

## From acorns to big oaks – opportunities available through local heritage funds

*Small dollars can make big differences and encourage positive relationships between councils and owners*

Project	Local government local heritage fund
Type of work	Conservation
Funding	\$82,000 per year
Project cost	Maximum \$32,800
Heritage listing	LEP heritage item
Local government area	Forbes
Applicant	Council

**Project aim** To continue the local heritage funding for Forbes Shire Council area

**Funding focus** This program targets Local Environmental Plan heritage items requiring conservation and maintenance works. The Heritage Office contributes funding up to a set amount that is then matched with funding from the local council and the funding applicant

*“Local heritage funding is a great investment for local councils across NSW. For the relatively small dollars that Council contributes, this funding generates positive, feel-good community attitudes and long term on-the-ground heritage conservation outcomes,” quote from Miriam Stacy, Heritage Office*



*Forbes showground racecourse – looking splendid*



*... with restored lacework and detailed finishes*

The town of Forbes, located on the Central West Slopes of NSW, is perhaps best known for its links to the bushranger Ben Hall. However a glance at the number of heritage items recognised by the National Trust Australia (NSW) and other heritage organisations soon reveals that Forbes does not lack for other historical attractions.

The town arose during the Lachlan Valley gold rush of 1861 and the richness of that legacy is reflected today in the number

of fine civic buildings including the Town Hall and Post Office and in the hotels, churches and in the town's centrepiece, Victoria Park.

Not surprisingly there is never a shortage of applications for assistance under the Local Heritage Fund to aid the ongoing conservation and promotion of Forbes heritage assets.

In the most recent round of allocations, Council received three applications for funding: Painting the grandstand roof of the Forbes Jockey Club, purchasing archival copies on microfilm of the local paper, the Forbes Advocate and exterior paintwork of St Andrews Presbyterian Church.

In addition Council is supporting the preparation of a Community Based Heritage Study and the services of a part time Heritage Adviser.

Projects supported under this initiative are jointly funded by the Heritage Office, Forbes Shire Council with contributions from the owner can often lead to further conservation works. In this way the community can see direct investment in their local community's future through a sense of ownership and pride in their heritage assets.

With thanks to the Forbes Shire Council

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Forbes Shire Council