



National Cultural Heritage Account

The National Cultural Heritage Account is a grant program that assists Australian cultural organisations to acquire significant cultural heritage objects.

How much funding is available?

The Australian Government allocates \$500,000 each financial year.

There is no limit on the amount you can apply for, and funding over multiple years may be considered.

Who can apply?

Funding can be accessed by Australian public galleries, libraries, archives and museums as well as historic buildings, local cultural organisations and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander keeping places for secret/sacred material.

When can I apply?

There are no funding round deadlines. Applications can be made at any time during the year, and are assessed on a case by case basis.

The National Cultural Heritage Account helps to retain and protect Australia's cultural heritage for future generations and provide public access to important objects that tell a story about our cultural identity.

Find out more

Visit arts.gov.au/NCHA for more information including a list of what and who we've funded.

Contact us

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Thomas Smily

London, 1862

Epergne

Sterling silver

72cm high

Engraved inscription to the base reads:

Presented by the Colonists of Australia to Mr and Mrs D. H. Campbell in admiration of their gallant conduct in repelling the attack of the Bushrangers upon GOIMBLA NSW on the night of the 19th of November 1863.

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Image courtesy
Alf Manciangli

Recent funding recipient Orange City Council Orange Regional Museum

With the assistance of the National Cultural Heritage Account, Orange Regional Museum was able to acquire the impressive Amelia Campbell epergne. This delicate silver table centrepiece acknowledges the bravery of Amelia Campbell in resisting an attack by bushrangers on the Campbell's rural property Goimbla near Eugowra, central west New South Wales.

In 1863, the Campbell's homestead was attacked by the Ben Hall gang. While the gang fired from the veranda, Amelia showed great bravery and retrieved the spare gun, powder flask, caps and bullets. After passing the weapon to her husband she crept through the house and crossed the yard to a hut where she asked four farm workers for help. All of them refused.

Returning across the open yard she was seen by Johnny Gilbert, who ordered her to stand or he would shoot. Taking no notice she rushed back to the house to re-join her husband. It was Amelia Campbell who saw the tell-tale outline of John O'Meally's cabbage tree hat, illuminated by the light of the burning barn. Pointing this out to her husband he had the opportunity to take aim and fire, killing John O'Meally and causing Ben Hall and Johnny Gilbert to retreat.

The epergne was purchased with subscriptions from residents of the district and presented to Amelia Campbell in 1864 as a mark of their esteem for the heroism shown by Amelia and her husband, in one of the most dramatic encounters with bushrangers in Australian colonial history.

The epergne is one of the most notable and significant items of 19th century Australian women's history. Many medals and presentations were made to men to mark their encounters with bushrangers, but this is the only known presentation to a woman. The Amelia Campbell epergne will now be preserved as an important part of Orange Regional Museum's permanent collection and displayed in its historic and community context in bushranger territory.