

Submission  
No 34

## INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

**Organisation:** Mount Victoria and District Historical Society Inc.

**Date received:** 11 August 2016

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## **Introduction**

Mount Victoria and District Historical Society Inc. of which I am president is responsible for the running of the Mount Victoria Museum which is housed at the railway station at Mount Victoria. The building is heritage listed and we are tenants of NSW Railways. A small team of volunteers runs the museum in all aspects of duties, for example publicity, both on-line and hard copy, accession and de-accession of objects, caring for exhibits, display, labelling, cleaning, maintenance of rooms and garden courtyard, filing records, manning the front desk on open days, that is every weekend, school holiday and most public holidays, giving information to visitors, including school groups.

The museum has sixteen rooms of local history. It is the only general local history museum in the Blue Mountains. Last year 1041 visitors came through the museum. Their comments in the visitors' book are congratulatory.

### **a. Government policy & support**

No state government funding is available to us apart from seminars or indirect grants which may not be in fields in which we need help, We have a museums advisor through the Blue Mountains Council and Museums and Galleries. We have taken part in the Standards Program of Museums and Galleries 2015.

Income comes from admission fees and a small annual grant from the Blue Mountains City Council and an occasional one off grant.

### **c. Opportunities to revitalise**

The power supply to the museum is inadequate. NSW Railways promised they would update the electrical switchboard this financial year because when we used more than one heater the communication system of the railway was affected. Now we have been told we have to wait until the next financial year. Our visitors walk through the museum with no heating at all in the depths of the cold mountain weather. The agents of the railways are looking into what needs to be done to the building, to make sure all floors are safe for example.

### **h. Impact on cultural tourism**

The museum attracts visitors from all parts of NSW as well as interstate and overseas. It is listed in the Lonely Planet guide book.

The museum volunteers are doing a terrific job in providing an interesting museum in a great tourist area but some financial support from the government would make our job so much easier.

In response to the committee's inquiry it seems appropriate that voluntary run museums should attract support from the government.