

Submission
No 59

INQUIRY INTO INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Organisation: Cherry Capital Collectors Club

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Submission to the NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into Museums and Galleries

It is recognized that the NSW Government provides funding for the preservation of heritage buildings and museums through a variety of means. However the Cherry Capital Collectors Club has real concerns about the recognition, preservation and future of moveable heritage items which have significant technological importance in relaying Australia's development history. This is particularly important in regional and rural NSW where historic agricultural equipment is fast disappearing and with that the technological history, ingenuity and knowledge that built much of rural Australia. The Cherry Capital Collectors Club believes that funding should be made available to source, preserve and restore items of moveable heritage for the benefit of future generations.

Historic equipment from rural Australia is being lost to scrap metal merchants who do not value the technological, ingenuity or heritage value of these items. It is imperative that these items are preserved, not only for their technological heritage, but also as important items in retelling the local development story of rural and regional Australia. Whilst industry specific and town museums play a valuable role in the preservation and display of either very large industrial and transport items, such as transport, mining industry equipment, or everyday items; larger rural machines and engines are being lost to local and regional areas as there are very few places to store or display and even less people with technological knowledge and ingenuity to restore, preserve and maintain. The Cherry Capital Collectors Club believe that legislation to require scrap metal dealers to liaise with regional history experts prior to accepting old items for scrap should be introduced in NSW to assist in the preservation of moveable heritage items.

The Cherry Capital Collectors Club is one of several clubs who source and restore heritage items with technological significance. For example, Iandra Castle, at Grenfell, an item of State Heritage Significance, recovered a large RE Crossley engine (some 3 tons) manufactured in England in 1907 that was used for generating electricity which is currently in the processing of being restored and repaired to running condition by volunteers from the Club. The engine, once in working order will be an additional attraction to this regionally significant item. Furthermore the Club has one of only two Jelbart tractors manufactured. This tractor has been restored to working order by Club volunteers. Some of the larger items held by the Club are done so under custodial arrangements with the Young Museum, as the Museum does not have sufficient area on site to display these items. Clubs such as ours are vital in the preservation of historic moveable items and would benefit greatly from funding directly targeted at conserving such items in conjunction with local museums and historical societies.

Young Shire Council has recently been amalgamated into the Hilltops Council with the Council now responsible for a variety of historic buildings in addition to the local museums. Whilst there is \$1 million available to local community groups of the amalgamated Council area, with a maximum of \$50,000 per group, this is one off funding that will assist in providing some support for organisations such as ours, however does not allow for the recognition within the community of the need to preserve moveable local items of technological heritage significance. The Council has demonstrated its willingness to assist in heritage conservation of buildings, however moveable items, particularly those with local technological significance, have not yet been recognized by the Council. Assistance to local

government through education and awareness campaigns to increase the knowledge of Australia's technological heritage would help to preserve this valuable resource for future generations.

The Cherry Capital Collectors Club strongly urges the NSW Government to provide for greater awareness, recognition and funding for the recovery, restoration and preservation of moveable items of technological heritage significance. The Cherry Capital Collectors Club also urges the NSW Government to undertake education and awareness campaigns targeted at raising community knowledge of the important role moveable items play in Australia's history.

Yours Sincerely

David Curtis
Secretary C.C.C.C

12 August 2016