### Who is eligible to apply for the Create NSW Local History Grant Program?

- RAHS Affiliated Societies
- Local community or regional groups of New South Wales
- Organisations incorporated on a non-profit basis, with a commitment to one or more aspects of history
- Individuals working alone are not eligible to apply and personal ABNs are not accepted. However, individuals may partner with eligible community organisations to apply.
- Local government bodies or tertiary institutions partnering with community groups to produce community-based projects may apply.
- Culturally and linguistically diverse groups or researchers working in these fields are encouraged to apply for support for projects leading to the publication of community history.

### What sort of projects may be funded?

#### **1. Prepublication Research**

- Research and writing about any aspect of the history or heritage of the local area, or area of specialist interest, for the production of any form of publication (books, exhibition publications, tourist trails, digital publications, etc.)
- Provision of research materials for the project (a detailed list needed, including content, timeframe for the work, and name of archive)
- Applications for microfilming or digitising of existing or new research material applicable to the region will be considered. Joint applications with National or State Libraries or similar agencies will be considered.

#### **2. Publication of Books: Books or e-books of historical research on an aspect of local history or specialist historical interest**

Applications should show that layout, design, formatting, indexing and quality of print have been considered. Funding will be considered for local desktop publishing, typing of a manuscript into digital form, professional design/editing/indexing and the production of e-books or printing for publication. Books must include an index.

Books may include:

- Community histories for and/or with culturally or linguistically diverse groups.
- Transcriptions and compilations of community records
- A book of original photographs of local history or special interest with historical commentary.

### **3. *Publication of education kits/resources***

Publications and/or Programs promoting the history and/or facilities of the group to the local schools may be funded. These should be developed in conjunction with educational staff, have the written support of local education authorities and contribute to the history program of the school.

### **4. *Publication of tourist brochure/walking maps***

Innovative publications to promote regional historical awareness, such as research and writing of guides for driving or walking tours, which have substantial historical content and promote historical awareness may be funded. They must include maps and refer to historic items. This output can be in a physical book or digital format.

### **5. *Oral history – interviews***

An oral history involves extended, recorded interviews undertaken for a particular purpose and often with a view to eventual archiving for preservation and public access. Applicants can apply for a professional oral historian to research and record an interview or interviews for the purpose of an oral history. The oral history interview is a collaboration of both interviewer and interviewee and is based on ethical standards and informed consent. An oral history usually has a particular focus around a local area, specific event/theme, moment in time or a particular person.

An oral history is not just an audio product.

***For those interested in undertaking an oral history, the RAHS recommends the following resources:***

The sixth edition of Beth Robertson's Oral History Handbook –  
<https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/news/new-handbook-available/>

Oral History Victoria has released a free, community history online guide featuring six training modules –  
<https://oralhistoryvictoria.org.au/news/community-oral-history-guide/>

## **6. Oral history – transcriptions/making oral histories publicly accessible by print or online**

Applicants can apply for funding for the transcribing and increased accessibility of oral histories. Informed consent of the interviewees must be obtained before an oral history project is funded and made publicly available.

## **7. Conservation of historical resources**

Repair and preservation of paper-based research materials such as diaries, letters, maps and other documents needing conservation or for improved public access by digitisation are eligible projects. Priority will be given to documents damaged by natural disasters. All items must be already catalogued and indexed appropriately by your organisation. Joint projects with newspapers, local, State or National libraries are desirable. Funds are not available for display cabinets or exhibitions generally.

## **8. Management plans for collections of historical research**

Development and implementation of management plans are eligible projects for groups holding community research collections or photographic archives used for history research. Applicants must detail the size of these archives in their application. Applicants must use the services of a professional archivist, photograph conservator or another appropriately qualified professional.

## **9. Digitisation of records**

- Digitisation of records to enable ease of research access
- Digital publication, e.g. e-book, educational resources
- All digital publication proposals must conform to the requirements and standards of the National Library's Australian Web Archive (AWA) program.

## What will not be funded under the NSW Local History Grants Program?

- Normal administrative expenses and running costs
- You cannot claim a per-hour financial reimbursement for research or writing within your own society. That is considered an in-kind donation of the organisation towards the project and should be included in the budget under in-kind contributions.
- Retrospective funding for projects already completed or projects completed before the grant announcement (October 2026)
- Production and printing of newsletters, handbills or similar printing, publicity material, postcards or enlargement of photos
- Any physical materials associated with exhibitions and displays (photographs, panels, storyboards, exhibition cases, etc.)
- Reprints of earlier publications (unless there has been additional research and substantial revision)
- Capital equipment (e.g. scanners, photocopiers, computers, hard drives, etc.), heritage trail signs, plaques and/or building modifications
- Projects that have already received Create NSW funding.

## Conditions for Successful Applications:

- Grants must be spent within a year of receiving the grant funds, and projects should aim to be completed before or around December 2027.
- All groups receiving a grant must provide a report at the end of the project. Successful applicants receiving a grant of over \$1,000 must provide progress reports at six months and at the end of the project. These should detail how the grant is being spent and the initiatives made possible by the grant.
- Receipt of the grant must be shown in the group's annual financial statement.
- In the case of a publication, a copy of the publication, microfilm or digital file, etc., must be deposited in the RAHS Library.
- The publication, microfilm or digital copy **must include** the following Acknowledgement along with the Create NSW and the RAHS logos:  
***This project is supported by Create NSW's Local History Grant Program, a devolved funding program administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government.***

**Failure to include an Acknowledgement with the correct logos may result in a request to return the grant funding.**

