

Whitley College Awarded 2005 Federal Community Heritage Grant

Whitley College, Parkville, has been awarded a \$6,600 Federal Community Heritage Grant to fund a preservation survey of its collections and conservation training for members of the Victorian Chapter of the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association.

The grant was announced by the Federal Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator the Hon. Rod Kemp, at the National Library of Australia, Canberra on Wednesday evening, 9th November.

A total of \$377,865 was distributed to 76 groups from around Australia including museums, libraries, archives, historical societies, art galleries, migrant, indigenous and religious organisations. Each received funds to assist in the identification and preservation of community owned but nationally significant heritage collections. In addition, Kerrie Hunter, the Senior Librarian from Whitley College attended a three-day intensive preservation and collection management workshop held at the National Library of Australia, the National Archives, the National Museum of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archives in Canberra.

Kerrie said the grant was very important in supporting the effort to preserve Whitley College's Australian Baptist Heritage collection at the grassroots. "The grant provides the funds, and the workshop the expertise to help us protect our collection and make it accessible while it remains in the local context," she said.

Whitley College, formerly the Baptist Theological College of Victoria, was established in 1891 and was the first Baptist theological college in Australia. Its Australian Baptist Heritage collection includes books, significant runs of early and current Australian Baptist newspapers and other serial publications, photographs, Whitley College council and committee minutes, audiocassettes, theses, ephemera (including pamphlets, brochures, scrap books, newspaper cuttings, essays, sermon materials and resource kits), and the F.W.

Boreham collection. A preservation survey of the collection will establish priorities for future preservation work, including possible digitisation of unique or at risk resources, re-housing of specific items and possible conservation activities. The conservation training will improve the preservation and collection management skills of staff working with nationally significant cultural heritage materials in Victorian theological libraries.

In announcing the awards Senator Kemp said, "This year sees the Community Heritage Grants program come of age with a stronger emphasis on training, the inclusion of artefacts, and the participation of the National Museum".

Jan Fullerton AO, Director-General National Library of Australia, said the Community Heritage Grants demonstrate the commitment of the National Library and all the partner institutions to preserving our heritage, particularly through training. "It's about our national institutions coming together to share their expertise which is then taken back to communities throughout Australia. This skills transfer aims to have heritage collections remain in the community and available for the pleasure and research interests of future generations of Australians," she said.

The Community Heritage Grants Program is managed by the National Library of Australia. It is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, the National Archives of Australia, the Australian Film Commission, the National Museum of Australia and the National Library of Australia.

For further information please contact:
Librarian, Whitley College
Telephone: (03) 9340 8020
Email: library@whitley.unimelb.edu.au