

2026 ANNUAL GRANTS PROGRAM - ARTS & HERITAGE FUNDING STREAM

Applicant	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Recommended Funding
Fleur Dean	BENEATH NOW	BENEATH NOW boldly and poetically frames local stories that our lives are built on, told by our older generation who lived them. Within the frame of Steve Curry's 3-storey venue built entirely from materials found across the Yarra Ranges - and/or The Memo down the road - the older artists will respond to this familiar architecture, replete with shared history. A smorgasbord of lesser-heard lived account, presented in unexpected ways, audience will promenade gently between them, listening with the generosity our elders deserve - receiving their 'just desserts' where all storytellers convene in the final scene, imbibing a Wurundjeri dream.	\$10,000.00
Yarra Valley Singers	Collaborate Too!	This project will grow and evolve music collaboration opportunities for multiple choirs, musicians and their leaders across the Yarra Ranges. Through our 2025 project 'Collaborate!' we have piloted an approach to collaborative rehearsals, music development and workshops, which has already already provided great outcomes including increased social connection and wellbeing, volunteer participation supporting sustainability of groups in the Yarra Ranges, paid artist opportunities, and capacity building. We are planning collaborative rehearsals and music development, 4 workshops, 2 performances and supporting 'gama-dji', a project to create/perform Woi Wurrung songs.	\$10,000.00

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Warburton Valley Market	Music and Art at Warburton Valley Market	The Warburton Valley Market is held monthly behind the Warburton Arts Centre. This project will enhance the market by providing live music and art experiences, creating a vibrant platform for local musicians and artists to perform, sell their work, and deliver hands-on workshops. It supports artist income, strengthens community connection, and enriches the experience for visitors and locals alike—contributing to the cultural and economic vitality of the Warburton Valley.	\$7,000.00
Ms Amanda Pickett	Cloud Time	Cloud Time is a collaboration between Healesville artists Mandy Pickett and Amanda Ruck, part of the YRC Exhibition and Creative Pathways Program. Inspired by movement and nature, the project features paintings, projections, performance art, and multimedia installations. Funding will support live public performances, interactive art experiences, and a gallery installation that deepens community engagement.	\$5,000.00
Body Place Project - Gretel Taylor	Confluence - A place-responsive art and performance residency at Coranderrk	BodyPlaceProject will curate a three-day artist residency at the culturally significant Coranderrk property invites 10 local artists (selected via open EOI) to camp at the confluence of the Birrarung and Coranderrk Creek. Through workshops led by First Nations and other artists, participants will explore place-responsive, embodied, and ecological practices. This immersive experience will shape future public performances and artworks along the upper Birrarung in 2027.	\$10,000.00

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Lucy Beach	An Artist Garden	An Artist's Garden Planned for Blacksmiths Way, Belgrave, as part of the 2026 Belgrave Lantern Parade, this 3D illuminated installation brings together artists Lucy Beach, Nikki Wellington, and award-winning Lisa Voski with local students and residents. Featuring vibrant sculptures and lanterns made from recycled materials, it celebrates creativity, sustainability, and collaboration. The luminous "garden" transforms the space while fostering intergenerational skill-building and community connection.	\$10,000.00
Save the Dandenongs League Inc	Archiving Save the Dandenongs League papers	Save the Dandenongs League Archival Project With a proud 70-year legacy, SDL seeks to engage an archivist to assess and preserve 15–20 tubs of historic documents, now housed in YRC's Monbulk Hub. Materials include the personal papers of long-serving President Cr Betty Marsden and potentially those of founder May Moon. This project will safeguard the group's rich heritage in environment and community advocacy.	\$9,803.00
Selby Community House Inc	"Selby: The Heart of the Hills" – A Historical Book Project	Selby: The Heart of the Hills Selby Community House will produce a beautifully crafted book capturing Selby's history, people, and places through local stories and photos. Contributions will come from residents, organisations, and Wurundjeri community members, with a local writer and designer commissioned. Launching at SelbyFest 2026, the book will be printed in a small batch, with pre-orders funding future runs—ensuring fair pay, contained costs, and financial sustainability.	\$10,000.00

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Clare James	THE PLACE FOR LOST FEELINGS	Artist Clare James and Healesville Living and Learning Centre (HLLC) present a free 4-day ephemeral public art event—both communal and deeply personal. A lush indoor installation of flowers, branches, and plants will surround a secular altar of water and sand, where participants may place lit candles in quiet reflection. On departure, guests can choose a chat with a counsellor, a hug, or a cup of tea—honouring human nature and connection.	\$10,000.00
Mr Roderick Price	Yarra Ranges Sound Ecology Project	This community-driven project captures the soundscapes of 55 Yarra Ranges townships through hands-on audio workshops. Participants contribute recordings and stories to a shared online archive, culminating in a live electroacoustic performance celebrating the region’s cultural and natural heritage.	\$10,000.00
Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation	Coranderrk Records	Coranderrk Archival Preservation Project – Phase One Hundreds of historic records lie untouched in the former Superintendent’s Cottage at Coranderrk. We seek funding to engage a professional archivist to assess, prioritise, and preserve this culturally significant collection. Tasks include identifying material types and sensitivities, cataloguing based on significance and condition, and training volunteers to support ongoing work and digitisation—laying the foundation for future public access.	\$10,000.00

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Mikhaela Ebony Bourke	Community Podcast	In partnership with 3MDR, this 10-episode podcast will explore the power of community in the Yarra Ranges—showcasing how the Dandenong Ranges leads by example. Through stories from individuals, businesses, schools, and community groups, each episode will highlight why community matters, how we strengthen it, and the people making a real difference.	\$9,724.00
Dalys Mithen	gama-dji / emerge from sleeping	gama-dji / emerge from sleeping Led by Dalys Mithen, Mandy Nicholson, and Gulsen Ozer, this collaborative music project will create a series of short part songs (rounds) in Woi Wurrung and English, sharing the names of animals, places, and people from Wurundjeri Country. Taught to community choirs across the Yarra Ranges, these songs foster language revival, cultural learning, and shared connection through singing.	\$10,000.00
Dandenong Ranges Orchestra	for “DRO Concert Series 2026 – Supporting The Works Of Our Creative Community”.	As part of its 2026 season, the Dandenong Ranges Orchestra will launch a dynamic program to boost community participation in orchestral music. Highlights include:- provide mentoring by engaging professional/skilled amateurs to lead each section, assist players to learn their parts by utilising an innovative electronic device (EWI), provide an avenue for aspiring composers to have their works played by live musicians, regularly perform new works by Australian composers particularly those from the Yarra Ranges, provide training for aspiring conductors through a conductors mentoring program.	\$3,000.00

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Upwey Community Group	Upwey Archies 2026	Upwey Archies '26 Inspired by the Archibald Prize, this portrait exhibition—organised by Upwey Community Group with Burrinja—features community-made works displayed in local shopfronts. Open to all ages, abilities, and skill levels, it awards prizes across Open and Youth categories, including Community Favourite. Each artist includes a personal note about their chosen subject, adding depth and connection to the portraits.	\$5,706.00
TOTAL			\$130,233.00