



# CULTURAL COLLECTIONS POLICY

**Policy Title:** Cultural Collections Policy  
**Responsible Officer:** Manager Arts, Culture and Heritage  
**Responsible Department:** Arts, Culture and Heritage

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

Council recognises the importance of the Shire's cultural heritage as described by its artworks and heritage items. As the custodian of a public collection, the Shire of Yarra Ranges embraces the management of its cultural heritage items according to international museum industry standards of collection development, preservation and access. Through the strategic management of the Collection the Shire is committed to ensuring its ongoing significance for Yarra Ranges and the wider community.

The key objectives of this Policy are to:

- Facilitate the sustainable management of the Shire's Cultural Collections;
- Provide leadership in best practice for the development, preservation of, and access to the Shire's cultural collections;
- Ensure maintenance of accredited status under the Victorian Government's Museum Accreditation Program, and
- Provide a clear indicator of the industry benchmarks which will guide the future management of the cultural collections.

## 2. KEY STRATEGIES

Vision 2020 outlines the guiding principles for Arts, Culture and Heritage as including:

- That the diversity of local art and cultural heritage is celebrated and valued;
- That the identity and local history of Yarra Ranges and its townships should be preserved; and
- That the arts, culture and tourism present a unique tourism experience in Yarra Ranges.

Specifically, the Policy will ensure that through best management principles, the sustainability principles of:

- long term, rather than short term actions; and
- strengthening communities

are able to be met.

The key strategy supporting this policy is a Collections Management Plan, which defines the principle objectives and purpose of the Shire of Yarra Ranges Cultural Collections and provides a framework for their future development and management. It encompasses **why** we collect; **what** we collect; **how** we collect; and how we provide **access** to the collections.

The Collections Management Plan will be developed to address the operational implementation of this Policy and will include strategic and procedural information on the four main areas of:

- Collections management and development;
- Acquisitions;
- Maintenance, and
- De-accessioning.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

The Shire's Cultural Collections have been built over many years from a variety of sources and in a range of ways. The current planned redevelopment projects at both Burrinja and at the Museum means that both an opportunity and a need to review the existing collections and their management have arisen.

The requirements of accreditation require that an endorsed Policy and associated strategies and procedures relating to collections management and objective be endorsed. The move to a regional focus for the museum also provides an opportunity for the Shire to show leadership to the community in terms of their commitment to museum industry best practice.

A Policy encompassing all aspects of the cultural collections also demonstrates a commitment to the sustainability of the cultural collections – and ensures this is demonstrated in practice.

### **4. IMPLEMENTATION**

To complement the Policy and as part of the Cultural Collections Management Plan, detailed procedures and guidelines will be developed for specific areas within the collections. These will be reviewed on a regular and agreed basis.

The Cultural Collections Management Plan will be developed as an overarching strategy for all of the Cultural Collections owned by the Shire of Yarra Ranges. This is the key strategy from which further specialised procedures and guidelines will flow for specific elements of the cultural collections. A draft will be completed for discussion with stakeholders by September 2007.

The current redevelopment of the Museum of Lillydale to a regional facility provides a timely opportunity to develop these procedures and guidelines with regard to this component of the Cultural Collections. This will be completed within the 2007 – 08 financial year.

The redevelopment of facilities at Burrinja also provides a clear opportunity to develop procedures and guidelines, and this will also be completed within the 2007-08 financial year.

The Civic Collection and Public Art detailed procedures and guidelines will be developed during the 2008-09 financial year.

### **5. REVIEW**

The Cultural Collection Policy will be reviewed by Council at least every three years, or sooner should circumstances change significantly.